

# \$\$ MONEY TALK \$\$

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT...



**Happy Fall Y'all!** As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, what perfect time to reflect on all the things we have to be thankful for, including the right, as American citizens, to cast our vote in each election and to worship in the manner we so choose. With Veteran's Day coming up, I hope you will take time to thank a veteran for their service to protect the freedoms we enjoy and may sometimes take for granted.

The Governmental Accounting and Auditing Forum will be held in Hoover December 6-7, 2018 at Embassy Suites in Hoover, which is a new location this year. GAFF is a joint conference planned by the ASCPA, GFOAA, and AGA. Topics include GASB update, the GASB reporting model, Yellow Book changes, economic update, audit findings, public corruption, ethics, and grants management for 16 CPE hours. Registration and other information can be found at [www.ascpa.org](http://www.ascpa.org) or [www.gfoaa.org](http://www.gfoaa.org).

The GFOAA 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will be February 4-6, 2019 at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa at the Conference Center. Conference co-chairs, Dr. Keren Deal and Ms. Sarah Williams, and their conference committee, have been hard at work planning the conference and have an exciting lineup of topics and speakers. The theme is "Maintaining Accountability: Make It Happen – Make It Better". You can register for the conference, access the hotel room block, and view the agenda by visiting [www.gfoaa.org](http://www.gfoaa.org).

The annual business meeting luncheon will be held on February 5, 2019 in conjunction with the annual conference. Prior to this meeting, the GFOAA board will be looking for individuals to fill vacant positions for the next fiscal year, which begins April 1, 2019. If you are interested in becoming a committee member, Board member, or an Officer, please let me know. Although we are a volunteer organization, you will find that the experience is invaluable for increased network connections and the professional and personal relationships that develop over time.

As a reminder, the GFOA annual conference will be held May 19-22, 2019 in Los Angeles, CA. If you have never attended the GFOA annual conference, the first-time-attendee scholarship application is now open. More information can be found at <http://www.gfoa.org/annual-conference/first-time-annual-conference-attendee-scholarship>. Each state receives 50 scholarships annually and you will be pleasantly surprised at the many relevant and timely topics offered at this conference.

In closing, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the other board members with any questions, feedback, or concerns about our organization. I pray each of you has a safe, enjoyable, and blessed holiday season. **Happy Thanksgiving** and **Merry Christmas!** Hope to see everyone in Birmingham and Montgomery!

Sarita Price

[sdprice@mscs.k12.al.us](mailto:sdprice@mscs.k12.al.us)

## 2018 SUMMER CONFERENCE...



The GFOAA Summer Conference and Training was held at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Orange Beach Alabama August 15-17, 2018.

Training sessions began Wednesday afternoon with a presentation by Rod Kanter titled "Bond Borrowing in Today's Environment". Later that afternoon, John Norris presented an Economic Update. A welcome reception was held Wednesday evening at the hotel.

Thursday morning began with a GASB update presented by Wesley Galloway. Other presentation topics throughout the day included Sexual Harassment, led by Whit Colvin, Compromises form Business Emails by Special Agent Brian Thomas, and Fighting Cyber Fraud presented by John Kolar. Thursday evening, everyone gathered at the hotel for dinner and entertainment.

Friday morning, State Representative Anthony Daniels and Richard Powers, MD presented Economic Impact of the Opioid Crisis and then Cynthia Peacock, PhD, presented Effective Professional Communication.

Throughout the conference, participants received useful, practical information on topics relevant to their daily job duties. The conference concluded at noon Friday.



## SURGING ECONOMY BOOSTS ALABAMA 2018 GENERAL FUND AND ETF REVENUES - SALT ALERT: ALABAMA EDITION



Written by Bruce Ely    Co-author Emma Cummings, Law Clerk

On October 29, the well-respected Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama (PARCA), headquartered at Samford University, issued a [useful report](#) finding Alabama's "booming economy" had generated substantially increased tax revenues for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2018. Indeed, both the normally anemic General Fund and the Education Trust Fund (ETF) had collections far exceeding budgeted expectations. For FYE 2018, General Fund collections were up 4 percent from 2017, for a total of almost \$2 billion. ETF revenue grew by 6.7 percent, for a total of \$6.7 billion. As readers may recall, most growth taxes in Alabama are earmarked for the ETF, including all income taxes and most sales and use taxes.

The General Fund ended the fiscal year with a balance of \$80 million, while the ETF had a balance of \$336 million. Of that, \$64 million of the ETF balance will be moved into the Budget Stabilization Fund, while the remaining \$272 million will be transferred to the Advancement and Technology Fund. As the PARCA report points out, the latter funds can be spent by the Legislature on a defined list of items, including the purchase of education technology and equipment.

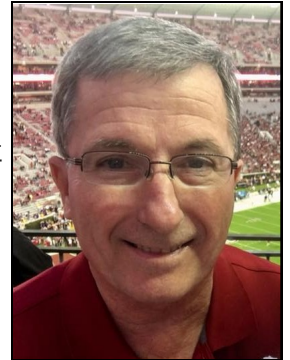
PARCA attributes the growth of the General Fund and the ETF to the growing economy and secondarily to the effects of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, often referred to as federal tax reform. With decreasing federal income taxes, Alabama income tax collections increase because certain federal taxes are deductible from one's state income tax liability, according to our state constitution. Thus, the less federal income tax one pays, the more they will pay (ordinarily) in Alabama income tax. Budget officials in Montgomery estimate that the change in the federal tax law alone will cause an annual increase of \$30 million to \$40 million in Alabama income tax receipts.

The report concludes: "The strong performance in 2018 indicates the state should not have a problem meeting the spending levels set in the 2019 budgets." As one legislative leader (who wished to remain anonymous) lamented, however, sometimes good budget news puts the state Legislature in a dilemma. When revenues are flat, it is easier to deny requests for increased budgets or for tax relief, but if there is a surplus, "everybody comes out of the woodwork asking for more money." It is likely that we will see a flurry of bills next March that would spend the surplus (and probably more), including proposals for increased low income and middle class tax relief.

Almost simultaneously with the PARCA report, the [Urban Institute](#) issued a comprehensive research report, "[State Tax Revenues Soar in the First Quarter of 2018](#)", finding that total state tax revenues from all regions of the U.S. showed strong growth in Q1, 2018. The report noted that state government tax revenues grew from all positive economic factors, but concluded the growth was primarily due to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Specifically, state and local government tax revenues from major sources were up 6.6 percent in the first quarter of 2018 compared to 2017. We commend both reports to your reading.

## CITY OF TUSCALOOSA FINANCE DIRECTOR, MIKE WRIGHT, RETIRES

Mike Wright, Chief Financial Officer of the City of Tuscaloosa, retired September 28, 2018 having served more than thirty-five years. Mayor Walt Maddox presented Wright with a proclamation and a key to the city, which is rarely given but awarded to those “who are difference-makers or to people who have achieved high honor and recognition,” Maddox said. “I think all of us are blessed in our careers to work with people that inspire you and certainly understand what it takes to be successful,” Maddox said. “Beyond his character, he has been an amazing finance leader for our city. “Mike has been a defender of the city’s resources, and our city is stronger because Mike Wright chose to work for our city.”



“Without Mike Wright, all those policies we put in place and wrote down wouldn’t have meant anything,” former City Attorney Bob Ennis said. “I think the city owes a great debt to Mike Wright because he has maintained the sound, fiscal and investment policies of the city, even into this age when they’ve become so complex and so involved.”

“Mike is hands down the most influential person I have ever work for. I can only hope I lead my office like he has,” said Derek Reeves, Bibb County Administrator and former Associate Finance Director, City of Tuscaloosa.

Mike is a graduate of the University of Alabama, a Certified Public Accountant, a Certified Government Finance Officer, and a Certified Public Finance Officer. He and his wife Linda have three daughters and will soon have seven grandchildren.

Congratulations Mike and best wishes!

### 2018 Annual Sponsors...





# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Governmental Accounting and Auditing Forum

December 6 - 7, 2018

Embassy Suites Birmingham Hoover  
2960 John Hawkins Parkway  
Birmingham, AL 35244

[Click Here For More Information](#)

## GFOAA Quarterly Board Meeting

December 6, 2018

Embassy Suites by Hilton Birmingham Hoover  
2960 John Hawkins Parkway  
Birmingham, AL 35244

## **CGAT**

### Certified Government Accounting Technician

January 11, 2019—Payroll (elective)

All classes to be held at the University of Alabama  
Bryant Conference Center  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama  
from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Registration fee \$150.00  
(Includes Lunch)

[For additional information, click here.](#)

## GFOAA 35th Annual Conference and Training Seminar

February 4 - 6, 2019

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa  
at the Convention Center  
201 Tallapoosa Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104

[Click Here For More Information](#)

## GFOAA Quarterly Board Meeting

February 4, 2019

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa  
at the Convention Center  
201 Tallapoosa Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104

## Governmental Accounting and Auditing Forum



Co-Sponsored by GFOAA, AGA, and ASCPA.

December 6—7, 2018

New Location!

Embassy Suites Birmingham Hoover  
Birmingham, Alabama

## QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA MAY 11, 2018

The Quarterly Board of Directors meeting was held May 11, 2018 in Montgomery, Alabama. President Sarita Tapscott called the meeting to order at 11:11 a.m. Minutes of the February 21, 2018 board meeting were reviewed and approved. The Minutes for the Electronic Board Meetings from March 7, 2018 and March 30, 2018 were presented and approved.

**Treasurer's Report**—Kathy James presented the end of year account balances as of March 31, 2018, as \$150,035.57. President Tapscott presented the April 2018 Treasurer's Report. The treasurer's report was approved as presented.

**Administrative Assistant's Report**—Administrative Assistant Jamie Moyers gave an update on activities. The mailout info for this year invoices included 71 associate members, 472 regular members, 16 new members, and 10 student members for a total of 574 members.

**Public Information Officer**—Melinda Clack states that the newsletters went out Wednesday May 9, 2018. Derek Reeves was recognized for his new position as County Administrator for Bibb County. Melinda needs members to send any articles, announcements, employee changes or other relevant information to her to include in the newsletter.

### **Committee Reports** –

**Professional Development** – Derek Reeves reported the CGAT 2018 Summer Conference & Training Program was emailed to Sarah to upload to the website. The committee does need someone to do awards.

**Communication and Engagement** - Keren Deal reported Jo Wood will be monitoring the Alabama legislature. Erika Sprouse will be monitoring the U.S. Congress. There will be a summer beach cleanup on the second morning of the Summer Conference from 6:00 – 7:30 as part of the community service initiative. The Coastal Cleanup committee will provide t-shirts for all who participate. The community service project for the Annual Conference will be with the Family Sunshine Center which deals with domestic violence. The group will collect toiletries and supplies for the organization. This year instead of giving speaker gifts a donation will be made to an organization on behalf of the speaker. There are four university recruiting events that the committee will be attending.

**Summer 2018 Conference**—Speakers have been arranged for the 2018 Summer conference. It is important to book hotel rooms early because it fills up quickly. President Tapscott asked for help during the summer conference and Melinda Clack offered to help with registration. We will also need individuals to introduce speakers and setup

**Annual 2019 Conference**—Sarah Williams reported the Annual Conference is scheduled for February 4-6, 2019 at the Renaissance Montgomery. Room rates are \$139.00. Speaker

subcommittee is working on speakers. There will be a student reception at the end of the conference at the Renaissance which will include Beta Alpha Psi.

### **Old Business 2018 –**

#### **2019 Budget Revisions**

We will have more bank fees because vendors are paying online which result in charges. Most of our conferences made money. Marketing did increase to cover the cost of the new logo. President Tapscott suggested putting the net assets and proposed net assets as of March 31, 2019 on the bottom of the financial statement. President Tapscott also suggested having guidelines for how to budget funds for conferences.

### **Scholarships**

Dr. Keren Deal brought up the issue where students have not been able to use the entire scholarship amount because they did not take the required 9 hours of undergraduate classes. We need to revisit this process to help accommodate the working student.

**CGAT Contract Clarification** – Past President Edge discussed a clarification on the CGAT Contract. The Admin Fee is based on the number of attendees instead of a flat fee.

### **2020 Annual Conference Mobile**

Need someone to plan and coordinate the 2020 Annual conference at the Riverview Plaza in Mobile on February 18 – 20, 2020. Mobile county has a new Finance Director that the committee will try to reach out to. Ford Handley and Mike Diehl can help as well. The Professional development committee, Kathy James and Barbi Lee, can help with appointment of people to help with conferences.

### **Method of Awarding CPE**

To ensure that the valid number of CPE hours are given per person the name badge will be turned in at the end of the conference with the attendee documenting how many hours they attended.

### **Future Board of Directors.**

Every year two Board of Director positions roll off. The committee needs to be thinking of individuals that could be considered. Ideally committee members would step up to Directors. The Director position is a 3-year position. The order for officers goes from Director, to Secretary, then Treasurer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and then to President. A discussion was had on having a junior or assistant Treasurer. Kathy James and Barbi Lee suggested working together as old Treasurer, now 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and new Treasurer to transition the duties.

### **Emeritus status for Faye Efford.**

Faye Efford asked for emeritus status in September 2017. The organization did not have anything showing the required 20 years of membership and asked for affidavit from Ms. Efford in December 2017. Having received no response, the request was denied.

Continued on Page 7.

QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, CONTINUED  
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA  
FEBRUARY 21, 2018

### **New Business**

#### **Consideration to increase Membership Dues**

Consideration was given on increasing membership dues. Regular membership will be \$75.00 per year for two years starting April 1, 2019 and then go to \$100 per year starting April 1, 2021. The Associate/Sponsor membership will go to \$150.00 for two years starting April 1, 2019 and then \$200.00 per year starting April 1, 2021. Student rate will not change. Membership dues increases was approved.

#### **Consideration of Board Approving Conference Budget.**

Recommendation made that the conference budgets be approve by the board. If the budget goes 10% over in total, then go back to board for approval. Whichever conference we are at, we will need the next conferences budget. Motion to approve budget for annual conference at summer board meeting and Summer conference budget at the annual conference board meeting was approved.

#### **Summer conference**

The Summer conference budget was presented. Increased revenue because conference fee went up. Estimated profit will be \$5,600.00. Summer conference budget was approved.

#### **Emeritus status for Charla Doucet**

Charla Doucet retired on April 1, 2018 and provided affidavit that she has 20 years with GFOAA. The request was approved.

For complete copy of minutes, contact Sarita Tapscott or any board member.

GFOAA 35TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND TRAINING  
SEMINAR—MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA  
FEBRUARY 4—6, 2019



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

APRIL 1, 2018—MARCH 31, 2019

## **President:**

Sarita Tapscott  
Office: 256-426-6663  
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## **First Vice President:**

Derek Reeves  
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## **Second Vice President:**

Kathy James  
Office: 334-501-7234  
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## **Secretary:**

Kathleen Baxter  
Office: 334-242-4857  
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## **Treasurer:**

Barbi Lee  
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[barbi.lee@arec.alabama.gov](mailto:barbi.lee@arec.alabama.gov)

## **Directors:**

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## **Associate Director**

Mike Diehl  
Office: 850-466-4053  
[mike.diehl@suntrust.com](mailto:mike.diehl@suntrust.com)

## **Immediate Past President**

Keren Deal  
Office: 334-244-3971  
[kdeal@aum.edu](mailto:kdeal@aum.edu)

## **Administrative Assistant**

Jamie Moyers  
Office: 334-312-2770  
[mail.gfoaa@yahoo.com](mailto:mail.gfoaa@yahoo.com)

## **Public Information Officer**

Melinda Clack  
Phone: 334-567-0393  
[clack60@yahoo.com](mailto:clack60@yahoo.com)

## GFOAA OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Please notify Jamie Moyers to change your address, or other pertinent information,  
at the following address:

P. O. Box 240574  
Montgomery, AL 36124-0574  
Phone: 334-312-2770 or  
Email: [mail.gfoaa@yahoo.com](mailto:mail.gfoaa@yahoo.com)



## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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### Professional Development Committee

Derek Reeves

Office: 205-248-5513

[dreeves@tuscaloosa.com](mailto:dreeves@tuscaloosa.com)

### Communication and Engagement Committee

Keren Deal

Office: 334-244-3971

[kdeal@aum.edu](mailto:kdeal@aum.edu)

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## COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS

### Professional Development Committee

The Professional Development Committee is responsible for the Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO) program, the Certified Governmental Accounting Technician (CGAT) program, Education and Conferences, and Scholarships and Awards.

### Communication and Engagement Committee

The Communication and Engagement Committee is responsible for:

- **Governmental Relations**— Monitors legislative issues and provides a summary of bills passed that impact the membership.
- **Service**—Develops and maintains outreach and community service projects for member involvement.
- **Communications and Marketing**—Promotes GFOAA through effective marketing and promotes the Scholarship and Awards programs.

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**Government  
Finance Officers  
Association of  
Alabama**

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# **\$\$ MONEY TALK \$\$**

*The Alabama Journal of Government Finance*

*Editor: Melinda J. Clack*

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## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Government Finance Officers Association of Alabama is to provide a professional association for government finance personnel dedicated to professional development, educational opportunities, and collaboration.