

\$\$ MONEY TALK \$\$

The Alabama Journal of Government Finance



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Spring 2021

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FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Can you believe it has been a little over a year since our WORLD has been turned upside down? This time last year we were trying to figure out what COVID-19 was, what social distancing means and how to function with a mask on! Today we have vaccines to keep us well, most businesses have marked the spot for social distancing, and we have come up with all kinds of interesting masks. Before we would ask where we were meeting and now, we ask are we using Zoom, Teams, WebEx, GoToMeeting or some other electronic form of meetings. We drove into work every day to get work done and now a VPN, cell phone and laptop have become the remote office. We used to sign stacks of paper and now we electronically sign everything. Almost everything I need for my job is at my fingertips.

We have adapted well to change.

To me these are all awesome things that have happened during this devastating time period. Finding the good in all of this is important. However, even though we have adapted to the change necessary because of COVID-19, we still miss the human interaction.

As the WORLD begins to open up again in a limited capacity, we plan to do the same at GFOAA. Our first "outing" will be the summer conference on August 11-13, 2021 in Orange Beach, AL. We plan to have the summer conference both in person and virtually. We will have a limited capacity for the in-person version and not as much socializing, but we will also have the conference available virtually for those that cannot attend. This will be the first time some of us have seen each other in two years and it is so exciting. On December 9-10, 2021, the Government Accounting and Auditing Forum will be held live and virtually in the mornings at the ASCPA Office in Montgomery, AL. The grand finale will be the annual conference which will be held in Tuscaloosa, AL on February 2-4, 2022 at full live capacity.

I am so proud to be a member and your president of GFOAA. GFOAA did an excellent job of handling the "unprecedented" events of last year under the leadership of Kathy James, Past President. I am excited to be your President this year and look forward to working with everyone to convert back over to live activities. Getting to see everyone again in person will be one of the highlights of my year this year. Kathleen

GFOAA 37TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND TRAINING SEMINAR

The annual conference was held virtually the mornings of February 23 through February 26. The 123 attendees earned 15 CPE hours. Featured topics included: Alabama Legislative Update; Economic Update; Review of Alabama Ethics Law; GASB Update; Overview of the Statement of Economic Interest form required by the Ethics Commission; Excel Tips, Tricks and Techniques for Accountants; Overview of the GFOA Budget Award Program; and Opportunity Zones in Alabama. The conference ended with Mike Lutzenkirchen presenting “43 Key Seconds” that reminds everyone about safety on the road in honor of his late son and Auburn football player, Philip Lutzenkirchen.

2021 SPONSORS



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SURVEY OPPORTUNITY

Drs. Billy Morehead and Mark Morgan, members of the faculty at Mississippi College, are conducting research on the perception of popular professional certifications used or held within the Government Financial Management (GFM) community. This research is being conducted in part due to the AICPA proposal to remove some or all of the governmental content from the CPA Exam as of 2024.

This survey will take about 5-10 minutes to complete, and will ask questions about the perception of the value of holding six certifications (CGFM, CFPO, CPA, CFE, CIA, and CISA) within the GFM disciplines of financial management, assurance, technology, data analytics, fraud, etc.

This survey will remain open until June 30, 2021, and can be accessed at the link below:

[Professional Certification Research - Spring 2021 Survey \(surveymonkeys.com\)](https://surveymonkeys.com/s/Professional-Certification-Research-Spring-2021-Survey)

CONGRATULATIONS TO GFOAA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

GFOAA has awarded the Patrick W Kelly scholarship to five worthy applicants, Emily Willeford, a Junior at Troy University, June Bush, Koleman Powell, and La'Torius Bonner all Graduate students at Auburn University at Montgomery, and Melissa Bush Ott, a Sophomore at Auburn University at Montgomery. Congratulations to Emily, June, Koleman, La'Torius, and Melissa!



Summer Conference - Virtual Event Sponsors:



[Click here for more information.](#)

2021 GFOAA SUMMER CONFERENCE AND TRAINING PROGRAM - VIRTUAL SESSIONS

UPCOMING EVENTS

2021 GFOAA Summer Conference and Training Program—In Person

August 11-13, 2021

[Click Here For More Information](#)

2021 GFOAA Summer Conference and Training Program—Virtual

August 11-13, 2021

[Click Here For More Information](#)

GFOAA Quarterly Board Meeting

TBA

Via Zoom



CGAT

Certified Government Accounting Technician

August 25, 2021—Accounts Payable Elective
(Virtual)

Registration fee \$150.00

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

CGAT

Certified Government Accounting Technician

November 3, 2021—Accounts Receivable Elective
(Virtual)

Registration fee \$150.00

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



2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

July 12-23, 2021

[Click Here For More Information](#)

QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING VIA ZOOM DECEMBER 18, 2020

The Quarterly Board of Directors meeting was held December 18, 2020 via zoom. President Kathy James called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Minutes of the August 11, 2020 board meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report—Vita Smith-Parker presented the Treasurer's report.

Administrative Assistant's Report—No report.

Public Information Officer—No report

Committee Reports -

Professional Development - Kathleen Baxter gave an update on the Professional Development Committee. The annual CGAT program contract has been signed with the University of Alabama. Classes will be offered online. She will follow up on the scholarship application deadline.

Communication and Engagement - Derek Reeves gave an update on the Communications and Engagement Committee. Seven universities throughout the state received student flyers, sewing kits and koozies for their Meet the Firms events. The schools that received the items were Auburn University, Auburn University Montgomery, Troy University, University of Alabama, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of South Alabama, and University of Alabama at Huntsville. Keren Deal coordinated the effort.

GAAF Forum Update - Kathy James reported that the conference was held virtually. There were 114 attendees. Attendees earned 8 hours of CPE.

Annual 2021 Conference—Kathy James reported the conference will be held virtually from 8:15 am to 11:50 am. February 23-25, 2021.

Summer Conference 2020 Update—August 12-14, 2020 - Kathleen Baxter provided an update on the summer conference which was held virtually on August 12-14, 2020. The conference was offered for free to members and there were 158 attendees. Attendees earned 10.8 hours of CPE. The speaker gifts were donations made in the name of the speakers to local agencies.

Old Business

Next Board Meeting—The next board meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 21, 2021

New Business

GFOA Course Offerings— GFOA provided information about offering courses to state GFOA Associations using a revenue sharing model. Kathy James will contact GFOA for more details.

Board Position 2021-2022 University Liaison—Kathy James stated Keren Deal is retiring from AUM. Keren is willing to help the board find a replacement for the University Liaison vacancy this will create.

Thank You Notes from Agencies—Kathy James presented thank you notes received from the following agencies for GFOAA's donations made in honor of the speakers at the summer conference. Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee, Firehouse Ministries, and Elmore County Food Pantry.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

For a complete copy of the minutes, contact President Kathy James or any board member.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

APRIL 1, 2021—MARCH 31, 2022

President:

Kathleen Baxter, Ph.D, CGFM
CPM
Comptroller, State of Alabama

First Vice President:

Erika Sprouse
City of Auburn

Second Vice President:

Vita Smith-Parker
City of Birmingham

Treasurer:

Ford Handley
City of Orange Beach

Secretary:

Candace A. Moore
Alabama Department of
Transportation

Directors:

Ryan Miller
Leeds City Schools

Jo C. Wood
Alabama Department of
Corrections

Andrew Zutter
City of Auburn

Scott Freeman
Huntsville Department of
Parking and Public Transit

Cian Harrison
Baldwin County Commission

Robert Averhart III
City of Birmingham

Associate Director

Patrick Bowman, CPA
Truitt, Tingle, Paramore and
Argent, LLC

Immediate Past President

Kathy James
Retired

Administrative Assistant

Jamie Moyers
mail.gfoaa@yahoo.com

Public Information Officer

Melinda Clack
gfoaaemail@gmail.com

GFOAA OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

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

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Montgomery, AL 36124-0574
Phone: 334-312-2770 or
Email: mail.gfoaa@yahoo.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Professional Development Committee

Chair Erica Sprouse

Co-chair Vita Smith-Parker

Communication and Engagement Committee

Chair Kathy James

Co-chair Melinda Clack

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.

**Government
Finance Officers
Association of
Alabama**

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The Alabama Journal of Government Finance

Editor: Melinda J. Clack

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.