

\$\$ MONEY TALK \$\$

The Alabama Journal of Government Finance



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FROM THE PRESIDENT...

As our new GFOAA year begins, I would like to thank the Board of Directors and membership for allowing me to serve another year as your 2024-2025 President. I would also like to thank the rest of the officers who are serving another year.

The GFOAA Officers, Directors and Committee Members are listed below. We are fortunate to have them serve the organization and look forward to a great year under their leadership.

Officers	Directors	Committee Members
Vita Smith-Parker	MaLisa Harris	Jamie Jackson
Ford Handley	Rachel Biggs	Saketa Moore
Kathleen Baxter	Ryan Miller	
Robert Averhart, III	Jo Wood	Contracted Employees
Ann H. Murphy	Elizabeth Robison	Jamie Moyers
Erika Sprouse	Leslie Chambers	Rachel Shelton
	Scott Rearden	

The main goal of GFOAA is to provide educational and professional development opportunities for its members. Our conferences help us accomplish this goal. Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

GFOA National Conference: Will be June 9-12, 2024 in Orlando, FL.

GFOAA Summer Conference: This year it will be held again at Perdido Beach Resort on August 7 through August 9. Ford Handley and his team are working hard to make this a great event for us.

Governmental Accounting and Auditing Forum: GFOAA partners with ASCPA and AGA for this annual event. This year it will be December 9-11, 2024. More details later.

GFOAA Annual Conference: The 2025 annual conference will be held in Montgomery. Dates and venue information will be available soon.

Continued from page 1

Another excellent professional development opportunity GFOAA offers is the Certified Governmental Accounting Technician (CGAT) Program. This program provides the opportunity for accounting clerks and technicians to improve their skills in the areas of general ledger, budgeting, fund accounting, purchasing/accounts payable, payroll, and billing/accounts receivable. For more information on this program check out the CGAT training website at [CGAT Program Registration Information - Certified Governmental Accounting Technician Program \(ua.edu\)](https://www.gfoaa.org/cgat-program-registration-information-certified-governmental-accounting-technician-program-ua.edu).

If you have any suggestions to enhance GFOAA and the education it provides, please do not hesitate to contact me. Also, please let me know if you would like to volunteer for future opportunities to get involved with our organization.

I look forward to serving as your GFOAA President this year and to seeing everyone at our conferences.

Thank you and have a wonderful summer! Vita Smith Parker

National GFOA Conference in Orlando, Florida



Click on the picture for more information.

2024 40th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 40th Annual GFOAA Conference and Training Program was held at the Embassy Suites in Downtown Huntsville on February 7th–9th, 2024. More than 145 attendees heard from industry leaders on such topics as: Records Management Essentials, Trends in Commercial Development Incentives, Financial Fraud, Alabama Bid Law, and GASB updates. Attendees were encouraged to gather information between presentations from 18 corporate sponsors. The keynote Speaker closed out the conference with a rousing presentation on Communication in the Workplace. After hour events included heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks at the Huntsville Museum of Art and an 80's prom-themed murder mystery dinner theater. GFOAA graciously acknowledges the support of all our sponsors listed below.

PLATINUM



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BRONZE



General



GFOAA PAST PRESIDENTS ATTENDING THE 40TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Pictured:
Erika Sprouse, Kathleen Baxter,
Steve Boone, Rob Terry, and Penny Smith



Vita Smith Parker receiving thanks for being
President of GFOAA 2023-2024 from
Ford Handley (right)

SUMMER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION



[Click here to register for the 2024 Summer Conference
at Perdido Beach Resort!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



GFOAA Summer Conference and Training Seminar

August 7-9, 2024
Perdido Beach Resort

27200 Perdido Beach Blvd.
Orange Beach, 36561

[Click Here For More Information](#)

GFOAA Quarterly Board Meeting

August 7, 2024

Orange Beach, AL



Unlocking the Revisions to the Uniform Guidance and Single Audits

June 26, 2024

Webinar Training

[Click here for more information](#)

CGAT

Certified Government Accounting Technician

July 31, 2024—General Ledger

September 25, 2024— Purchasing

November 20, 2024—Billings/Acct Receivables

All Classes are at Bryant Conference
Center Tuscaloosa, AL

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

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS FROM THE 40TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



ADDITIONAL PHOTOS FROM THE 40TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Farewell...

To my GFOAA family – I wanted to take a moment to say farewell as your long-standing newsletter editor and tell you all how much the Clack family has been blessed through our associations with GFOAA over the years.

As many of you know, Charles and I both worked in state government for over 25 years and in 1999, we were approached by GFOAA to join as well as receive the CGFO certification. We took advantage of that opportunity not knowing how that step would impact our lives so positively for years to come. We both became volunteers (or voluntold if it was our beloved Sarah Williams asking) with Charles becoming the “Money Talk” GFOAA newsletter editor in 2007. We both served on the Board from 2008 to 2011 with Charles serving as President of GFOAA in 2010-2011. We both received the unique honor of receiving the Edward and Judith Kamnikar Award (me in 2013 and Charles in 2015) for our years of volunteer work with the organization from serving on the board, helping with the conferences, helping transport items from the warehouse for events, and the newsletter. Our children have grown up with GFOAA as part of their lives from attending summer conferences when they were younger to celebrating Andy’s 18th birthday at the 2016 Tuscaloosa annual conference with Will coming over from the University of Alabama. Today, both of our children are adults and have followed in our footsteps in working in government – Will with Alabama Department of Revenue and Andy with Auburn City Schools – and I am a proud Momma of their accomplishments and I know Charles was as well.

In 2019, our family faced a battle like no other with Charles’ diagnosis of glioblastoma and MANY of you stepped up and helped us in numerous ways and were praying for us when we lost him in early 2020. His memorial service was well attended by GFOAA family from across the state and we felt your love and your prayers whether you were there or not. After Charles’ diagnosis and passing, Will has faithfully stepped in to help me with the newsletter so we could continue the long-standing Clack family tradition of serving our GFOAA family. However, this is my final newsletter as editor and I have been asked by the Officers of the Board to transfer my newsletter duties to Rachel.

Charles and I both were blessed beyond measure to be a part of GFOAA family for almost 25 years and I will treasure our time together. Know that I will miss seeing you all at the conferences and wish you all well. Melinda

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

APRIL 1, 2024—MARCH 31, 2025

President:

Vita Smith-Parker
City of Birmingham

First Vice President:

Ford Handley
City of Orange Beach

Second Vice President:

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

Treasurer:

Robert Averhart III
City of Birmingham

Secretary:

Ann H. Murphy
City of Birmingham

Directors:

MaLisa Harris
Jefferson County Commission

Rachel Biggs
City of Huntsville

Ryan Miller
Leeds City Schools

Jo Wood
Alabama Department of
Corrections

Leslie B Chambers
City of Auburn

Elizabeth Robison
AL Law Enforcement Agency

Associate Director

Scott Rearden
Regions Bank

Immediate Past President

Erika K Sprouse, CPA
City of Auburn

Administrative Assistant

Jamie Moyers
mail.gfoaa@yahoo.com

GFOAA Executive Assistant

Rachel Shelton
rshelton1214@gmail.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

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Professional Development Committee

Chair Ford Handley

Co-chair Kathleen Baxter, Ph.D, CGFM CPM

Communication and Engagement Committee

Chair Erika K. Sprouse, CPA

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.
