

The Government Finance Officers Association of SC Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue 2

Summer 2006



“Solving the Puzzle of Government Finance”

Carol Martin ~ Fall Conference Chair

We have almost finalized the agenda for Fall Conference. It is being held at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, October 15th – 18th, 2006. We have some great speakers lined up such as Congressman Joe Wilson, Ben Rast, John Fishbein from National GFOA, Bobby George, etc. The conference is a great learning and networking opportunity. The CPE hours for the cost is a phenomenal deal! We are looking forward to seeing each of you there.

Listed below is my wonderful conference committee:

Carol Martin, President Elect
Pat Blackwell
Parker Boulware
Jennifer Broughton

Missy Coker
Frances Derrick
Ann Epting
Steve Gibson
Kristy Hornsby
Sherry Martin
Tim O'Dell, President
Cassandra Phibbs
Gerry Sanders
Donna Sullivan
Herb Walker

If you need anything, please feel free to contact them or me.

Carol Martin
Fall Conference Chair

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Providing up-to-date
information and news
affecting the government
finance officer profession
in South Carolina.

GFOASC 2006 Spring Conference

Sherry Martin ~ Spring Conference Chair

South Carolina GFOA President, Tim O'Dell greeted 275 financial professionals at this year's Spring Conference held on Thursday, May 4, 2006 at the Radisson in Columbia.

Keynote Speakers: Joe Taylor, Secretary of Commerce, spoke to the group on the economic development in the State of South Carolina. He was followed by Charles Austin, City Manager of Columbia, who gave the delegates insight on the issues the city is facing and the positive events to make the Capital City appealing to visitors and its citizens.

Other topics included: The Lottery Commission, Certification Update, Governmental Accounting Updates, South Carolina Business One Stop, EAGLS, Budgeting Topics, Grant Accounting, SCEIS, Local Government Issues and Identity Theft. The closing general session was led by Joel Urdang. He motivated the delegates by speaking on communication. He gave out a survival kit and a map to help attendees unlock the Treasure through effective communication.

The 2006 GFOASC Spring Conference was a great success and a profit of \$1,868.48 was recorded. The Spring Conference Committee extends many thanks to the 275 members who supported the association by attending the conference this year and to the Membership Committee for their efforts in increasing our current membership.

Also, a very special "Thank You" to the following Committee Members for all their great work to ensure this conference was a success: Sherry Martin, Chair; Jennifer Broughton, Co-Chair; Missy Coker; Doug Cooper; Ann Epting; Matt Evans; Scott Ludlam; John Marcucci; Melanie Merritt; Cassandra Phibbs; and Juan Sims. Their efforts were tireless from seeking great speakers to obtaining wonderful door prizes!

Again, many thanks to all and have a wonderful summer!

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Let us know what you
think—this is your tool!
www.gfoasc.com

From Your President ~ Tim O'Dell, CPA

Greetings and salutations,

Wow, what a whirlwind Spring and Summer this has turned out to be. The Spring Conference in early May proved to be a great success with near record attendance. Once the sounds of the construction equipment operating behind the podium ceased we could actually hear the speakers. We are very appreciative of our speakers and supporting vendors. Many thanks also go to our Sherry Martin and the Spring Conference Committee for all their hard work in organizing this successful annual event. I believe the stepped-up marketing efforts by the Membership and Public Relations Committees are beginning to favorably impact our attendance. Hopefully the State's adoption of the federal lodging rates will not adversely affect our Fall Conference attendance. NOTE: Tent camping on Myrtle Beach is not permitted. The agenda is really looking great, don't miss this opportunity to pick up some quality CPE and spend some time networking with other finance professionals. Fall is a great time to be near our beautiful coastline.

GFOA National was held in Montreal in early May. What a conference, and what a city! Along with Scott Ludlam, our State Representative and myself, we had a respectable contingent of South Carolinians to descend on Canadian soil, along with about six thousand other finance professionals from the US and Canada. There was an impressive group of talented speakers, great food, and

entertainment. Pierre Vebaun arranged a great brunch get-together for the SC delegation in spite of the fact that he is not bilingual. This was my first National Conference but hopefully not my last. The Canadians were congenial, and most actually knew where South Carolina was...after of course, mentioning "Myrtle Beach". I think I've seen half the population of Quebec at the Pavilion over the past couple of decades. Overall it was a great experience. There was however one notable inconvenience...for one of our beloved past Presidents Ann Epting. Ann not only flew into the wrong Canadian city, but her luggage went to Jersey. Ron Rhames and Air Canada came to her rescue and eventually got her to Montreal. I have heard through the grapevine that in addition to a toothbrush and other health and comfort items, her complimentary lost luggage travel pack contained a stunning nightgown, which bore remarkable resemblance to a men's extra large t-shirt. I believe her luggage arrived in time for the flight home. Bless her heart!

I am really looking forward to seeing your smiling faces at our Fall Conference!

Bonjour,
El Presidente

VOUNTEER for service to our organization. The pay is lousy, but the hours are flexible, and the rewards are many!

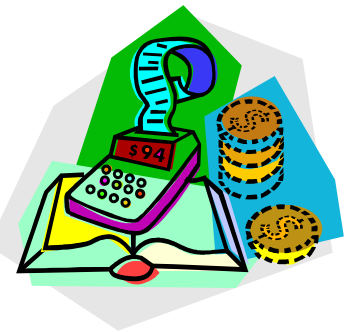
Treasurer's Report

Terry Booth, CPA, CGFO ~ GFOASC Treasurer

The Association's finances are looking good so far this year. There is a net income of \$26,321.63 as of May 31, 2006, with \$42,801.66 in the bank. I will be working closely with the committee chairs to keep costs down as much as possible, to avoid having a deficit at the end of the year.

We are trying to send all invoices and receipts by email whenever possible, to cut down on costs and labor. Please update your email information on the web (Memberclicks) or email Lynne Lee if we don't have your email address, or if it changes. We would appreciate if you can get invoices paid timely, so that we can continue to have a positive cash flow!

I have started posting the monthly financial statements on the Web site. You can find them on the Treasurer's link at www.gfoasc.com. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.



"Be the Difference you want to see ~ Make your Association the Best It Can Be!"

Certification Committee Update

Cheryl Allen-Lint, CGFO ~ Certification Committee Chair

The new brochure with the 2006-2007 certification core course schedule is now available. You can find it on our Web site under the "Certification" link. If you are interested in becoming certified, you can get more information there and download a registration form. You can enroll and pay for the courses one at a time, but if you pay for them all before September 21, 2006 you will save \$175. Also, there are a limited number of spaces in each course, so sign up early!

The Association, in conjunction with USC offers one scholarship per year (the Katherine Zook scholarship) to a GFOASC member for the cost of the certification program. This scholarship covers the registration fees and books for the five certification courses. If you are interested in applying, please visit the "Scholarship" link on our Web site for more information and a scholarship application. The deadline for applying is September 15.

The Certification Committee met in June and conducted an audit of a random sample of 2005 CPE reports. All reports were verified as accurate after the supporting documentation was reviewed. CGFO's are not required to send

backup

with the CPE reports, but you are encouraged to, so the Committee does not have to follow up with you if your report is selected for audit.

The Certification Committee will meet in August to review and approve the applications for certification submitted by individuals who passed all parts of the exam this past May. The certificates for these individuals will be awarded at the fall conference banquet.

Remember to visit the "Certification" link on our Web site for the most current information about the program. As always, you are welcome to contact me (allenlintcr@cctech.edu) or Lynne Lee (lslee@sc.rr.com) with any questions, comments, or concerns.



2006 Scholarships Offered by GFOASC!

Sherry Martin ~ Scholarship Committee Chair

Congratulations to the **GFOASC Academic Scholarship Winner!** The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce Ms. Susan Young of Sumter, South Carolina as the proud recipient of the Founding Fathers Two Year College Student Scholarship. Ms. Young is currently attending Central Carolina Technical College majoring in Accounting.

Each year the Founding Fathers Two Year College Student Scholarship, in the amount of \$500.00, is awarded to a student who attends a South Carolina technical college or a USC two year college working towards a certificate or Associate Degree in Accounting, Finance, or a business related field. The scholarship requires the student be a South Carolina resident, have completed at least 12 credit hours, and have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA.

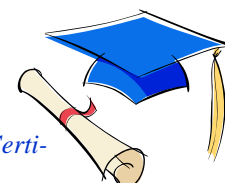
Also, we would like to remind the members that the 2006 **Katherine Zook Certification Program Scholarship** is available to Government Finance Officers Association of South Carolina members. This scholarship covers the registration fees and books for the certification courses.

An application will be mailed upon request by writing: Government Finance Officers Association of South Carolina, Attention: Scholarship Committee, PO Box 280334, Columbia, SC 29228. The application may also be downloaded online at www.gfoasc.com under the Scholarship link

The deadline for submitting the application is September 15, 2006 and the recipient will be notified in September prior to the beginning of classes and announced at the Awards Banquet at the Fall Conference in October, so please apply today.

Once again, congratulations to Ms. Susan Young for being the proud recipient of the 2006 Founding Fathers Two Year College Student Scholarship!

Information on the GFOASC Certification Program is available online at www.gfoasc.com under the Certification link.



GFOA National Update

Scott Ludlam, CGFO ~ State Representative to National

Just a quick update on National GFOA news:

GFOA held its 100th anniversary annual conference in Montreal, Canada this year. GFOA went to great lengths to put on one of the finest annual conferences. Tim O'Dell, your GFOASC President, and I represented the State of South Carolina. Montreal is very much a cosmopolitan city with an international flavor. From China Town, to Little Italy, to the Old Montreal Quarter, the city offers a true international feeling as you walk from village to village.

GFOA kicked off the conference with a reception and concert by Chris Isaak. In attendance were about 6,000 finance professionals from the United States and Canada. Monday our keynote speaker was Dr. Uwe Reinhardt, a Princeton University professor and health care economist. Tuesday's keynote address was delivered by David S. Broder, a political science correspondent for the Washington Post and frequent guest on NBC's *Meet the Press*. Both speakers offered interesting commentary on global issues. Our concurrent sessions ranged from topics on "prescription drug costs" to "current budgeting practices". The Conference provided top quality sessions and CPE's for attendees. Montreal was an exciting time as we celebrated GFOA's 100th anniversary. GFOA will host the 2007 annual conference in California. I am sure the 101st conference will be just as rewarding.

Just a little history about GFOA as we celebrate our centennial: GFOA is a non-profit organization that was formed in 1906 for finance professional in the United States and Canada. Located in Chicago, IL, their mission is to *enhance and promote the professional management of governments for the public benefit*. GFOA, with its 16,500 members, serves public finance professionals by developing and promoting policies and providing training to finance professionals. GFOA is a tremendous resource of information, and I encourage each of you to check their web site for further information. www.gfoa.org

I look forward to continuing to serve GFOASC, and working with Tim through the remainder of 2006. I have served two terms on the board, and encourage each of you to get involved with GFOASC. You may contact me at (803) 734-8699.



Membership Committee Update

Terry L. Booth, CPA, CGFO ~ Membership Committee Chair

The Membership Committee has sent over 500 emails and/or letters and membership applications to individuals at agencies throughout the state who are not currently GFOASC members. We don't have official reports yet, but there have been quite a few new memberships as a result.

We are also working hard to make sure all current members' dues are paid. This is the first year that we have had a system in place to track these, and we are trying to help everyone get used to our new procedures. Our plans are to take all unpaid members off of the membership roster at the end of the year. We also plan to send membership renewals out in November or December this year for the 2007 calendar year.

We have completed the process of cleaning up the membership database and synchronizing the Memberclicks (Web site) database with our main (Quickbooks) database. We now have procedures in place to maintain any changes in both places. The Memberclicks database is where members can log in on our Web site and make changes to their contact information. This is also the source for the email announcements that Lynne sends out periodically. Please let us know if you find any discrepancies in your contact information.

We will continue our efforts to recruit new members by getting the word out to potential members about the benefits of GFOASC membership. Please let me (boothtl@cctech.edu) or Lynne Lee (lslee@sc.rr.com) know if you have any problems, questions, or suggestions.





GFOASC Web Site

Don't forget to visit the GFOASC Web site regularly! Updated information and forms are located there first!

We have started billing and issuing receipts via email whenever possible.

Please make sure we have your current email address.

Please visit the Memberclicks section of the site regularly. We will be posting information on our new features as they become available.

Post items to the bulletin board now or vote in one of our polls!

www.gfoasc.com



GFOASC Certification Program

New brochures for the 2006-2007 classes will be mailed out in early August. Please let us know if you don't receive one. Information and dates as well as a copy of the program brochure are available online.

2006 Continuing Professional Education Schedule

There are three classes left in the CPE Schedule for this year. There is still time to register for any one of these. You won't find a better CPE value. Please let us know if you have questions or need further information on any of the classes. Visit www.gfoasc.com and click on the CPE link!

August 25, 2006 ~ The Politics of Budgeting
September 7, 2006 ~ Constituent Relationship Management
September 15, 2006 ~ What You Don't Know Can Hurt You....

*The 8/25 and 9/15 classes will be held at Seawells in Columbia.
The 9/7 video conference will be held at Midlands Technical College in West Columbia.*

GFOASC Luncheons

The second quarterly luncheon was held at Grecian Gardens on June 8, 2006. We had another great turnout and as usual the food was delicious. Ernie Passailaigue with the SC Education Lottery was our guest speaker and he gave us many insights on how the Lottery operates. He was a very interesting and entertaining speaker! The dates for our upcoming luncheons are below and will also be held at the Grecian Gardens Restaurant.

*Thursday, September 7th
Thursday, November 9th*

Please mark your calendars. The speakers for the luncheons will be posted on the Web site as soon as the information becomes available.

Government Finance Officers Association of SC

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GFOASC Fall Conference Dates

October 15-18, 2006

October 14-17, 2007

October 12-15, 2008

Myrtle Beach Convention Center