

Ohio GFOA News & Updates
December 2022

**OHIO
GFOA** **E-NEWS UPDATE**

Government Finance Officers Association



President's Message

By: Shawn Hufstedler, Chief Operating Officer, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission



Government Finance Friends –

I hope this finds you winding up a successful 2022. As we continue through the pandemic, much continues to change for those of us in government finance. The Ohio GFOA will continue to provide topical webinars and educational resources to help you stay up-to-date and manage the change that comes your way.

One of those resources is our Annual Conference and Membership Meeting. This year's conference, held in Columbus, was one of our 2022 successes, in terms of attendees, speakers, content and networking opportunities. On behalf of the entire Ohio GFOA Board, we'd like to thank the over 400 attendees, presenters, moderators, sponsors and

the year-long efforts of the Education Committee, led by Jeff McCuen, that helped make this year's conference a success.

I would also like to thank Randy Bartels, Auditor, City of Lima, for his leadership this past year as the Ohio GFOA President. Randy's steady and thoughtful approach served the organization well to provide excellent resources for Ohio GFOA members. We also appreciate the service of outgoing trustees: Pamela Keener, Finance Director, City of Norton; Andrea Weaver, Auditor, Union County; and Anita Dalluge, Assistant Treasurer, Hilliard City School District. And we welcome our new and re-elected trustees: Joni Crawford, Finance Manager, City of Reynoldsburg; Brent Lewis, Finance Director, City of Upper Arlington; Julie Adkins, County Auditor, Seneca County; Scott Miller, County Administrator, Medina County; Adam Lesch, Partner, Julian & Grube, Inc.; Adam Collier, Treasurer, Hamilton Local Schools; and Nancy White, Township Administrator, Mifflin Township. Their leadership and efforts, past and future, are impactful and greatly appreciated. We also appreciate the excellent and ongoing service of our Executive Director, Nancy Waterhouse, and her team – we'd be lost without you.

Finally, I encourage you to explore the Ohio GFOA resources on our website (ohgfoa.com). If you are interested in serving on a committee or getting more involved, please contact us as gfoa@assnoffices.com. Thank you for all that you do serving and striving to make your organizations better.

Best wishes for safe and happy holidays!

Putting the Power of Finance to Work for Ohioans

By: Robert Sprague, Ohio Treasurer of State



Four years ago, Ohioans put their trust in me to serve as the state's Treasurer. Since then, I've made it our team's mission to refocus the office's attention on public finance and building a stronger Ohio. Over these last four years, we've done just that by modernizing several long-standing programs and implementing bold, innovative solutions to put the power of the Treasury to work for Ohioans.

Paying for Results

In establishing the ResultsOHIO program, we've created an avenue to foster new and innovative ideas through a pay-for-success framework. And it does just what it sounds like – we're protecting taxpayer dollars by only paying for projects that have proven to deliver real results.

The first ResultsOHIO project, which is currently being conducted with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, the Ohio Optometric Foundation, and Vision to Learn, is bringing mobile vision clinics to underserved students in schools across Appalachian Ohio. Key findings from the project's first year found that it is meeting the predetermined metrics and students are finally receiving the critical vision services they need.

[Read more...](#)



Membership Renewal Season

It's renewal time! Ohio GFOA memberships expire on **December 31, 2022**. You should have received a couple online reminders from us, by now. If you have not yet renewed, you can do so online by visiting our [website](#) with your user ID and password. For questions, please reach out to gfoa@assnoffices.com.



Stimulus Funds and the Ethics Law

Both the federal and state government have begun releasing stimulus funds to local Ohio communities. In its duties, the Ethics Commission strives to ensure that public monies are spent consistent with statutory standards of conduct which protect against potential conflicts of interest. The Ohio Ethics Commission is alerting public officials that state Ethics Laws apply to those who direct the expenditures of these funds.

Stimulus funds and grants, such as the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, intended to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, and a stimulus bill recently signed by Governor Mike DeWine to make a \$500 million investment into Appalachian communities in 32 Ohio counties, are public funds. In that context, the Ethics Commission is cautioning state and local officials that long-standing conflict of interest laws must be observed.

“The Ohio Ethics Law protects the public by prohibiting those in public service from directing or influencing government processes to benefit their private interests,” stated Executive Director Paul M. Nick.

Because the Commission has advised that stimulus funds are public funds, it is important to note that the same standards of conduct apply any time a state or local governmental agency buys or receives any goods or services. All public officials and employees involved with spending these monies must avoid acting on conflicts of interest.

“The Ethics Law assures Ohioans that government decisions and public expenditures, whether at the state or local level, are objective and serve the public’s interest,” added Commission Chairman Merom Brachman.

[Advisory Opinion 2009-06](#) addresses these issues in more detail, including their applicability to vendors.

Education Committee Update

By: Jeff McCuen, Education Committee Chair



We had an amazingly successful annual fall conference in Columbus with over 400 attendees. This does not happen by chance. The support of our vendors, our education committee members and our membership combine to make this event successful. I want to extend a thank you to all of the people that work to make this happen each year.

Preparations have already begun for calendar 2023. The Annual Conference and Membership Meeting will be in Cleveland, October 11-13. The Education Committee will meet on January 5, to review the possible sessions for the conference.

In February, we are offering a webinar on interest rates and investment opportunities, thanks to Ryan Nelson and Redtree Investment Group. We are working on additional topics, for the coming months, and hope to have webinars available for our members on a regular basis throughout the year.

Lastly, we are scheduling Introductory, Intermediate, and Advanced Governmental Accounting two-day classes, which will be posted on the website, once dates and locations are secured. Additionally, we are holding a Debt/Economic Development class, followed by golf, in early May, at Topgolf Columbus.

Thank you for your membership as we strive to provide relevant and timely professional development opportunities throughout the state. If you have any ideas for conference sessions or something you would like to know more about, please reach out to me at osucpa91@aol.com.



Seeking Board Candidates for 2023

All Ohio GFOA members are urged to consider being nominated for a Board of Trustee position - either self nomination or nominating another member with the members' consent. This includes current board members deciding to run a second term.

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the following trustee positions: City/Village, Library, Non-Governmental, School, and State. Interested members should contact [Randy Bartels](#), Ohio GFOA 2023 Nominating Chair.



Ohio GFOA 36th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting

Ohio GFOA's 36th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting will take place **October 11-13, 2023**, at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown, 100 Lakeside Ave E, Cleveland, OH

44114. Please note that our conference is taking place in October, again, due to hotel availability at the time of booking.

The room block has officially opened. The deadline to receive the Ohio GFOA discount rate of **\$205, plus applicable tax**, is **Friday, September 15, 2023**. Requests received after this date will be accepted based on room and rate availability. [Reserve your room today!](#)



2023 Sponsorship Opportunities Now Available

Year after year, Ohio GFOA successfully partners with leading companies and vendors to provide the benefits our members expect from us: high-quality educational training that is geared to the needs and interests of our members, and social events that give an opportunity to develop a large network of professional and personal contacts in the industry. Consider becoming a sponsor today. Click [here](#) for details.



Registration Open for GFOAs 117th Annual Conference

Registration is open for #GFOA2023 in Portland, Oregon, **May 21-24**, at the Oregon Convention Center. Don't miss this opportunity to interact with the largest gathering of government finance officers across North America.

Additionally, Ohio will hold its annual welcome reception, sponsored by Equitable and Capitol Partners. Details coming soon.

For further conference information, click [here](#).



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"Shared Knowledge for Effective Government"

By promoting the exchange of information among finance officers of all local governments, Ohio GFOA works to meet the challenges of the ever-evolving profession of government finance and fosters increase cooperation among governments and private financial institutions.
