



E-NEWS UPDATE

Government Finance Officers Association

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FEBRUARY 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On February 23rd Ohio GFOA will be putting on a seminar titled "Show Me The Money" which will explore Federal grants available to local governments in Ohio. On the agenda will be representatives from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Justice, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security. I am absolutely delighted with the cooperation we have gotten from Senator Brown and Senator Portman's offices. Their offices have not only worked with Ohio GFOA but have also worked with each other to help bring this program together and hopefully to help bring some Federal funding to Ohio. Also, a big hats off to Auditor Yost for the Auditor's assistance in putting this program together. Please try to join us at the Conference Center at OCLC in Dublin, Ohio on the 23rd of February.



[Read More....](#)

NEW LAW REPEALS 3% CONTRACTOR WITHHOLDING

On November 21, 2011 the President signed Public Law 112-56, 3% Withholding Repeal and Job Creation Act, into law.

This Act repeals the requirement for governments to withhold 3% of certain payments to contractors originally created under the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 (Public Law No. 109-222).

For more information on the repeal, see the [FSLG website](#).

Although IRC Section 3402(t) requirements are repealed, other reporting requirements remain for Federal agencies as well as state

[Photo Gallery](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

"Show Me the Money"

February 23, 2012

[The Conference Center at OCLC](#)

Dublin, Ohio

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

"Shared Services" Webinar

Hosted by Huntington Bank

April 25, 2012

"Basics of Preparing GAAP Financial Statements for Governments"

May 1 & 2, 2012

[Middleburg Heights
Community Center](#)

Middleburg Heights, Ohio

Ohio Reception at National GFOA Conference

Location & Time TBA

June 9, 2012

[106th GFOA Annual Conference](#)

June 10-13, 2012

Chicago, IL

"Labor Negotiations" & Annual Golf Outing

July 16, 2012

[Worthington Hills Country Club](#)

Columbus, Ohio

"Advanced GAAP Accounting"

August 1 & 2, 2012

[Niagara Event Center](#)

Put-in-Bay

[Hotel Information](#)

Ohio GFOA 25th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting

September 12-14, 2012

[The Crowne Plaza](#) Cincinnati
North Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio.

and local governments.

For more information about these requirements:

- [Information Return Reporting for Federal Agencies](#)
- [Information Return Reporting for State and Local Governments](#)

SQUIRE SANDERS: OHIO PUBLIC LAW UPDATE

Ohio Municipalities Now Allowed to Grant Parking Franchises



Under provisions of House Bill 153, effective September 29, 2011, the Ohio General Assembly authorized municipalities to grant a public parking franchise to a private entity or certain public entities including counties

[Read More....](#)

IRS ISSUES GUIDANCE ON TAX TREATMENT OF CELL PHONES; PROVIDES SMALL BUSINESS RECORDKEEPING RELIEF

WASHINGTON - The Internal Revenue Service issued guidance designed to clarify the tax treatment of employer-provided cell phones.

The guidance relates to a provision in the [Small Business Jobs Act of 2010](#), enacted last fall, that removed cell phones from the definition of listed property, a category under tax law that normally requires additional recordkeeping by taxpayers.

The Notice issued today provides guidance on the treatment of employer- provided cell phones as an excludible fringe benefit. The Notice provides that when an employer provides an employee with a cell phone primarily for noncompensatory business reasons, the business and personal use of the cell phone is generally nontaxable to the employee. The IRS will not require recordkeeping of business use in order to receive this tax-free treatment.

[Read More](#)

NEW OhioTreasurer.gov WEBSITE LEVERAGES TECHNOLOGY TO BETTER SERVE OHIOANS

As part of my office's ongoing process of striving to better serve our



BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

2012 Ohio GFOA Board Meeting Schedule

March 16, 2012
May 11, 2012
September 11, 2012
November 16, 2012

COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS

The Board works hard for you and your feedback is important to us. If you have any comments or suggestions you would like to bring forward to the Board, please contact Executive Director, Nancy Waterhouse, at 614.221.1900 ext. 228 or nancy@assnoffices.com

2012 CORPORATE SPONSORS

SILVER

Huntington Bank
Peck Shaffer
Squire Sanders
Bricker & Eckler
Clark Schaefer Hackett

BRONZE

Stifel, Nicolaus & Company

RED

Bank of America

BLUE

Ohioans, I am proud to announce the recent launch of our redesigned OhioTreasurer.gov website. We redesigned the website to improve online services for Ohioans and leverage technology to make government more responsive and accountable. Ohioans are now also able to view the new website and access some of the most popular features from their smartphones on our mobile site, at www.OhioTreasurer.gov/mobile.



Josh Mandel
State Treasurer of Ohio

[Read More](#)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ohio GFOA would like to welcome its new members. We are glad you chose to become a member and feel certain you will benefit from this affiliation.

For more information about Ohio GFOA membership please visit our website at www.ohgfoa.com. For a complete listing of new members [click here](#).

CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE OHIO GFOA BOARD OF TRUSTEES!

All Ohio GFOA members are urged to consider being nominated for a Board of Trustee position; either self-nomination or nominating another member with that member's consent. This of course includes current board members deciding to run for a second term. Board of Trustee terms beginning September 2012 will be open in the following categories:

[Read More](#)

THE START OF A BUSY YEAR IN THE AUDITOR OF STATE'S OFFICE



The start of 2012 has been full of activity in the office of Auditor of State Dave Yost. Whether it be tackling key legislative initiatives or providing assistance to local governments, the momentum continues to carry out our mission of ensuring clean, accountable and efficient governments for the people of Ohio.

[Read More](#)

2012 OHIO GFOA SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Robert W. Baird & Co.

IRS Sets 2012 Mileage Rate

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) set the 2012 standard Mileage Rate at 55.5 cents (IRS Press Announcement, IR-2011-16). Taxpayers can use this amount to compute their costs when traveling for business purposes.

GFOA/ICMA Books Available

If you are interested in purchasing new GFOA/ICMA books (one is the GAAFR handbook) please contact Lois Reynolds at meldeanhernandez@yahoo.com

The Ohio GFOA Scholarship Committee is proud to announce its 2012 scholarship offerings:

- [Annual Conference](#)
- [Continuing Education](#)
- [Traditional Student](#)

These scholarships were developed as another membership benefit as well as to further promote our Mission - "Shared Knowledge for Effective Government." Take advantage of these opportunities today.

2012 OHIO GFOA AWARDS

Visit www.ohgfoa.com for detailed information and nomination forms
Deadline is **July 16, 2012**

Ohio GFOA Timothy I. Murphy Excellence in Government Award

Through the creation of the Timothy I. Murphy Excellence in Government Award, the Ohio Government Finance Officers Association (Ohio GFOA), in association with the Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM), seek to recognize an individual, or individuals, who have shown a high degree of integrity, innovation and exceptional governmental leadership.

Ohio GFOA Ethics Award

Candidates for the Ohio GFOA Ethics Award will be recognized for acting in a courageous manner upon discovery of an unethical act, showing dedication to the furtherment of public ethics by their actions.

[Read More](#)

FINANCE OFFICER LIABILITY

How can something we thought we knew about morph into such a great problem? What are we talking about? Some new virus or disease that is made worse by the improper application of medicine? Well, not quite.



Thomas H. Wichert
Principal & CEO
Wichert Insurance

But close. We are talking about the age old assumptions about Finance Directors and their "Faithful Performance." And it goes beyond Finance Directors.

Ohio Public Officials enjoy much immunity under the Law for their day to day duties and the Duty to Defend them by their employers may lead to a false sense of security. For instance, there is no immunity for Civil Actions by sureties under fidelity or surety bonds. And other sections of the

Law make ALL public officials potentially liable for public money handled by them or their subordinates. Case law all the way back to 1921 declares that public officials are liable to the same degree as the trustee of a private trust fund!

[Read More](#)

OHIO GFOA RECOGNIZES BUDGET AND CAFR REVIEWERS

The Ohio GFOA wishes to recognize the National GFOA reviewers for the Budget Award and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting throughout Ohio. [Click Here](#) for a list of reviewers and award winners.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INNOVATION FUND PROGRAM ADVISORY

As the March 1, 2012 deadline quickly approaches for Local



Government Innovation Fund

applications, the Department of Development would like to provide you with several key

program updates. The Department and several Council members spent the month of January conducting outreach and informational sessions across the State. Attendance neared 1,800 people and generated a great deal of questions and interest in the program.

[Read More ...](#)

"Shared Knowledge for Effective Government" is The Government Finance Officers Association's Mission Statement. 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.