

**OHIO  
GFOA** **E-NEWS UPDATE**  
**Government Finance Officers Association**



## President's Message



**Jill Thompson,**  
Athens County  
Auditor

It is such a privilege to serve as the Ohio GFOA President for the coming year. I'm excited to partner with each of you in a vision to further our mission statement. It was incredibly stimulating to see so many government finance officers and sponsors from all walks of life come together at the annual conference this year. Your collaboration and cooperation created opportunities filled with incomparable professional, educational and networking prospects. I welcomed the occasion to be able to visit with my professional colleagues and friends and to network and develop new connections where we can work together for the benefit of all of our communities.

Working in the finance office goes hand-in-hand with good government, transparency and accountability. It is often only the finance officer that sees where the money is coming from and where it is going. We are at times the last link in the chain between good government and disregard for public trust. I'm grateful for each of you that took the time and made the

investment to attend our annual conference in an effort to strengthen your talents towards better public service and a more accountable government.

This year, I invite you to take a more active role in our association by volunteering to actively participate on one of our committees. The Ohio GFOA has opportunities for membership to serve on the Awards, Education, Golf Outing/Social, Legislative, Membership, Scholarship, Sponsorship and Website committees.

[Read more](#)

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## Ohio Auditor's Survey Finds Many Local Governments Unaware of Anti-Fraud Services Offered by Banks



Ohio Auditor Dave  
Yost

The exponential growth of cyber fraud should concern us all. The sophistication with which these criminals attack individual and government accounts is mind boggling.

That's why I was so alarmed when we discovered that nearly half of Ohio's local governments surveyed by our office said they are unfamiliar with fraud prevention services designed to safeguard their bank accounts against fraud. Cyber fraud is a real threat that should not be taken lightly.

Some 784 local government officials responded to the nine-question survey conducted by our office in early September. The survey asked fiscal officers, treasurers and others responsible for the safekeeping of tax dollars to report on the levels of usage and effectiveness of anti-fraud bank services at their entities.

[Read more](#)

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## Update from JobsOhio

By: **Nicholas D'Angelo**, Director of Government Affairs, JobsOhio

### Investing in Ohio Guide

Do you know companies considering U.S. investments? Please feel free to share our newly released "Investing in Ohio" guide which provides updated profiles all regions of the state, industry profiles, and information on strategic initiatives including our new \$50 million R&D Center grant program.

[Read More](#)

### Talent Acquisition Initiative

Chief Executive Magazine profiled JobsOhio's new Talent Acquisition services.

[Read More](#)

### **Notable Recent Wins**

In July, an Italian tissue paper company, Sofidel Group, officially broke ground on a new plant that is expected to bring 300 jobs to Pickaway County.

[Read More](#)

In May, Barclaycard Moved Forward Bringing 1,500 Jobs to Hamilton, Ohio

[Read More](#)

In April, Schaeffler, a German-based automotive supplier, announced the decision to expand and create 250 jobs in Wooster.

[Read More](#)

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## **The Ohio Ethics Law: Gifts Unwrapped!**

By: **Susan Willeke**, Education & Communications Manager, Ohio Ethics Commission



The holiday season is upon us! A time of celebrations, open houses, and gift giving! If you have ever wondered what to do when offered an invitation or gift, we have some helpful information for you. Because public officials and employees must consider whether gifts can be accepted without violating the Ethics Law, we have compiled answers to the most commonly asked questions regarding gifts and the holiday season.

### ***What does the law prohibit?***

Ohio's Ethics Law prohibits any public official (including public employees) from soliciting or accepting a gift of a substantial value, including entertainment, from any "prohibited source." A "prohibited source" is any person, company, organization, or other entity, that is:

- Doing or seeking to do business with the public agency the official serves;
- Regulated by the agency the official serves; or
- Interested in matters before the agency the official serves.

A public official or employee also cannot accept a tip or compensation for the performance of his or her public job duties.

[Read more](#)

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## The Rules Have Changed for Ohioans with Disabilities



Ohio Treasurer  
Josh Mandel

An exciting new initiative recently launched out of the Ohio Treasurer's office that dramatically improves the lives of individuals living with disabilities. On June 1st, STABLE Accounts became open for enrollment as the nation's first savings and investment accounts for people with special needs.

Before STABLE Accounts, Ohioans with disabilities could not save more than \$2,000 or they risked losing their healthcare benefits, such as Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). As you can imagine, this ceiling made it difficult for individuals to live an independent and stable life.

Now, with the launch of STABLE Accounts, the rules have changed. People with disabilities are empowered to save and invest up to \$14,000 a year without losing their healthcare benefits. STABLE Accounts give people with disabilities the opportunity to live more independent and financially stable lives.

This has the power to be truly life-changing.

[Read more](#)

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## 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 a complete listing of new members, click [here](#).

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## 2016-2017 Newly Elected Officers and Trustees



Auditor **Dave Yost** swearing in the newly elected officers and trustees.

Ohio GFOA during its 29th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting on September 21st in Columbus elected the following officers and trustees for 2016-17:

*President* **Jill Thompson**, Auditor, Athens County;  
*President-elect*, **Stacey Russell**, Fiscal Officer, Muskingum County Library System; *Secretary*, **Jamie Nicholson**, Finance Director, City of Pataskala; *Treasurer*, **Jared**

**Cottrell**, Partner, Kennedy Cottrell Richards

*Trustees* elected to a three-year term include **Anita Dalluge**, Assistant Treasurer, Hilliard City School District; **Linda Griswold**, Director of Finance, Green Township; **Frank Gliha**, Chief Fiscal Officer-Auditor, Geauga County; **Andrea Weaver**, Auditor, Union County; **Jim Bell**, Director of Finance, City of Huber Heights; **Pam Keener**, Finance Director, City of Rittman; **Tom Judy**, Executive Director, Miami Valley Risk Management Association; **Cheryl Schultz**, Vice President Government Banking, Huntington National Bank

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## 2016 Sponsors and Exhibitors



Ohio GFOA wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the following sponsors and exhibitors who have provided financial assistance to make this year's conference a success for attendees and guests.

AXA	Moody's Investors Service
Bricker & Eckler LLP	Multi-Bank Securities, Inc.
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Buckeye Energy Brokers, Inc.	OpenGov, Inc.
Build America Mutual	Park National Family of Banks
CAFR-Online	Piper Jaffray & Co.
Civica CMI	Plante Moran
Clark Schaefer Hackett	Plug Smart
Dinsmore & Shohl LLP	PNC Financial Services
Enterprise Fleet Management	Public Financial Management
Fifth Third Bank	Raymond James & Associates
Fifth Third Securities, Inc.	Rea & Associates
Fitch Ratings	RedTree Investment Group
FirstMerit Bank ( <i>now part of the Huntington National Bank</i> )	Regional Income Tax Agency
FTN Financial	Robert W. Baird
HCA Asset Management, LLC	Software Solutions, Inc.
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Huntington National Bank	Stifel, Nicholas & Company, Incorporated
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Kennedy Cottrell Richards	US Bank
KeyBank	William Blair & Company, L.L.C.
Meeder Investment Management	Zions Bank

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## 30th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting



Ohio GFOA's 30th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting will be September 20-22, 2017 at the Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center.

Don't miss out on the unparalleled opportunities for sharing ideas, sharpening skills, discovering new tools and technologies, and networking with peers from across the state.

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## Quick Links

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Membership](#)

[Legislative Updates](#)

[Job Postings](#)

Ohio GFOA [Officers](#) and [Trustees](#)

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## Mission Statement

**"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.

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