

Ohio GFOA News & Updates
April 2022

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

Government Finance Officers Association

SPRING

President's Message

By: Randy Bartels, City Auditor, City of Lima



If you are anything like me you enjoy your role as a finance officer in the government arena. Honestly, there hasn't been a day in the past 22 years that I have dreaded going to work. Sure, some days are better than others, but I truly love what I do. That said, I don't plan to work forever, as I am sure most of you don't. That raises the question of how to ensure there are adequate, qualified individuals to take over when it is time for us to move on.

For that reason, Ohio GFOA has started work on a Student Outreach Program. Our goal is to build connections with our colleges and universities, in an effort to talk with students about possible careers in government finance. I have been reminded, recently, that there is very little exposure to government finance and accounting in the school environment. Especially as an undergrad student, at best, you may have one or two courses that contain material related to the government finance/accounting field. Our efforts with this program are intended to acquaint students with the possibilities and opportunities that are available to them in the government sector.

This program is still in the early stages, but we do plan to invite interested students to a reception at our annual conference in October. Hopefully, by interacting with current finance officers, we can spark some desire to explore these opportunities further. You can help. If you have an existing relationship with a current student, college and/or university and would be willing to share contact information it would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me, via email, at randy.bartels@cityhall.lima.oh.us.

As always, thank you for what you do in the profession to ensure our communities continue to thrive in these challenging times.

Shining Light on Government Transparency in Ohio

By: Keith Faber, Ohio Auditor of State



This time of year, the Auditor's office likes to take a moment to reflect on the state of transparency in Ohio. In 2020, I launched the StaRS program to encourage public entities to be more open and transparent. The stars ratings were created to acknowledge the accomplishments of those that were meeting Ohio's public record laws, and also to recognize those public bodies that were exceeding those legal standards by implementing a number of identified best practices.

While the State Auditor has always audited public record compliance, this additional acknowledgement of the efforts being made to serve the public and provides incentive to do more, when possible, in making records more accessible.

[Read more...](#)

Serving Ohio's Communities and Residents

By: Robert Sprague, Ohio Treasurer of State



There's no doubt, we're living in uncertain times both here at home and around the world. Inflation is rising with no signs of slowing down, supply chain and shipping bottlenecks continue to make it difficult for businesses and consumers to obtain the materials and goods they need, and upheavals in energy markets are further exacerbating these issues. Needless to say, Ohioans are feeling the squeeze.

The Treasurer's office is here to be a resource for you. That's why we're hard at work identifying new and innovative ways to help Ohio's local officials, businesses, and residents navigate these challenges and prepare for the future.

[Read more...](#)



Changes to COA Application Requirements

GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award Program (COA) will begin requiring all applicants to submit the calculation of the net investment in capital assets they report for governmental activities and business-type activities, as applicable, on their government-wide statements of net position. The requirement went into effect for all COA applications submitted on or after March 1, 2022. [Learn more...](#)



The New Electronic GAAFR is Here!

The new electronic GAAFR has been updated to incorporate all new authoritative guidance through GASB Statement No. 97, and GASB's Implementation Guide updates through June 30, 2021. Read more about the highlights [here](#).



2022 Educational Opportunities

Ethics Law Training

The Commission is currently scheduling on-site “live” sessions, since they provide for such robust interaction and opportunities for questions. For those who are more comfortable with distance learning for now, the Ethics Commission has numerous options that allow for safe and effective training regarding the Ohio Ethics Law. To schedule an in-person session or a webinar customized just for your public entity, please email susan.willeke@ethics.ohio.gov.

Continuing Legal Education Classes

The Ohio Ethics Commission and the Ohio Board of Professional Conduct have teamed up, once again, to provide three Continuing Legal Education (CLE) courses for public practice attorneys. The 2022 CLE classes are free of charge and have been approved for 2.5 hours of attorney professional conduct instruction. [Learn more...](#)

Questions? Email susan.willeke@ethics.ohio.gov or call (614) 466-7090.



2022 Scholarship Opportunities!

Ohio GFOA is offering five (5) scholarships. Click [here](#) for a complete listing. The deadline to apply is **July 11, 2022**.



2022.

Nominate a Candidate for an Ohio GFOA Award!

Getting nominated for an award can lead to a boost of confidence. Click [here](#) for a complete listing of Ohio GFOA Awards. The deadline to submit a nomination form is **July 11, 2022**.



GFOA 116th Annual Conference - Ohio Reception

Ohio GFOA and [Equitable](#) are sponsoring a reception on **Monday, June 6, 2022**, from **5:30—7:30 p.m.**, at [Zanzibar](#) (rooftop terrace at the Austin Marriott Downtown).

If you are attending the [GFOA Annual Conference](#), in Austin, Texas, come join us. [RSVP](#) no later than, **Friday, May 27, 2022**.



Ohio GFOA 35th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting


Ohio GFOA's 35th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting will take place **October 5-7, 2022**, at the Hilton Easton, in Columbus.



Seeking Board Candidates for 2022

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, County, Non-Governmental, School, and Township. Interested members should contact [Angel Mumma](#), Ohio GFOA 2022 Nominating Chair.



[Join](#) Ohio GFOA's LinkedIn® Group



"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.
