

OHIO GFOA E-NEWS UPDATE

Government Finance Officers Association



President's Message



Jill Thompson,
Athens County
Auditor

It is a pleasure to serve as the Ohio GFOA President and humbling to work with such motivated, inspiring and competent finance officers and executives. This year is off to a roaring start with a great deal of time and energy being directed towards the Executive Budget Proposal. We are following the legislation through the General Assembly and paying close attention to local government impacts.

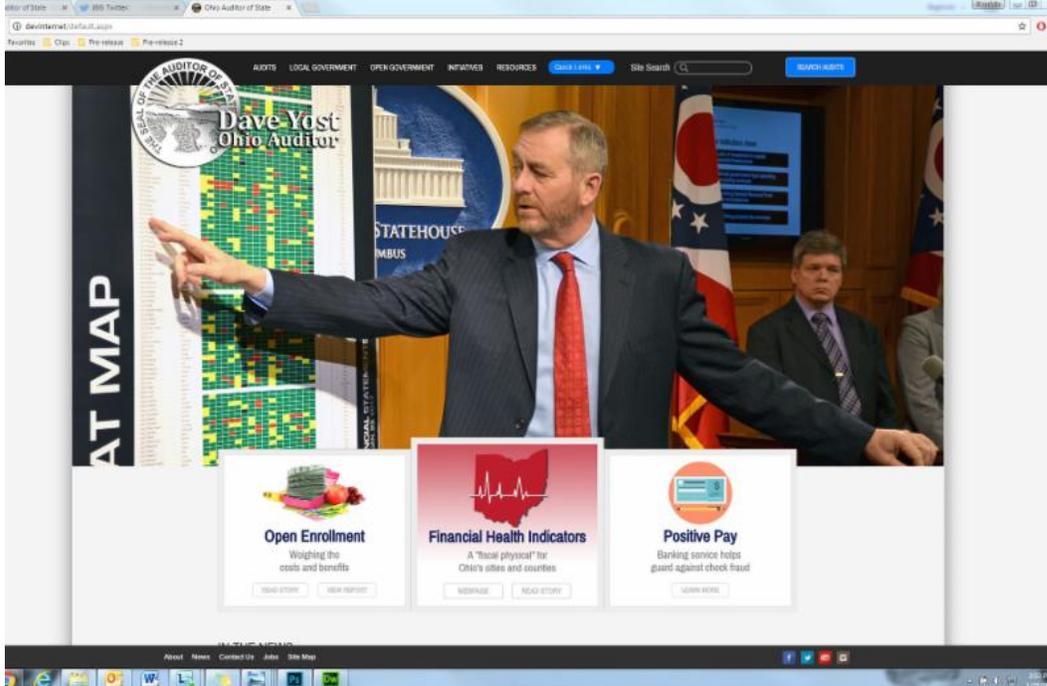
Registration is now available for the National GFOA 111th Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado from May 21-24th. Visit the [website](#) to learn more. If you have not attended the National Conference you may be eligible for the First-Time Annual Conference Attendee Scholarship. Ohio will also be hosting a reception for our guests at the Denver Athletic Club on Monday, May 22, 2017.

This will be my first occasion to attend the National Conference and I'm certainly excited and looking forward to attending. Please consider joining me in representing Ohio and taking advantage of the Preconference and General Sessions. Public finance professionals have widely come to view the GFOA Annual Conference as the one truly "must-attend" professional development of the year. It is an opportunity to sharpen your skills, discover new tools and technologies while working with peers from across the nation.

Our first Board Meeting of the year was well attended and extremely productive. Our committees are active and diligent in serving our membership. Each committee has submitted their goals for 2017. It is refreshing to work with such innovative and driven professionals that start out with the objective to exceed last year's accomplishments.

[Read more...](#)

Financial Health Indicators



When you get your annual physical, a blood test provides telltale insights about your behavior, such as whether you eat foods you shouldn't and exercise enough. Using standards widely accepted in the health care industry for cholesterol, you know if your LDL is too high and your HDL is too low.

The numbers don't lie. But if you pay attention to them, you can adjust your diet and get off the couch often enough to correct these problems before they grow more serious. After all, this is the reason why we get physicals (not because we like wearing those wonderful hospital gowns).

As Ohio's Auditor, my office developed a tool that performs a similar function for the state's 247 cities and 88 counties. Using data submitted to the Auditor's office via the Hinkle System by these entities, we've created [Financial Health Indicators \(FHI\)](#) that provide cities and counties a "fiscal physical" that identifies areas that might need a little work.

[Read more...](#)

Full Disclosure

Government Entities Must Now Disclose Tax Abatement Agreement Information

By: **Chad Welty, CPA**, Principal, Rea & Associates



If you haven't already, now is the time to dust off your tax abatement agreements and take steps to comply with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board's current tax abatement disclosures reporting standard.

In a move to provide more consistent and comprehensive information to those seeking an assessment of a government's overall financial health, [GASB Statement No. 77](#) was passed to require entities to disclose key information pertaining to their tax abatement agreements. The GASB says the disclosure update was necessary to provide investors and other users of governmental financial statements with better information from which to assess a government's financial health.

[Read more...](#)

National GFOA Announces Christopher Morrill as Next Executive Director

The National GFOA is pleased to announce the appointment of Christopher Morrill, City Manager for Roanoke, Virginia, since 2010, as its next Executive Director. Mr. Morrill succeeds Jeff Esser, who is retiring after 35 years of distinguished service as GFOA Executive Director on June 30, 2017. Esser joined the Washington, D.C. office of GFOA in



2017 Ohio GFOA Scholarship and Award Offerings



- * GFOA Advanced Government Finance Institute Program
- * Traditional Student College Scholarship
- * Continuing Education Scholarship
- * Annual Conference Scholarship



- * Excellence in Government Award
- * Ethics Award
- * Innovation in Public Finance Award
- * Lifetime Achievement Award
- * Career Achievement Award
- * Bradford M. Sprague Award for Excellence in Client Service

GFOA Award Recognitions...Congratulations!



The **City of Dublin** has earned the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR) Program Award 27 consecutive years.

*Photo from left to right: **Jerry O'Brien**, Chief Accountant, City of Dublin; **Robyn Howard**, Accountant, City of Dublin; **Jamie Nicholson**, GFOA State Representative; and **Angel Mumma**, Director of Finance, City of Dublin*

The **City of Lima** received its first Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 2015.

*Photo from left to right: **Sue Odenweller**, Chief Deputy City Auditor, City of Lima, **Randy Bartels**, Auditor, City of Lima; and **Jamie Nicholson**, GFOA State Representative*



The **City of Upper Arlington** has earned the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR) Program Award 28 consecutive years.

Cincinnati Public Schools also received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 2015.

The **Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District** was recognized by the GFOA as a 1st time recipient of the Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR) Program Award.

Visit <http://www.gfoa.org/awards> for a complete list of GFOA award programs.

2017 Introduction to the Finance Office & Governmental Accounting Seminar

Thursday, April 27, 2017
Forest Park Senior Center, Forest Park, OH

This seminar is designed as an introduction to the public finance office. It incorporates



a high level look at the various issues that can be encountered in the finance office, including but not limited to Ethics, Public Records, Human Resources, Accounting Principles, Revenues, Expenditures, Budgets, Banking & Investments, Debt Issuance, Internal Control and Audits.

It is designed for newly elected and appointed officials and employees of the public finance office and would be a great way for any public official to understand the complexities involved in the public finance office.

Click [here](#) for details and registration.

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](#).

Members of Second Alliance for Excellence in School Budgeting



GFOA announced the members of the second wave of its Alliance for Excellence in School Budgeting. The Alliance is composed of 36 school districts working with GFOA to implement Best Practices in School Budgeting. Alliance members include districts from 18 states across the U.S. serving anywhere from a several hundred students to over one hundred thousand students. Ohio members include:

Lakota Local School District
Springfield City School District
Toledo Public Schools
Trotwood-Madison School District

These districts are joining 35 districts from the initial Alliance that kicked off in September 2015. GFOA is excited to support the ongoing efforts of the now 70 plus districts across the U.S. implementing and improving their budget processes to help support delivery of the highest quality instruction possible to their students.

The Best Practices in School Budgeting outline a budget process that centers on aligning resources with areas of greatest impact on student achievement. Alliance members will be working on implementing the best practices over the next year with support from GFOA in the form of collaborative meetings, eLearnings, and other supports. GFOA will begin recruiting members for the next wave of the Alliance in early 2017.

For more information visit <http://gfoa.org/pk-12-budget>.

Certified Public Finance Officers (CPFO) Program



major disciplines of public finance.

The CPFO Program of GFOA is a broad educational self-study program designed to verify knowledge in the disciplines of government finance. Attaining certification is a mark of excellence in government finance. To earn the CPFO designation, candidates must pass a series of five examinations covering the

Congratulations to **Scott Gully**, Finance Director/Tax Commissioner, Village of Indian Hill, who recently achieved a CPFO designation.

To date, there are 670 individuals who have achieved the CPFO designation nationwide, and only 15 in the state of Ohio. For more information about the program, please visit <http://www.gfoa.org/cpfo>.

GFOA 111th Annual Conference - Ohio Reception



Ohio GFOA is hosting a reception on **Monday, May 22, 2017** from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the [Denver Athletic Club](#). [RSVP](#) no later than Monday, May 15, 2017.

Click [here](#) for conference information.



redefining / standards

Thank you to our reception sponsor!

Ohio GFOA 30th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting



[Reserve Your Room Today!](#)



The deadline to receive the Ohio GFOA discount rate of \$175 plus applicable tax is **August 29, 2017**. Requests received after August 29, 2017 will be accepted based on room and rate availability.

Individuals who are tax exempt must bring with them a State of Ohio Blanket Letter of Exemption Certificate. This letter must be presented at check-in and enables the individual to be exempt from the state tax. Any questions can be forwarded to the Ohio Department of Taxation at 800.282.1780.

**2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE &
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
September 20-22, 2016
Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center
127 Public Square ♦ Cleveland, OH 44114

Quick Links

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Membership](#)

[Legislative Updates](#)

[Job Postings](#)

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

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.