

OHIO GFOA E-NEWS UPDATE

Government Finance Officers Association



President's Message

By: Lori Starcher, Chief Financial Officer, Regional Income Tax Agency



On behalf of the Ohio GFOA Officers and Board of Trustees, please know that our thoughts are with you and your families during these uncertain times. Like you, I am concerned by the impact the COVID-19 virus is having on our state, our nation, and our world. The Ohio GFOA mission is to share knowledge for effective government. During this unprecedented time, if you have questions or information to share, please feel free to contact us at gfoa@assnoffices.com. Currently there is a link to COVID-19 Member Request Responses on the website at www.ohgfoa.com.

The Introduction to the Finance Office & Governmental Accounting Seminar originally scheduled for April 28th has been postponed. Updated arrangements will be sent as it become available.

As I am sure you aware, GFOA's 114th Annual Conference has been moved from in-person to virtual sessions. I encourage you, if you are able, to attend these sessions. It is an opportunity to gain knowledge and learn new technologies and tools from peers around the nation.

The Education Committee is working hard to line up the education sessions for this year. The facilities and dates are set for the 2020 Annual Conference and Membership meeting, which will be held in downtown Cleveland. Scholarships are available if you are interested in attending, but need financial assistance to attend. The deadline for the scholarship application is July 13, 2020. Ohio GFOA will be hosting a Kickoff Social Hour on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 from 8-9 p.m. at the conference location. Details, along with the conference registration, will be available soon.

Please stay safe!

Ohio Ethics Commission Provides Online Training For Public Officials and Employees Working From Home

By: Susan Willeke, Education and Communications Administrator, Ohio Ethics Commission

The Ohio Ethics Commission is reminding public officials and employees working from home that the Commission provides free and convenient online training options in lieu of normally scheduled classroom-style training.



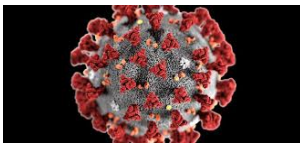
The newly updated annual [e-course](#) is a helpful overview of the Ethics Law for anyone in public service and is available on-demand. For state officials and employees, the course fulfills the Governor's annual [Ethics Law training requirement](#). As an added bonus for attorneys, the e-course is also approved for one hour of general Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit.

The Ohio Ethics Commission also provides monthly live webinars available to anyone in public service, both state and local governments. The Ethics Commission encourages all public servants currently working from home to take advantage of two upcoming webinars:

- On **Friday, April 3 at 10am**, the Commission will provide a one-hour webinar that will specifically outline potential missteps under the Ethics Law that could occur while working from home. Register [here](#) for the April 3 webinar.
- On **Wednesday, April 15 at 2pm**, the webinar will provide a general overview of the Ethics Law. Register [here](#) for the April 15 webinar. (scroll to the April 15 date to register for this class).

Both webinars will also fulfill the Governor's training requirement for state employees and officials. The April 15 webinar also provides one hour of general CLE credit for attorneys.

COVID-19 Resources



National GFOA

In efforts to support the response to the spread of COVID-19, National GFOA has compiled resource materials to help. [Learn more.](#)

Ohio GFOA Sponsors

Many of our sponsors have set up dedicated sites, blogs, newsletters, webinars and other resources to help you navigate during this uncertain time. To assist you with reviewing the various resources, click [here](#). ***We value our sponsors and their continued dedication and partnership with Ohio GFOA.***

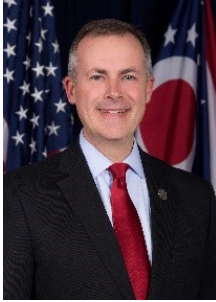
Resources for Economic Support

Regularly visit [Coronavirus.Ohio.Gov/BusinessHelp](https://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov/businesshelp) for the most complete and up-to-date information about resources available for Ohio businesses, individuals, and families.

Supporting the Municipal Bond Market

By: Robert Sprague, Ohio Treasurer of State

It doesn't matter where you live or what you do, the plans we had for



2020 have, in many ways, been pushed aside as we combat COVID-19. For local governments, the services you provide are essential and we commend you for supporting Ohioans during this challenging time. Just as you've continued to do what is needed to keep your communities running, the Treasurer's office is continuing to provide essential services as most of our staff works from home.

It goes without saying that the financial markets have been volatile while the economy reacts to the changes we've had to make to our daily lives. We're continuing to monitor this as it relates to STAR Ohio and our other programs.

[Read more...](#)

A Call to Public Service for Each of Us

By: Keith Faber, Ohio Auditor of State



I'm sure many of you share my feelings of fear, frustration, and confusion as we learn more each day about what we can expect from this global pandemic. Some of the statistics have been staggering and, frankly, a bit scary. Governor Mike DeWine and Department of Health Director, Dr. Amy Acton, have done an incredible job being proactive, transparent, and informative. We should all take comfort in knowing Ohioans are in good hands and that some of the very best scientists and medical professionals are working on this issue. Likewise, we must continue to support

President Trump and his team as they work hard to mobilize the federal government's response to this health crisis. We are Ohioans and Americans - united in our fight against the common enemy, COVID-19.

[Read more...](#)

Should I Sell My Debt Competitively?

By: Greg Van Wagnen, Senior Advisor, Sudsina & Associates, LLC



Best practices for public sector procurement typically require some sort of competitive bidding process for basic goods and services. So why is it that one of the largest expenditures, interest payments on debt, is typically acquired with little or no competition? Interest rates are one of the most simplistic commodities out there, yet debt

is usually sold (aka investors buy interest rates) through negotiated underwriting arrangements with little or no competition added to the process.

[Read more...](#)

GASB 84: Your Government's Guide For Reporting Fiduciary Activities

New GASB Statement Defines Fiduciary Activities for Reporting Purposes

(Update from article issued November 2019)

By: Chad Welty, CPA, Principal, Rea & Associates (Medina Office)

Whether you prepare your financial statements using cash basis or generally accepted account principals (GAAP)

basis, the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 84 *Fiduciary Activities* will likely impact you. The objective of GASB 84 is to improve guidance for state and local governments regarding the identification and reporting of fiduciary activities for accounting and financial reporting purposes, as well as when liabilities to beneficiaries must be disclosed.

Accounting for Fiduciary
Activities: GASB 84

[Read more...](#)

33rd Annual Conference and Membership Meeting

September 16-18, 2020 - Hilton Cleveland Downtown

Reserve your room today! Group Code "OGFA"

<https://book.passkey.com/event/50005143/owner/14238363/home>



Phone reservations, dial (216) 413-5000 and select option 1, which will get you to the reservations department. Be sure to reference the group code.

The deadline to receive the Ohio GFOA discount rate of \$189 plus applicable tax is **Friday, August 14, 2020**. Requests received after August 14 will be accepted based on room and rate availability.

2020 Scholarship and Award Opportunities

Take advantage of the many scholarships offerings and/or apply/nominate a deserving candidate for an award. Deadline is **Monday, July 13, 2020**. Further details and information can be found on the Ohio GFOA website at www.ohgfoa.com.



[Scholarships](#)
[Award Nominations](#)

Welcome New Members



We are glad you chose to become a member and feel certain you will benefit from this affiliation. For a complete list of new members, click [here](#).

Become 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 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: School, City/Village, Library, State, Non-Governmental.



Interested members should contact [Jamie Nicholson](#), Ohio GFOA 2020 Nominating Committee Chair.

2020 Corporate Sponsors

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. [View the Ohio GFOA Corporate Sponsors](#)

Thank you to the Ohio GFOA Corporate Sponsors!

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Quick Links

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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.
