

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

Government Finance Officers Association



President's Message

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



I hope you were able to attend the 32nd Annual Conference in Columbus. Thank you to Jeff McCuen, Education Committee Chair, and the Education Committee for a wonderful conference full of engaging sessions, to Bethany Staats and Jim Bell, Sponsorship Committee Co-Chairs, and their committee for your efforts as you again surpassed prior year records and finally thank you to our vendors and sponsors for your continued support of the Ohio GFOA.

Congratulations to the 2019 Award winners that were honored at the Annual Conference:

- Lifetime Achievement Award – Robert Hinkle, Chief Deputy Auditor, Ohio Auditor of State
- Bradford M. Sprague Excellence in Client Service Award – Alan Bauccho, Managing Director, Stifel Nicolaus
- Career Achievement Award – Brian Wilson, Treasurer, Hilliard City School District

The awards information will soon be available on the website, if you are interested in nominating a candidate for consideration for 2020.

Mark your calendars for September 16 – 18, 2020 for the 33rd Annual Conference in Cleveland. This will be an excellent opportunity to attend educational and professional

development sessions while networking with colleagues from around the state. The Ohio GFOA website and LinkedIn page will be updated with information as it becomes available.

Over the next year, I encourage you to continue to connect with the Ohio GFOA. There are many educational opportunities offered throughout the state including the Annual Conference previously mentioned. If you are interested in serving on a committee or getting more involved, please contact us at gfoa@assnoffices.com.

Help GASB Evaluate the Implementation of Statement 84

By: Dean Mead, Senior Research Manager, GASB



The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has made significant changes to how it collects information from governments about the effort required to implement major Statements. The changes will make the process timelier and result in more accurate information to support the GASB's standards-setting activities. The new process is described in [a two-page article](#) recently published on the GASB website.

Under the new process, the GASB invites governments to volunteer to participate, in addition to its usual practice of inviting a random sample of governments. If you are interested in participating in the process for the implementation of Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*, please [click here to register](#).

[Read more...](#)

STABLE Accounts are Changing Lives

By: Robert Sprague, Ohio Treasurer of State



When I took office in January, I emphasized that the Treasurer's office has the ability to make people's lives better. As my first year as Treasurer winds down, one of the highlights has undoubtedly been our work to provide Ohioans with greater access to STABLE accounts.

Prior to passage of the federal Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, people with disabilities could only save a total of \$2,000 before they would lose their means-tested benefits such as Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Disability-related expenses can pose a financial burden to many people and their families, and the old rules discouraged them from saving and investing. The ABLE Act authorized the creation of 529-like plans that act as specialized savings and investment accounts for people with disabilities that won't cause them to lose benefits.

Through STABLE accounts, people with disabilities are now more easily able to join the workforce and save what they earn. They are using that money to live more independently; buying cars, paying rent, and even putting down payments on their first homes. Impactful stories like these are why we're reaching out to more Ohioans to get them enrolled.

[Read more...](#)

Holding Public Officials Accountable - SB10

By: Keith Faber, Ohio Auditor of State



With great power comes great responsibility. Those words, commonly attributed to the character Uncle Ben in the comic book series “Spider Man,” are much more than an old cliché. They are words to live by – especially if you are a government official charged with the oversight of public dollars.

However, when corrupt officials pocket your hard earned tax dollars, they become a villain and Ohio law should treat them as such. Unfortunately, the current penalties for theft in office fall short.

Senate Bill 10, sponsored by State Senator Steve Wilson, seeks to expand the penalties for theft in office. This is a necessary change because as the law is currently written, a public official who steals over \$750,000 worth of taxpayer resources will receive a lesser penalty than a thief who steals the same amount in the private sector.

Since the Auditor of State’s office began tracking convictions in 2011, our team has helped charge more than 85 former government officials with theft in office for millions of stolen taxpayer dollars.

[Read more...](#)

GFOA 2019 Leadership Academy

By: Maggie Keenan, Director-Office of Budget and Management, Cuyahoga County

At the close of GFOA's inaugural Leadership Academy at the College of Charleston, in the spirit of Ernest Hemingway's famous six-word novel, participants were asked to describe their experience in six words. Responses included: inspiring, teamwork, learning, friendship, exhausting (but in a good way!), fun.



I applied to the Leadership Academy wanting to be better for my staff and myself. I have been with Cuyahoga County's Office of Budget and Management since 2006 and find myself amid our *second* corruption investigation. The first culminated in the 2009 vote to adopt a County Charter and transition from a Commissioner-led to Council/Executive-led form of government. That was truly an amazing thing to experience but was not without its trauma. We are again now operating under a cloud of suspicion brought on by criminal indictments, litigation, scathing reports about the conditions in our jail, and allegations of corruption and wrongdoing. It's not easy to continue to work for the public when you know you have lost the public trust.

Feeling a bit like Sisyphus lately, I told myself when I arrived in Charleston on Sunday that by the end of the Academy I would either be reinvigorated and ready to do the work necessary to be a much better leader or finally accept that it was time for me to switch careers. I left Charleston on Friday evening with pages and pages (and pages!) of notes, ideas, and opportunities that I was excited to share with my staff and colleagues in Cuyahoga County. And pages and pages of contact information of people I can call and lean on when I need another jump start.

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2019-2020 Newly Elected Officers and Trustees



Congratulations to the following newly elected 2019-2020 Ohio GFOA Officers and Trustees:

President, **Lori Starcher**, Chief Financial Officer, Regional Income Tax Agency - Brecksville

President-Elect, **Angel Mumma**, Chief Financial Officer, COTA - Columbus

Secretary, **Bethany Staats**, Finance Director, City of New Albany - New Albany

Treasurer, **Jared Cottrell**, Partner, Kennedy Cottrell Richards - Gahanna

Trustees elected to a three-year term:

Julie Adkins, Auditor, Seneca County - Tiffin

Anita Dalluge, Assistant Treasurer, Hilliard City School District - Hilliard

Pamela Keener, Finance Director, City of Rittman - Rittman

Adam Lesch, Partner, Julian & Grube, Inc. - Westerville

Brent Lewis, Finance Director, City of Upper Arlington - Upper Arlington

David Logan, Accounting and Finance Manager, Solid Waste Authority Of Central Ohio (SWACO) - Grove City

Andrea Weaver, Auditor, Union County - Marysville

Nancy White, Township Administrator, Mifflin Township - Gahanna

Ohio GFOA 32nd Annual Conference and Membership Meeting Highlights



Ohio GFOA 2019 Career Achievement Award Recipient
Brian Wilson, Treasurer, Hilliard City School District

Brian has committed his career to advocating for and serving Ohio's school districts and municipalities. He has served as the Treasurer of the Hilliard City School District, one of the largest school districts in Ohio, since 2005. Prior to assuming his current position, Brian served for six years as Treasurer of the Newark City School District, Ohio. Prior to assuming that position, Brian was the Director of Finance/Assistant City Manager for the City of Louisville, Ohio for four and one-half years; and Treasurer/Director of Finance in Rittman, Ohio, for five and one-half years.

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Ohio GFOA 2019 Bradford M. Sprague Award of Excellence in Client Service Award Recipient
Alan Baucco, Managing Director, Stifel Nicolaus

Al Baucco has worked in public finance and administration in Ohio for the past 43 years, and is currently the Managing Director of the Stifel Nicolaus Public Finance office in Cleveland, a position he has held since 2009. In his role at Stifel, Al manages the public finance territories of Ohio, Indiana, and Pennsylvania.

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Ohio GFOA 2019 Hugh Dorrian Lifetime Achievement Award
Robert Hinkle, Chief Deputy Auditor, Ohio Auditor of State

During his 35 years of service to the state of Ohio, Bob has



proven himself to be a person of integrity, professionalism, compassion, and exceptional leadership. He believes that the people of our state should be assured their tax dollars are not being misappropriated and are serving their communities as efficiently as possible. He has dedicated his professional life to advocating for transparency and responsible government spending to improve the lives of Ohio families.

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Ohio GFOA President, Jamie Nicholson, welcomes GFOA President, Terry Stone



Vendors networking with attendees during the exhibit break



Speaker, Andrew Esposito, talks about Medical Marijuana in the Workplace

[Click here to view more photos from the Annual Conference.](#)

Ohio GFOA Adopts New Code of Ethics

In conjunction with a task force of member fiscal officers, National GFOA developed and published an updated Code of Ethics. With that, one was created for Ohio GFOA, of which, the membership formally adopted at the Conference.

[Download the Ohio GFOA Code of Ethics](#)

New Members in 2019



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](#).

In Memoriam



Ohio GFOA is deeply saddened to announce the passing of Barbara Ann Rissland, Ohio GFOA 1995-1996 President. Barb passed on September 15, 2019, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She was a CPA and finance director for the cities of Kent and Rittman. She remained active in Rittman Lions Club after she retired in 2012.

There were no calling hours. A celebration of life was held for immediate family. Memorials, if desired, may be made to the Wilderness Center, PO Box 202, Wilmont, Ohio 44689 or to a [charity of your choice](#). To leave a special message for the family online, visit www.NewcomerAkron.com.

GFOA's 114th Annual Conference



GFOA's 114th Annual Conference will take place on May 17–20, 2020, at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Louisiana.

In conjunction with the 114th GFOA Annual Conference, Ohio GFOA is excited to announce a new scholarship opportunity! One lucky Ohio GFOA member recipient will be reimbursed the early conference registration rate (~\$420 value), along with travel expenses up to \$1,500. Click [here](#) for details and to apply. Application deadline is Monday, January 27, 2020.

Click [here](#) for more information/details about the GFOA Annual Conference.

2019 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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[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.
