



LEDGER

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**FGFOA President 2021-2022
Shannon Ramsey-Chessman**

Chief Deputy Clerk
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller,
Palm Beach County

A Note From Our President



Shannon Ramsey-Chessman

Greetings FGFOA members. I hope your 2022 is off to a great start!

I made the decision to join the FGFOA 20+ years ago and what a great decision that was. Over the years, the friendships, networking, and personal development I've gained through my membership have been invaluable. However, I will admit that I wasn't actually looking for those benefits because, like many of you, I joined the FGFOA for the continuing education opportunities.

The FGFOA continues to provide the most robust and affordable educational opportunities of any professional association through:

- Webinars
- Boot Camp
- School of Government Finance (SOGF)
- Annual Conference

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FGFOA Member Spotlight



Jeffery Kern

Our Florida local governments are mourning the recent loss of our great friend and mentor, Jeff Kern.

Jeff contributed much to the FGFOA and to our Florida communities. He had over 35 years of experience in local government, notably with Sarasota County, and he used his vast investment knowledge to mentor and guide so many through policy updates, mandates, procedures, and ethics. He most recently had been a Vice President at PMA Financial Network, where he continued to serve communities. For our FGFOA, Jeff was tireless in his work with investment training and conference education sessions, and he was instrumental in the drafting of Florida state statutes for local government investments.

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Committee Chair Report



CGFO Certification Committee

Jeremy Baker
Committee Chair
Grant & Capital Analyst
Palm Beach County Palm Tran

The CGFO Certification Committee has been very busy reviewing and approving applications for the CGFO program. The review course and exam schedule is currently being set for this Spring and will be announced soon. [CLICK HERE](#) for all updates for this program.



Conference Host Committee

Sharon Almeida, CGFO
Committee Chair
Assistant Controller
Village of Wellington

The Conference Host Committee is excitedly finalizing details for the hospitality suite and the Tuesday Night Event which will be held at this year's FGFOA Annual Conference being held at the Rosen Shingle Creek. [CLICK HERE](#) for all updates on this event!



Conference Program Committee

Nicole Jovanovski, CPA
Committee Chair
Director of Finance
Sarasota County

Since the last meeting, the Conference Program Committee has been hard at work recruiting for the proposed 2022 program session topics. We have been able to make great progress in recruiting speakers, and are closer to having the sessions and speakers finalized. [CLICK HERE](#) to see the Annual Conference page which will post updates as they become available.



Education and Webinar Committee

Rebecca Schnirman
Director of Financial & Support Services
Palm Beach County

The Education and Webinar Committee sets for the schedule and chooses speakers for our monthly webinar series. Each webinar begins at 2:40 on a Thursday afternoon and allows you, as an FGFOA member, to earn free CPE credits. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the upcoming schedule.



Legislative Committee

Stephen Timberlake
Committee Chair
Special Projects Manager
Boca Raton

Key Session dates remaining for 2022:

- February 26, 2022 – Motion to reconsider made and considered the same day. All bills are immediately certified.
- March 1, 2022 50th day – last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings

- March 11, 2022 60th day – last day of Regular Session



**Member and Leadership
Development Committee**

Member and Leadership Development Committee

Lorrie A. Arevalo, MBA/PA, MSA, CGFO
Committee Chair
Fiscal Analyst
Hillsborough County

The Member and Leadership Development Committee has reviewed and chosen the roster for the FGFOA Leadership Class V!! This event is happening April 3 - 8, 2022 and the full roster can be found [HERE](#). FGFOA Leadership is a week-long event focused on the attendee, their skills and their future.

This committee is actively involved in enhancing the member's experience through the Coaching program. The FGFOA's Coaching Program is a great way to propel your career to the next level! Participants are paired with an experienced government finance professional whom they can reach out to in order to discuss career goals, ask questions and get support along the path to success! [CLICK HERE](#) for more information about this program.



**School of Governmental
Finance**

2022 School of Governmental Finance Committee

Nicole Gasparri
Committee Chair
Director of Strategic Management and Professional
Development
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller, Palm
Beach County

The 2022 School of Governmental Finance Committee has already met and is beginning to choose topics and speakers. We are looking for more members to serve!! [CLICK HERE](#) to apply to serve on this committee and any other that is interesting to you.



**Technical Resources
Committee**

Technical Resources Committee

Ryan Bernal, CPA, CIA, CGFO
Committee Chair
Division Manager/Controller
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

The Technical Resources Committee has been busy updating the [Basic Government Resource Manual](#) which is posted online for your use. Watch your email for FGFOA E-Bulletins which give you important updates and changes. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the e-bulletins page of the website which houses past e-bulletins that have been posted for your use.

In the News!



It's not just about numbers 2022

The Village's Finance Department is responsible for the administration of the Village's financial and fiscal affairs, and is responsible for preparing an annual operating and capital budget that maintains the level of service and quality of life, for residents. The budget must also meet certain criteria established by governing bodies. To date, the Village has been awarded the distinguished budget presentation award for 16 years in a row and will likely receive that same designation for a seventeenth year!

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Florida readies for federal infrastructure dollars

Florida readies for federal infrastructure dollars

Federal and state grant monies will expedite the timeline on much-needed projects to combat flooding and sea level rise.

Florida's communities are queuing up to receive billions of dollars in federal and state monies to upgrade their aging infrastructure.

In many Florida communities, federal and state grant monies will expedite the timeline on much-needed projects to combat flooding and sea level rise. In other instances, funding will go toward more long-term projects to transition to more sustainable energy sources, as well as become more energy efficient. In either case, communities don't want to miss out.

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THE FUTURE OF FINANCE

Miami Isn't the Only Florida Locale Experiencing Crypto Growth

Miami Isn't the Only Florida Locale Experiencing Crypto Growth

While the city has become known for its cryptocurrency advancements, other Florida regions, including Broward and Palm Beach counties, are looking for ways to get involved in cryptocurrency.

(TNS) — For South Florida cryptocurrency fans, 2021 was an exhilarating year, as Miami positioned itself as a would-be capital for the industry nationwide.

The city hosted what was billed as the largest crypto conference ever, opened the door for its own coin, bearing the city's name no less, and welcomed an array of companies that moved their headquarters or set up outlier offices in Miami's Brickell Avenue financial district.

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White House Releases Guidebook for Infrastructure Law

It's meant to help state and local officials better understand the programs available under the \$1.2 trillion package.

The Biden administration on Monday released a 465-page guidebook meant to help state, local and tribal governments navigate programs included in the recently signed \$1.2 trillion infrastructure law.

In an announcement, the White House said the guidebook was meant to serve as "a roadmap to the funding available under the law, as well as an explanatory document that shows direct federal spending at the program level." It provides information on the more than 375 programs in the package, the White House said.

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Property tax cut for first responders, teachers clears second House hurdle

Property tax cut for first responders, teachers clears second House hurdle

Teachers and first responders could get an additional \$50,000 exemption on their home under HJR 1.

A measure that would ask voters to approve a new \$50,000 exemption to homestead property taxes for teachers, nurses, child welfare workers, police, firefighters and other first responders passed swiftly through its second hearing in the House Monday.

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[How communities are investing American Rescue Plan funds with the Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker](#)

- In the 10 months since the passage of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act, cities and counties have been working to prioritize and execute investing of their portion of the act's \$350 billion in flexible State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund
- The Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker, powered by NACo, Brookings Metro and National League of Cities provides a detailed local investment picture of American Rescue Plan Act funding

In the 10 months since the passage of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), cities and counties have been working to prioritize and execute investing of their portion of the act's \$350 billion in flexible State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) dollars. And as recent Treasury Department guidance made clear, local leaders have myriad options to use these resources to address the direct health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to confront the underlying challenges that exacerbated the pandemic's negative effects on vulnerable individuals, businesses, and communities.

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Upcoming Events: Save the Dates!



Training and Events

Upcoming Webinars

[Click here](#) for a full listing of webinar dates and titles.

CGFO Review and Testing Dates

[Click here](#) or more information on the CGFO program.

Government Finance Professionals Week

March 14-18, 2022

[Click here](#) for more information.