

# Florida Government Finance Officers Association

Your professional resource for education, networking, leadership and information.

June/July 2006



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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

Gib Mitchell, CGFO, CPFO  
(941) 954-4185  
[gibson\\_mitchell@sarasotagov.com](mailto:gibson_mitchell@sarasotagov.com)

### President-Elect

Amy Elliott, CPA, CGFO, CPFO  
(321) 674-5886  
[aelliott@melbourneflorida.org](mailto:aelliott@melbourneflorida.org)

### Secretary/Treasurer

Mark Fostier, CPA, CGFO, CPFO  
(407) 836-5690  
[mark.fostier@occompt.com](mailto:mark.fostier@occompt.com)

### Directors

Bill Bogan, Jr., CPA, CGFO  
(850) 577-4020  
[billb@mail.co.leon.fl.us](mailto:billb@mail.co.leon.fl.us)

Pamela Childers, CPA, CGFO  
(850) 435-1818  
[pchilders@ci.pensacola.fl.us](mailto:pchilders@ci.pensacola.fl.us)

Linda Davidson, CPA, CGFO, CPFO  
(561) 393-7737  
[ldavidso@ci.boca-raton.fl.us](mailto:ldavidso@ci.boca-raton.fl.us)

James M. Dwyer, CPA  
(850) 487-9031  
[jimdwyer@aud.state.fl.us](mailto:jimdwyer@aud.state.fl.us)

Ricky G. Helms, CGFO, CGFM  
(863) 402-6520  
[rhelms@bcc.co.highlands.fl.us](mailto:rhelms@bcc.co.highlands.fl.us)

Francine L. Ramaglia, CPA  
(561) 791-4110  
[framaglia@ci.wellington.fl.us](mailto:framaglia@ci.wellington.fl.us)

Diane Reichard, CPA, CGFO  
(813) 989-7103  
[dreichard@templeterrace.com](mailto:dreichard@templeterrace.com)

Jeffrey R. Smith, CPA, CGFO  
(772) 567-8000 ext. 1395  
[taxcollector@irctax.com](mailto:taxcollector@irctax.com)

### Executive Director

Jeannie Garner  
(850) 222-9684  
[jgarner@flcities.com](mailto:jgarner@flcities.com)

## GASB Exposure Draft (ED) – Pollution Remediation Obligations

By Kim Adams, Technical Resources Committee Chairperson

(some information in this article was modified from information taken from the GASB Web site)

Does your government have any pollution clean-ups on the horizon? Are you sure? If your government is all cleaned up, you can ignore this article and get back to calculating your OPEB liability. Otherwise, please read on about the ED's proposals for calculating and recording pollution remediation obligations and how these proposals will affect you.

Everyone knows that the solution to pollution is dilution, but determining the liability for pollution remediation efforts is not as simple. The GASB has just come forward to help us with this often overlooked and potentially significant liability.

On May 1, the FGFOA submitted a written response, signed by President Gib Mitchell, to the GASB's ED on pollution remediation obligations. The response agreed with several of the proposed standards, but the FGFOA response also included suggestions for changes.

### A Quick ED Recap

Ever since full accrual accounting was introduced through GASB-S #34, the GASB has pursued several projects to capture long-term obligations not previously reported. Currently, there is no definitive accounting standard providing guidance on calculating or reporting pollution obligations; therefore, accountants have relied on other pronouncements, such as FASB-S #5.

If adopted by the GASB in their current form, the ED's proposals would amend or replace a smattering of NCGA and GASB pronouncements, but would not apply to landfill closure costs within the scope of GASB-S #18. The ED's proposals also would not apply to future pollution remediation ac-

tivities required upon retirement of an asset, such as with nuclear power plant decommissioning (assuming, I suppose, that the decommissioning is conducted under normal circumstances, unlike the Chernobyl plant 20 years ago).

According to the GASB ED, governments would not be required to search for pollution that they may be responsible for cleaning up (Thank you, GASB!). There are five events identified in the proposed standards that would require governments to determine if a liability should be reported, including:

1. Known pollution poses a danger with little or no discretion to avoid a clean-up.
2. A government has violated a pollution prevention-related permit or license.
3. A regulator has identified a government as responsible for paying clean-up costs.
4. A government is (or will be) named in a lawsuit to compel pollution remediation.
5. A government begins a clean-up or legally obligates to doing so.

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# President's Message



**Gib Mitchell**

[gibson\\_mitchell@sarasotagov.com](mailto:gibson_mitchell@sarasotagov.com)

Congratulations to Jim Moye, Chief Deputy Comptroller, Orange County Comptroller's Office, on being named the Florida Outstanding CPA in Government by the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants. This is the FICPA's most prestigious award for government professionals and we are all proud that one of our members, as well as past president of the FGFOA, has been presented with this award.

At the time you receive this letter you should be busy getting ready to attend the 63rd FGFOA Annual Conference at the Marriott Resort and Spa on June 11-14, in Marco Island. This will be the third time we have held our annual conference at this beautiful resort (1994, 1999). It has been completely renovated and enlarged since our last visit and you will be pleasantly surprised at the amenities that are now offered guests. But the most important factor is the content of our conference program. Our theme this year, "Whether your government is big or small...Leadership...is more than steering the boat," is designed to highlight the four key points of the FGFOA mission statement: Education, Networking, Leadership and Information. Our membership of more than 2,700 is diverse in governments, size and positions. This enables a unique opportunity for new ideas and valuable relationships to develop. Our conference committees have put together programs and events that will enable you to reach out to your peers, as well as keeping in touch with the latest innovations and developments in governmental finance.

The Conference Program Committee, under the leadership of Jim Lewin, has worked hard to put together an extraordinary program of current and relevant topics for us. The educational sessions include GASB Update with Stephen Gauthier; Other Post Employment Benefits with David Bean; Leadership Training with Nancy Zielke (immediate past president of the GFOA); Disaster Planning; Economic Outlook; Legislative Update; and Budgeting, just to name a few. I want to give Jim and his committee a big thank you for a job well done.

And the Conference Host Committee, under the leadership of Chris Lyons, has worked just as hard to make your experience at the conference a fun and memorable one in which you will have ample opportunities to get to know other finance professionals in the state. These events include Sunday's Association Night and Tuesday night's "Luau on the Beach." This is a night that you don't want to miss. If you have not bought your tickets for the luau, you will be able to purchase them at the registration desk on Sunday and Monday up to 3:00 p.m. The annual conference will be a great time for you as well as your family. I want to thank Chris and his hard working committee for an excellent job on putting this all together.

The Legislative Committee, under the leadership of Jim Seuffert, has been busy monitoring what the Legislature is up to in Tallahassee. The committee and the Board have had conference calls with John Wayne Smith (Florida League of Cities lobbyist) and Bob

McKee (Florida Association of Counties lobbyist) every week since February 3 in order to be ready to respond quickly to what the Legislature is up to. The bills that would put a cap on all residential and commercial property, as well as all portability bills, are dormant for this session. This in part is due to our involvement in letting them know how our governments feel about these issues. Thank you to Jim and the committee for the hard work and dedication to raise the bar in the FGFOA by making a difference in Tallahassee.

The Career Development Committee, under the leadership of Tim Pozza, held its sixth and final Career Development Seminar on Friday, April 21, in Orlando. The seminar was on Cash and Investment Management and had approximately 100 in attendance. The committee did a great job in putting these career seminars together and I am very grateful and thankful for Tim's dedication to the task.

The Technical Resources Committee, led by Kim Adams, has been busy working on a response to the GASB Exposure Draft on Accounting and Reporting for Pollution Remediation Obligations. Our response can be found on the Web at [www.fgfoa.org](http://www.fgfoa.org). My thanks to Kim and his committee for another job well done.

The Certification Committee, under the leadership of Kris Shoemaker, administered the Certified Government Finance Officer Exam in November, in conjunction with the School where they conducted review courses for the exam. That exam produced six new CGFOs. In March the committee conducted the exam in three locations, Miami, Orlando and Jacksonville, which produced three more CGFOs. These nine will compete for a new award entitled CGFO of the Year. The winner will receive a plaque at the business luncheon of the annual conference as well as registration to the conference. Thanks to Kris and the committee, the CGFO continues to be the most coveted award in our association.

May 24 and 25, the FGFOA had an exhibit booth at the Florida City and County Management Association Annual Conference held in Panama City Beach. Board members Mark Foster, Jim Dwyer, along with Committee Chair Tim Pozza and Past President Peggy McGarrity and I manned the exhibit booth. Our purpose was to let small governments know that we exist and are willing to help them. The response of the attendees at the conference was very enthusiastic. Only time will tell if we reached out and touched some of them.

As my term as your president rapidly draws to an end, I want to take a moment to reflect on the success of the FGFOA this year. I have very mixed emotions since it means giving up the helm of the best state GFOA organization in the country, bar none. FGFOA does more for its members than any organization I have ever belonged to or know about. Your Board of Directors established five major goals for the 2005 - 2006 fiscal year.

**Education Enhancement** – Maintain and enhance the quality of our educational offerings and to provide more hands on interactive training.

Our six career development seminars this year touched on very timely topics as well as reached out to fulfill the new Certified Public Finance requirement of four hours of ethics. Our School of Governmental Finance achieved a record level of attendees and set the bar for excellence in education enhancement. Our annual conference

program, I am equally confident, will again set the bar for excellence in education enhancement.

**Legislative Effort Enhancements** – Develop, enhance and improve our processes related to the timing of how we react/respond to legislation and/or communicate and inform our members about legislative issues. We will increase our influence at the State Capitol.

Your Board members went to Tallahassee in January to talk with as many legislators as possible before the legislative session started to let them know that the FGFOA was willing and able to help them in reviewing legislative language that dealt with financial accountability, as well as to let them know where the FGFOA stood on key issues. We learned, to be effective, we needed to team up with the Florida League of Cities and the Florida Association of Counties to have a voice. We did and Board members then went to Tallahassee to make presentations. We were more effective this year and we will improve in the future.

**Membership and Committee Participation** – Determine ways to have members become more involved in our organization by motivating individuals who volunteer to participate on committees to take an active role in accomplishing the goals and projects of the committee.

Last year when I took office, I administered an oath to the committee chairs and members at the annual conference business lunch. The purpose was to give them the same sense of duty that the Board takes on. Based on the comments of most committee chairs and the success of all the committees, membership and committee participation has improved. This level of involvement is essential to the continued success of our association.

**Leadership Initiatives** – We will support leadership programs and initiatives for FGFOA progression, for diversification, and for the personal development of the individual member.

Leadership has been my theme this year. We have offered a variety of programs on leadership in the School, Career Development Seminars and at the annual conference. The FGFOA offers every member the opportunity to develop the skills to become an effective leader. I am very thankful that the FGFOA has helped me become a more effective individual.

**Small Government Outreach** – The FGFOA wants to reach out and touch some small governments to assist them with their development,

improve the quality of their financial records and operations, and address their problems and concerns.

A *Small Government Resources Manual* is being drafted and will most likely be available for distribution in the coming year. Also, the Board has held an exhibit booth at both the Florida League of Cities annual conference and the Florida City and County Management Association annual conference. We have sincerely attempted to reach out and touch small governments.

The accomplishment of these goals could not have been achieved without the dedicated members of your Board of Directors. They have stepped up and led the way to our success this year. This success would not have been possible without the hard work of all the committee chairs. They do the hard work. I can not thank my Board and chairs enough for making this a great year for the association and the best year for me. I am extremely proud of each of my board members and committee chairs. Thank you one and all.

I need to express my sincere appreciation for the support of the Florida League of Cities staff, under the leadership of Jeannie Garner, for the care and attention to ensure that our association is truly successful. My deepest thanks go to Jeannie, Penny Mitchell, Anne Gooch and Barbara Solis, who magically make all our events come together flawlessly. These professionals are never in the spotlight, but they keep the organization running smoothly, as well as keep me on track.

I salute my Board, committee chairs and members, and the FLC staff for a great year. I will miss you. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Our newly elected officers and Board members are Linda Davidson (City of Boca Raton), secretary treasurer; Chris Lyons (City of Sarasota); and Mary Anderson-Pickle (City of Palm Beach Gardens). Re-elected to the Board are Francine Ramaglia (Village of Wellington) and Diane Reichard (City of Temple Terrace). Congratulations and a heartfelt thank you for assuming these roles in leadership.

And finally, as I turn over the leadership helm of our organization to your next president, Amy Elliott, who I know will ensure that the FGFOA will continue to be your professional resource for education, networking, leadership and information, I wish Amy and the 2006-2007 Board of Directors the best.

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Career Development**

Tim Pozza  
(850) 689-5881  
tpozza@clerkofcourts.cc

**Certification**

Kris Shoemaker  
(407) 685-9827  
kristopher.shoemaker@occc.net

**Conference Host**

Christopher Lyons  
(941) 954-4185  
Christopher\_Lyons@sarasotagov.com

**Conference Program**

James Lewin  
(239) 335-2336  
lewinj@leegov.com

**Information Technology**

John Hearn  
(407) 423-9136  
jhearn@ouc.com

**Legislative**

James Seuffert  
(941) 745-3760  
jim.seuffert@co.manatee.fl.us

**Member Services**

Holly Vath  
(561) 791-4000  
hvath@ci.wellington.fl.us

**School of Governmental Finance**

Gary Perdew  
(772) 462-8303  
gperdew@slcfd.org

**Technical Resources**

Kim Adams  
(727) 587-6747  
kadams@largo.com

**State Representatives**

Northern Region  
Christine Francis  
(850) 577-4020

Central Region  
Lynda Flynn  
(407) 343-3012

Southern Region  
John Pryor  
(954) 357-7140

**It's About You**

**Rene Gonzalez, CPA**, Finance Director, City of Pembroke Pines, has completed the requirements to become a CPFO. The CPFO designation is awarded by the GFOA. **Congratulations Mr. Gonzalez!**

## Member Spotlight



*Francine L. Ramaglia*

This month our Member Spotlight is on Francine L. Ramaglia, Director of Administrative and Financial Services for the Village of Wellington. Francine began her career in public accounting as an intern for the City of Fort Lauderdale. After graduating from Florida Atlantic University with a bachelor of science in Business Administration, she began working for KPMG. During her 10 years with KPMG she worked with clients in both the public and private sectors. She has been a Certified Public Accountant since 1987.

Francine has lived in Wellington since her family moved there in the late 1970s. Francine was hired in 1994 by the Village of Wellington and was instrumental in getting policies and procedures in place for the village's incorporation in 1996. Francine is one of three senior staff members at the village, and is responsible for budget, finance, accounting, risk management, purchasing, employment services, public information and information systems.

Under her leadership, Wellington has used innovative approaches for support services functions. They outsource both the information systems and employment services functions. This provides for a high level of customer service at a reduced cost. Francine initiated programs and policy changes to provide a family-friendly working environment for the employees of the village.

While at the village, Francine has seen Wellington grow from 26,000 residents to more than 56,000. During her tenure with the village, they acquired almost 400 acres of additional park space. Wellington also maintains a minimum target unreserved fund balance of 25 percent of the succeeding year budget.

Throughout her career, Francine has always been active with the FGFOA. She has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2001. She chaired the School of Governmental Finance. In addition, Francine serves as a board member to the Florida Municipal Investment Trust Advisory Committee and was recently on the Auditor General Task Force on Auditor Selection.

Francine has one sister and recently became an aunt for the first time. Her energy and enthusiasm is an inspiration to those who work with her.

Jeannie Garner asked me at our last seminar if I had any advice for the next chair or committee members, and my advice was "Be flexible." We had just about every situation occur that you could think of – speakers not showing up, projector problems, my bad jokes, etc. – and somehow we managed to make through each of the seminars.

Again, I thank all of the committee members and speakers, and the attendees for your presence, evaluations and recommendations.

### Certification

*Kristopher Shoemaker, Orange County Convention Center, Chair*

On March 3 we held the spring CGFO exam in Jacksonville, Orlando and Miami with 23 candidates taking a total of 55 parts of the exam. As a result of the exam we have awarded three CGFO designations. Congratulations to the recipients. In Orlando we also hosted the CPFO exam for six candidates. I would like to thank Scott Simpson, Mitch Perrin and Binh Nguyen for being proctors for the CGFO exam, and Christine Francis for proctoring the CPFO exam.

The 23 individuals that took the March CGFO exam were included in the "CGFO of the Year" contest along with the 42 November exam candidates. The "CGFO of the Year" is a new program where the person who passes all five parts with the highest score between the fall and spring exams will be recognized as the CGFO of the Year during the annual conference.

Just because the exams are over until the School of Governmental Finance in November, your Certification Committee is not resting. We have several tasks left to accomplish before adjourning in June. We are developing an "Ethics Exam" and we are reviewing the program for any needed changes. The "Ethics Exam" and the program changes will not be effective until the 2006-07 year.

If you have not already signed up for a committee for FY 2006-07, I encourage you to do so, preferably the Certification Committee, but any committee will do.

It has been a pleasure to be the Certification Committee Chair for the 2005-06 association year. I will be moving on to the Conference Host Committee for 2006-07; however, I leave the Certification Committee in the good hands of Mary Lou Pickles.

In closing, remember, yesterday is gone, that is why they call it "the past"; tomorrow is promised to no one; and today is a gift, that's why they call it "the present."

### Conference Program

*James B. Lewin, Lee County, Chair*

The sessions have been determined and the conference speakers and moderators selected. As we approach the June conference, I want to thank all the members of the committee and the FLC staff for their hard work!

### Legislative

*Jim Seuffert, Manatee County Government, Chair*

The Florida legislative session has concluded, and local governments were at the center of many controversial issues. In earlier newsletters you may have read about FGFOA officials visiting key legislators to express the association's position on important legislation and to learn what legislators thought of government financial issues.

Early in the session, the subject of a constitutional amendment providing "portability" for the "Save Our Homes" portion of the homestead exemption was one of the biggest subjects of discussion,

## Committee Reports

### Career Development

*Tim Pozza, Okaloosa County – CCC, Chair*

The Career Development Committee for the 2005-2006 season finished its last seminar on April 21 in Orlando. There were six seminars provided, with a wide range of subjects and locations throughout the state. I appreciate the hard work performed by all of the members of the committee. It can be very difficult coordinating a seminar around all of the other seminars and conferences in the state. Also, my appreciation goes out to all the presenters because, for the most part, they are providing their services for free; and without good quality speakers, the FGFOA would be hard pressed to have the quality education that they strive for.

not just in Tallahassee, but throughout the state. There were numerous bills filed on the subject, and the message early in the session was that legislation was definitely going to be enacted that would put it on the ballot. Local government finance officers were concerned over the impact that this could have on our property tax base, and this was one of the FGFOA's target issues. As the session moved forward, these and other concerns finally got the attention of key legislators, and there was no legislation on portability. There will be a study, and there may be some property tax reform measures on the ballot in 2008.

Another target issue was preservation of Home Rule authority to enact and administer impact fees. Legislation on impact fees was expected to result from the recommendations of the Impact Fee Task Force, and it did. Although there were several proposals to extend the scope of the legislation beyond the recommendations of the Task Force, the bill that finally passed was in line with the Task Force recommendations.

As of this date, the League of Cities and the Association of Counties have not yet published their final reports on the legislative session. This is because it takes everyone some time to digest what happened, and to comb through lengthy bills making sure that no surprises have been included in them. If you have a further interest in the outcome of the legislative session, the most up-to-date information will be found at the FGFOA annual conference legislative update session scheduled for June 14, 2006, at 10:20 a.m.

### Technical Resources

*Kim Adams, City of Largo, Chair*

Members with technical questions have the following three contact points:

- Discussion Board at the FGFOA Web site: [www.fgfoa.org](http://www.fgfoa.org)
- Penny Mitchell at (850) 222-9684 or e-mail [pmitchell@flicities.com](mailto:pmitchell@flicities.com)
- TRC Chairman, Kim Adams at (954) 357-7140 or e-mail [kadams@largo.com](mailto:kadams@largo.com)

## Chapter News and Announcements

### Central Florida Chapter

*Donna Wright, City of Leesburg, Chapter President*

April 13, 2006, was our business meeting. Again, we met in the SunRoom in the SunTrust building in downtown Orlando. We held our election of officers. Congratulations to the following officers who were elected to serve for the 2006-2007 fiscal year:

- President – Tom Klinker, Chief Financial Officer, Osceola County
- President Elect – Imtiaz “Fazie” Khan, Chief Accountant, Greater Orlando Aviation Authority
- Treasurer – R. John Dufresne, Pension Manager, City of Apopka
- Secretary – Katrina Laudeman, Financial Analyst, City of Orlando
- Directors –
  - Lori Houghton, Finance Director, City of Tavares
  - Linda Howard, Director, Orlando Utilities Commission
  - Douglas Horner, Accountant III, City of Orlando

This was a special two-hour meeting on the topic of debt and derivatives. We had a panel presentation by three speakers. Two

speakers were from Holland and Knight. They were Richard B. Stephens Jr., Partner, and James W. Lovely, Senior Counsel. The third speaker was Rick Patterson, Director from Citigroup Global Markets Inc. It was very informative and well received.

There will be no chapter meetings for May and June due to the GFOA conference in Montreal, Canada in May and the FGFOA conference in Marco Island in June.

Our July meeting topic will be GASB 44 with speaker Ron Conrad from Cherry Becker. This will be the first meeting for the new fiscal year and the newly elected officers. We hope to see you there!

Monthly meetings every second Thursday from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (11:30 a.m. to noon is a networking opportunity). Luncheon is served at noon. The speaker begins at about 12:30 p.m. and provides one hour of CPE. The cost of the luncheon is \$15 for members and \$25 for associate members.

Membership is open to all who are interested. The cost is \$10 for active members and \$20 for associate members.

### Florida First Coast Chapter

*Ruth Remsen, Jacksonville Electric Authority, Chapter President*

The Florida First Coast Chapter rescheduled its annual meeting from June to May 19, 2006, to avoid any conflicts with the 2006 FGFOA annual conference. The chapter will be meeting in the Renaissance room at the Jacksonville City Hall. Members were able to earn 4.0 hours CPE for the low price of \$10.00. The scheduled speaker was Mitchell Perin, Internal Auditor, City of Jacksonville, who addressed the subject of internal controls. The topic of internal controls is being heavily addressed in the finance world with new Statement of Auditing Standards being developed. Mitch has an extensive background in auditing and his presentation emphasized the importance of internal controls as well as identify how the different guidelines and standards pertaining to governmental agencies.

After the training session, the annual business addressed the installation of new officers and directors. Our new officers and directors are ready to take the Florida First Coast Chapter forward in achieving its purpose of promoting improvement of government financial administration in Northeast Florida by increasing the efficiency of government finance administrators and to encouraging training designed to enable members to remain current in applying modern operational techniques and updated standards. They have a clean slate before them to plan the CPE training for next year. Our chapter seeks to hold two 4.0-hour training sessions and two 1.0-hour training sessions with the meetings held at rotating sites to encourage those from the outer areas to attend a meeting or two.

The Florida First Coast Chapter is not only about providing networking and training opportunity to its members, but exists to support the FGFOA and encourages its members to obtain the Government Finance Officers Certification. This past year has proven successful as some of our members passed various sections of the exam while two members obtained full certification.

Our chapter continues to remain more than 100 strong in membership and currently includes eight counties: Baker, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns. Networking is an excellent means to learn what other governments and businesses are doing to implement programs and policies. This is only one of the benefits that comes from networking. Thus, we continue to encourage those within our area to take advantage of the opportunities to meet with other government employees, as well as those supporting businesses who are associate members, by visiting us at

our quarterly meetings or even just by contacting us. Our meeting notices, chapter happenings and events are done by e-mail only, so contact John Herbst at [jherbst@coj.net](mailto:jherbst@coj.net) to be placed on the meeting notification e-mail list if you are not a member. However, be on the watch for the list of our new officers on the FGFOA Web site local chapter page.

### Hillsborough Chapter

*Dan Klein, Hillsborough County – CCC, Chapter President*

The Hillsborough Chapter held its fourth training session on March 10, 2006, at the County Center. A presentation titled “Tools for Making Investment Decisions” was presented by Steven Alexander of PFM Asset Management LLC. This session explored the investment tools and materials that are needed and helpful in building, safeguarding and monitoring a portfolio that emphasizes safety, liquidity and yield. A simulated investment transaction was demonstrated that incorporated the tools necessary to purchase an investment. This very interactive session was well received.

The primary mission of the Hillsborough Chapter is to provide convenient, cost-effective training opportunities to its members. The dates and locations for the 2006 meetings have been set; however, the topics may fluctuate based on the availability of speakers. Tentative plans anticipate the following workshops:

- June 9, 2006 – “Fraud”
- September 8, 2006 – “Budgeting”
- December 8, 2006 – “Unclaimed Property”

Specific information regarding speakers and locations for future meetings will be posted on the FGFOA Web site. Training continues to be provided to chapter members at no cost. Refreshments are provided, when possible, and time is set-aside for networking. Information regarding future programs should be directed to Chuck Kuntz at [kuntzc@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:kuntzc@hillsboroughcounty.org) or (813) 903-2255.

Chapter dues are only \$5 per year for active members and \$10 per year for associate members. A membership application can be found on the FGFOA Web site or you can contact Rich Rubenstein at [rubensteinr@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:rubensteinr@hillsboroughcounty.org) or (813) 272-6572. Chapter membership reached 150 as of the end of 2005.

For more information about the chapter, please contact Dan Klein at [kleinda@hillsclerk.com](mailto:kleinda@hillsclerk.com) or (813) 276-2029, ext 4781.

### Nature Coast Chapter

*Sarah Koser, Citrus County – CCC, Chapter President*

The Nature Coast Chapter’s next quarterly meeting will be on July 12, 2006, at Andre’s of Citrus Hills in Citrus County. The topic and speaker for this meeting are yet to be determined. The meeting will begin at noon and conclude at 4:00 p.m. with three hours of CPE being offered.

The last meeting was our annual business meeting and officers were elected to serve from July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007. The newly elected officers are as follows:

- President – Amy Gillis, Hernando County – CCC
- Vice President – Melisa Lowe, SWFWMD
- Secretary/Treasurer – Cathy Taylor, Citrus County – BOCC
- Director – Susan Sullivan, Citrus County – CCC
- Director – Karen Tillery, Marion County – CCC

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the incoming Board and to personally thank the outgoing Board for their hard work in making this first year of our chapter such a success. This would not have been possible without the following people: Amy Gillis, Melisa Lowe, Cathy Taylor and Susan Sullivan. Thank you

all for your hard work and dedication to this effort. We have averaged about 40 people in attendance at each meeting and that is 57 percent of our membership (70 members strong) attending each meeting. Thank you all and I wish you all success in the coming year in your new positions on the Board.

If you work in the five-county area of Citrus, Hernando, Levy, Marion or Sumter counties, please consider membership in the Nature Coast Chapter. For membership information, contact Secretary/Treasurer Melisa Lowe at [melisa.lowe@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:melisa.lowe@swfwmd.state.fl.us).

To make reservations to attend the next meeting, contact Susan Sullivan, Director and Chair of the CPE Committee, at 110 N. Apopka Avenue, Inverness, FL 34450, (352) 341-6464 or e-mail at [ssullivan@clerk.citrus.fl.us](mailto:ssullivan@clerk.citrus.fl.us).

### Palm Beach Chapter

*Tom Harris, City of West Palm Beach, Chapter President*

The Palm Beach County Chapter business luncheon held on April 13, 2006, was a tremendous success with more than 80 attendees. The topic was taxability of non-monetary compensation and was presented by Fernando Echevarria, IRS Local Government Specialist.

Congratulations to three of our own local chapter members who were elected to the 2006-2007 FGFOA Board of Directors. They will be inducted at the Tuesday business lunch at the annual Conference on June 13, 2006.

- Secretary/Treasurer – Linda Davidson, CPA, CGFO, OMB Director, City of Boca Raton
- Directors – Mary Anderson-Pickle, CGFO, Deputy Finance Administrator, City of Palm Beach Gardens (newly elected); and Francine L. Ramaglia, CPA, Director of Administrative and Financial Services, Village of Wellington (re-elected)

On May 12, 2006, the Palm Beach County Chapter Nominating Committee consisting of President Tom Harris, President-Elect Carol Himes and Social Chair Sarah Varga met and nominated the following for the 2006-2007 fiscal year:

- President – Carol Himes Hannigan
- President-Elect – Jeff Price
- Secretary – Ann Costello
- Treasurer – Cheryl Somers
- Director – Richard Iavarone
- Director – Lee Anna Claridge
- Director – Jim McInnis

The chapter will vote on the secretary nomination and one director position (nominee Jim McInnis) at our annual chapter business meeting to be held on June 29, 2006, at the Airport Hilton. The meeting notice will be circulated soon with the time, location, guest speaker and topic.

Membership applications went out the first week in May for new members and renewals. Please renew early and help us recruit more members from your entity as well as new entities by sharing with them the benefits of our local chapter.

### Panhandle Chapter

*Brenda Chestnutt, Escambia County, Chapter President*

The Panhandle Chapter hosted Chris Anderson from the Florida Commission on Ethics at our last quarterly meeting on April 28, 2006. He gave us a presentation on the code of ethics for public officers and employees. The chapter will be hosting our next quarterly meeting on July 21, 2006, at the Best Western in DeFuniak Springs from 11:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Please make your plans to attend.

## Southwest Florida Chapter

*David Delac, City of Fort Myers, Chapter President*

The Southwest Chapter held their quarterly meeting on Friday, May 5, 2006, at the Olde Hickory Golf and Country Club in Fort Myers. The topic was "Hurricanes: Are You Prepared!" The speakers were Sharon Knippenberg, Assistant Finance Director, Punta Gorda; William "Bill" Owens and John Schmidt, Florida Department of Community Affairs; and Chris Walsh from FEMA. This was a very timely presentation with much participation from the surrounding municipalities. The Southwest Chapter also elected new officers. They are: President, Karen E. Ball, City of Naples; President-Elect, Sharon K. Knippenberg, City of Punta Gorda; Secretary-Treasurer, Gary J. Laubacker Sr., City of Sarasota; Immediate Past-President, David M. Delac, City of Fort Myers; and Directors Jeff Green, City of Fort Myers; Jim Lewin, Lee County; and Linda Senne, City of Cape Coral.

## Space Coast Chapter

*Heidi Soto, City of Palm Bay, Chapter President*

The Space Coast Chapter held a breakfast meeting on April 14, 2006, at Perkins Restaurant in Melbourne. We had a small group but enjoyed the networking opportunity. We are in the process of finalizing a CPE seminar for June 23, 2006. The seminar is sponsored by the City of Titusville. Tentative topics involve taxation of fringe benefits, FLSA overtime rules and a legislative update.

The Space Coast Chapter has two new Board members as two officers have resigned their position:

- Michele Ennis, President Elect
- Denise Postlethweight, Secretary

Our officers serve two-year terms. The term for this Board will end on June 30, 2007. The new Board has developed a tentative calendar of events through 2007. The calendar will be posted on the FGFOA Web site.

Membership renewal applications were sent out at the end of May. Please encourage other qualified members in your organization to join our chapter for the training and networking opportunities provided.

For membership information or any other information about the Space Coast Chapter, please contact Heidi Soto at [sotoh@palmbayflorida.org](mailto:sotoh@palmbayflorida.org).

## Treasure Coast

*Gary Perdew, St. Lucie County – Fire District, Chapter President*

The Treasure Coast Chapter met on Friday, May 5, 2006, in the ballroom of the Springhill Suites – a new location for us. After the usual half-hour of networking and socializing, Chapter President Gary Perdew called the group to order and conducted a brief business meeting.

After approving the minutes of the March 3 meeting and having no old business, Gary thanked the members for their support over the past year and turned the meeting over to Shai Francis from the City of Sebastian, the incoming president.

Shai proceeded to introduce the officers and directors for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. They are:

- President Elect – Fran Latella, Martin County
- Secretary/Treasurer – Carl Trabulsy, St. Lucie County Fire District
- Directors –
  - Jason Brown, Indian River County
  - Taryn Kryzda, Martin County

David Pollard, City of Port St. Lucie

Thirty-two members of the Treasure Coast Chapter then sat down to enjoy a luncheon buffet and to continue their networking. Since this was the first annual meeting and formal installation of officers for the chapter we did not schedule a speaker.

The Treasure Coast Chapter has 97 members who are current in their dues. Our next gathering is scheduled for Friday, September 8, 2006, at the Springhill Suites located at the interchange of St. Lucie West Boulevard and I-95. Jeff Larsen has been tentatively selected to present a seminar on investments or debt management. We anticipate the session will qualify for three CPE credits. As always, anyone in the area at that time is welcome to attend. Please contact Carl Trabulsy at [ctrabulsy@slcfd.org](mailto:ctrabulsy@slcfd.org) or Shai Francis at [sfrancis@cityofsebastian.org](mailto:sfrancis@cityofsebastian.org) for directions.

## Position Announcements

This is a condensed listing of postings. Visit [www.fgfoa.org](http://www.fgfoa.org) for complete job posting descriptions.

**Internal Audit Director – City of Tampa.**

[www.tampagov.net](http://www.tampagov.net)

**Senior Information Systems Auditor – City of Miami.**

[www.miamigov.com/cms/](http://www.miamigov.com/cms/)

**Assistant to the City Manager – City of Largo.**

[www.largo.com](http://www.largo.com)

**Controller – City of Fort Lauderdale.**

[www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov)

**Senior Financial Analyst – Palm Beach County – SO.**

[www.psbo.org](http://www.psbo.org)

**Finance Director – City of Deltona.**

[www.ci.deltona.fl.us](http://www.ci.deltona.fl.us)

**Controller – Indian River County – BCC.**

[www.ircgov.com/](http://www.ircgov.com/)

**Accounting Technician III – City of Port Orange.**

[www.port-orange.org](http://www.port-orange.org)

**Controller – City of Orlando.**

[www.cityoforlando.net](http://www.cityoforlando.net)

**Capital Investment Division Manager – City of Orlando.**

[www.cityoforlando.net](http://www.cityoforlando.net)

**Investment Analyst, Pension – City of Gainesville, Finance Department.**

[www.cityofgainesville.jobs](http://www.cityofgainesville.jobs)

**Senior Budget Analyst – City of Coral Springs.**

[www.coralssprings.org/employment](http://www.coralssprings.org/employment)

**Assistant Director, Office of Management and Budget – Hernando County.**

[www.hernandocounty.us/hr](http://www.hernandocounty.us/hr)

**Management and Budget Director – City of Sunrise.**

[www.ci.sunrise.fl.us](http://www.ci.sunrise.fl.us)

**Finance Director – City of Destin.**

[www.cityofdestin.com](http://www.cityofdestin.com)

**City of Gainesville, City's Auditor's Office.**

[www.audigators.org](http://www.audigators.org)

**Division Director, Accounting and Financial Services – South Florida Water Management District.**  
[www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)

**Investment Services Manager – Florida League of Cities, Inc.**  
[www.flcities.com](http://www.flcities.com)

**Assistant Director of Finance – City of Mount Dora.**  
[www.ci.mount-dora.fl.us](http://www.ci.mount-dora.fl.us)

**Director of Finance – Port of Palm Beach.**  
[www.portofpalmbeach.com/employment.htm](http://www.portofpalmbeach.com/employment.htm)

**Chief Financial Officer/Director of Finance and Administrative Services – Broward County.**  
[www.broward.org](http://www.broward.org)

**Finance Director – City of Fort Walton Beach.**  
[www.fwb.org](http://www.fwb.org)

**Deputy Director of Financial Services.**  
[www.govserv.com](http://www.govserv.com)

**Senior Financial Analyst.**  
[www.govserv.com](http://www.govserv.com)

*(continued from page 1)*

If one or more of the above events occurs, and a range of clean-up costs can be reasonably estimated, a liability must be recorded. Liabilities would be recorded for certain portions of the clean-up as they become reasonably estimable. If legal fees can be estimated, then a liability would be recorded for legal fees. Sounds a little like FASB-S #5, doesn't it? It is, and the differences are mentioned below.

Liabilities would be calculated using an expected cash flow technique at current value as described in the ED. If only a range of costs is estimated, then costs would be determined using a probability-weighting of expected cash flows (average). Costs would be expensed or capitalized, depending on the type of cost. For example, costs for installing a pump-and-treat system would generally be expensed, but costs for preparing a property for sale would generally be capitalized.

**What the FGFOA Told the GASB**

The FGFOA's response agreed that the ED appropriately addressed the issues surrounding pollution remediation obligations and agreed with the concepts of "continuing involvement," "active involvement" and "passive involvement." The five obligating events were deemed sufficient; however, the FGFOA pointed out that the some governing bodies of local governments are legally restricted from obligating future governing bodies, other than through the issuance of long-term debt. In these situations, the "legal obligation" event (paragraph 9e) might only obligate the government for a portion of the total estimated remediation costs and there may be circumstances where the difference could be material.

The FGFOA did not concur with the approach used to recognize and measure the liability, for several reasons. First, the proposed approach creates additional differences between financial reporting in the public and private sectors, because the ED's proposals would

likely require earlier recognition of greater contingent amounts; therefore, the financial position of government-owned entities with these liabilities would not be comparable to private-sector counterparts with the same types of liabilities.

Second, requiring earlier recognition of pollution remediation liabilities in greater amounts will create further differences between operating results in the government-wide statements and the fund level statements (for non-business type activities). Financial statement users and preparers had hoped that after the first few years of post Statement No. 34 implementation, unrestricted net assets and changes therein, would be reflected positively in the government-wide statements; however, the requirements of the proposed statement will negatively impact unrestricted net assets. The amount of this impact would be less if the recognition and measurement criteria for pollution remediation obligations were consistent with existing standards (i.e. FASB-S #5 and Interpretation No. 14).

Third, the FGFOA noted that the accrual and/or disclosure of other loss contingencies will follow different standards; therefore, this "dual approach" to recognition and measurement of contingencies may create confusion for financial statement users.

Finally, measurement of pollution remediation liabilities using the expected cash flow technique, instead of the current technique, will not significantly improve reporting. The cash flow technique uses a greater number of estimates, which creates the potential for significant changes in estimates from year to year.

FGFOA recommendation: Continue using FASB-S #5 recognition criteria.

*The author thanks FGFOA President Gib Mitchell and the Board of Directors for their encouragement and support in preparation of the Technical Resources Committee's response to this ED. Special thanks is also due to the two TRC subcommittee members who carefully analysed the ED's proposals and prepared the FGFOA's response, including Lynda Dennis, Ph.D., CPA and Jay Ravins, CPA.*

**FGFOA Calendar at a Glance**

**June 2006**

**10-14 2006 FGFOA Annual Conference – Marco Island**

**November 2006**

**12-16 2006 FGFOA School of Governmental Finance – Palm Beach Gardens**

**May 2007**

**20-23 2007 FGFOA Annual Conference – Rosen Shingle Creek, Orlando**

**June 2007**

**10-13 2007 GFOA Annual Conference – Anaheim, California**

**November 2007**

**12-16 2007 FGFOA School of Governmental Finance – Palm Beach Gardens**

**May 2008**

**18-21 2008 FGFOA Annual Conference – Hilton Hotel, Jacksonville**