

Florida Government Finance Officers Association

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



October/November 2005

2005 FGFOA School of Governmental Finance

Register online now at www.fgfoa.org.

November 14-18, 2005 ♦ Sawgrass Marriott, Ponte Vedra Beach



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OPEB News You Can Use

By James J. Rizzo, ASA, MAAA, Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company

Information and Discussion

Additional information and discussion about OPEB is available on the FGFOA Web site, www.fgfoa.org. Please visit the discussion area and look for the OPEB thread. Members are encouraged to share their early implementation experience, offer tips and ask questions on the Web site. Technical Resources Committee members will be monitoring the Web site and are prepared to answer your questions. Post your experience or ask questions today!

OPEB Overview

With all the suffering and recovery occurring along the northern Gulf Coast, it seems a bit mundane for me to sit drafting an article on some arcane GASB rules. The current events that dominate the news media these days have a way of putting life into perspective for us all. We are often reminded of how fortunate we are. Once again, an early Thanksgiving check would be well spent on hurricane relief.

But, alas, we must turn our attention and focus from the onslaught of news for the masses bombarding our lives every day to some government accounting news. By now, GASB Statement No. 45 on Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) is old news to most. There have been numerous articles, seminars, conference sessions, and impact studies undertaken by governments relating to this topic.

- We've already heard that it's a new governmental accounting standard required to be implemented beginning October 1, 2007, 2008 or 2009, depending on whether your government em-

ployer was a Phase 1, 2, or 3 entity as defined by GASB Statement #34. Remember: Your government's phase status never changes once it is established, i.e., once a Phase 2, always a Phase 2.

- We've already heard that it relates to new expense entries and new disclosures of unfunded actuarial liabilities in government-wide and proprietary or fiduciary funds.
- We've already heard that it requires employers to actuarially measure the long-term cost of retiree medical coverage and other types of post employment benefits.
- And we already know the numbers are enormous for those governmental employers who have been generous, and surprisingly large even for those who merely offer continued coverage to retirees at the blended or group rate.

But in recent days there have been a couple additional newsworthy items in the world of government accounting for OPEB and Termination

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President's Message



Gib Mitchell

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There is little that I can say about Hurricane Katrina that you do not already know. The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has just informed me that they have established the GFOA Katrina Assistance Forum, www.mygfoa.org, as a bulletin board where local and state government officials seeking assistance in resuming operations of basic governmental functions can seek assistance from other governments that are willing to help. I urge all of our members to go to this Web site to see how they can help.

One of GFOA's next efforts will be to reach out to finance directors in Florida, New York and California who have dealt with FEMA. Therefore I want to encourage those with FEMA experience to post information, even if it is not in response to a direct request. And when you are asked to help by giving to the American Red Cross or the Salvation Army, please give. Your financial assistance is also needed.

One of our goals is Small Government Outreach. In an effort to reach some of these small governments, the FGFOA had an exhibit booth at the Florida League of Cities conference in Orlando on August 18 and 19. Five board members and two past presidents participated in manning the booth. We gave away a computer keyboard calendar of all FGFOA training seminars. In addition, the remaining welcome bags (left over from the conference), were handed out to all that stopped and talked with us. I was amazed at the number of people that our booth attracted, and if they carry the message back to their governments like they said they would, I am sure our staff will be getting a lot of calls. Small governments do not know the FGFOA and its training abilities. We gave away certificates to our one-day seminars (12), the School of Governmental Finance (four) and the Annual Conference (four). The City of South Bay was the winner of the Kodak digital camera.

Due to the favorable response to the FGFOA exhibit booth at the Florida League of Cities conference, it has been approved by the Board of Directors to host an exhibit booth at the Florida County and City Management Association conference in Panama City Beach on May 24-27, 2006.

The Board of Directors has unanimously approved a motion to amend the bylaws to provide that annual dues shall be set by a majority vote of the Board. You will be receiving more information on this proposed change at the beginning of the calendar year.

The Career Development Committee, headed by Tim Pozza, held its first career development seminar in Tallahassee on Friday, September 16. There were 65 in attendance for the topic of financial policies, alternative revenue sources and budgeting, and the comments heard were very favorable. The next seminar is Friday, October 14, 2005, in Sarasota and will cover cash management and investments. Every finance director and investment manager is required to have eight hours of CPE credit in this subject each year. I'll look forward to seeing you all in Sarasota on October 14.

While marking your calendar to be in Sarasota, please circle Friday, December 2, 2005. There will be a four-hour ethics seminar in Orlando. All CPAs in government will want to plan on attending. In addition, there will be seminar on service efforts and accomplishments.

The Information Technology Committee, led by John Hearn, has also been busy researching the possibility and availability of videoconferencing capabilities for the organization. Currently, it appears that the cost of utilizing video conferencing for the four-hour ethics course (required for all certified public accountants) will be a minimum of \$18,000. The committee is doing more research before making a recommendation to the Board.

The School of Governmental Finance Committee, headed by Gary Perdew, is presenting the "Week of Discovery" November 14-18 at the Sawgrass Marriott Resort in Ponte Vedra Beach. The schedule of courses will appeal to all of our members. The first two and a half days it's back to basics with the intermediate and advanced sessions beginning Wednesday afternoon and ending Friday noon. There will be courses on leadership, economic forecasting, arbitrage compliance and ethics, to name a few. Now is the time to register. We have a new housing procedure in place this year. You will only be able to obtain housing for the school after you have registered and made payment. So don't delay, register today. ➡

(President's Message continued)

The Certification Committee, under the direction of Kris Shoemaker, is ready for the Certified Government Finance Officer review courses and exam, to be held in conjunction with the School of Governmental Finance in November. Exam material and study guides have been prepared for the review courses, and the instructor presentations have all been given a thorough review. The CGFO exam will be given on Friday, November 18. The GFOA Certified Public Finance Official exam will be given at the school on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 15 and 16.

The Member Services Committee, under the direction of Holly Vath, is busy preparing a recommendation for the November 15 Board meeting on the possibility of selling advertising in the conference brochure.

The Conference Host Committee, led by Chris Lyons, is well on its way in planning a great time for you and your family at the Marco Island Marriott. Negotiations continue with the hotel to keep the costs reasonable in planning the events. The date of the annual conference is June 11-14, 2006. Please put these dates on your calendar and bring the family. You will not regret it.

While planning for the annual conference at the Marco Island Marriott, the Board has been challenged with increased costs for putting on the Tuesday night event, as well as the cost for refreshment breaks. As a result, the Board has raised the registration fee for the annual conference to \$200. In addition, fees for the Tuesday night event have been increased \$25. Still, if you take the time to compare our fees with other organizations, you will see that the FGFOA is quite a bargain.

The Conference Program Committee, headed by Jim Lewin, presented at the September 16 Board meeting a complete matrix of the courses that they plan to present to the membership. The committee was given the go ahead to start lining up the speakers. I am convinced that you will want to attend the annual conference in June 2006.

The Technical Resources Committee, headed by Kim Adams, has been busy preparing articles for our newsletter as well as drafting a small government resource manual to be put on the Web page. In the near future the committee will prepare to respond to several of the seven Government Accounting Standards Board exposure drafts and two implementation guides to be issued this year.

I look forward to seeing you at the career seminar October 14 in Sarasota and at the School of Governmental Finance in Ponte Vedra Beach November 14-18. Please get involved in your organization. You'll get much more out of it than you put in.

Member Spotlight



Brenda Raver is the Finance Director for the City of Satellite Beach. After

several years managing her private tax accounting business, Brenda joined the city in 1996 as the Assistant Finance Director and has been the Director for the past five years.

The City of Satellite Beach is located on the East Coast of Florida and is approximately two square miles, with a population slightly over 10,000. The total budget is \$11,221,800. Due to the city's size, Brenda wears many hats. She is responsible for the budget, the general ledger, payroll, pensions, accounts payable, grants, risk management and information technology. She handles these tasks with a staff of three full-time professionals and a part-time grants coordinator.

Brenda is a Certified Government Finance Officer, is certified as an Enrolled Agent, has served as past president of FGFOA's Space Coast Chapter, serves on the FGFOA Technical Resources Committee, and is the treasurer for the Viera/Suntree Toastmasters. She is currently working to become a Certified Fraud Examiner and is active in a wide variety of professional organizations.

Brenda loves animals, including her two dogs and one cat, and is also devoted to her husband Gary and daughter Emily. She is anxiously awaiting the birth of her first grandchild and will certainly bring the same level of enthusiasm to this new chapter in her life as only Brenda can.

Spotlight Article Criteria

The FGFOA Board of Directors established preferred guidelines for the "Member Spotlight" articles. These criteria include: must be submitted by an FGFOA member (other than the spotlighted person); active member of the FGFOA for five years; active member of a local chapter of the FGFOA; served on an FGFOA committee or Board of Directors; made significant contributions to the financial arena (i.e., speaker at conferences, written articles, etc.); final approval by FGFOA president.

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Committee Reports

Career Development

Tim Pozza, Okaloosa County – CCC, Chair

All of the sub-chairs for the Career Development Committee are doing an excellent job. The Tallahassee seminar on September 16 has been finalized with currently 58 people signed up.

The Sarasota seminar scheduled for October 14 on cash management and investments has also been finalized.

The speakers for the December 2 seminar in Orlando are being secured pending identification of the speaker on ethics from FICPA.

The leadership and grants seminar in Tampa on February 17, 2006, has been finalized, and the brochure completed and forwarded to Anne Gooch at the FGFOA administrative office.

The other two seminars are progressing nicely. The West Palm Beach seminar on January 20, 2006, may be moved to Fort Lauderdale depending on hotel availability. The Daytona Beach seminar has been moved up to April 21, 2006, from the original proposal of April 14.

All of the members of the Career Development Committee have worked very hard to put together a fantastic program this year.

Certification

Kristopher Shoemaker,

Orange County Convention Center, Chair

I am pleased to have the stellar cast of committee members who are working hard on the FGFOA members' behalf to raise the recognition level of the CGFO designation. The Certification Committee was assigned four tasks to accomplish in the 2005-2006 year. These tasks are: 1) develop a CGFO course outline and standard training material for each exam review session; 2) refine recommended reading materials for the CGFO exam; 3) provide training to review course instructors; and 4) develop an ethics exam for the CGFO Program.

We have been hard at work on the tasks assigned. We have developed the standard training material for the instructors to use and the material is currently under review. We have also reviewed the reading material and the data on the Web site and will be updating the references as needed. If you see any changes needed regarding the review material (outdated URLs, new source material, etc.), please send me an e-mail at kristopher.shoemaker@ocfl.net.

We are pleased to announce the review schedule that will be held at the School of Governmental Finance in November.

- Debt Administration
Tuesday, November 15, 2005, from 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Speaker: Mark Ben-Asher
- Treasury Management
Wednesday, November 16, 2005, from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Speaker: Hubert Jacques
- Municipal Budgeting
Wednesday, November 16, 2005, from 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Speaker: Mary Lou Pickles
- Financial Administration
Thursday, November 17, 2005, from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Speaker: Bill Rotella
- Accounting & Financial Reporting
Thursday November 17, 2005, from 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Speaker: Kris Shoemaker

Also during the School of Governmental Finance, we will be hosting a CGFO exam on Friday, November 18, and the GFOA CPFO exam on Tuesday, November 15.

We are also working on a draft of the ethics exam. (Do not worry; it will not be in place until the 2007-2008 year.) We are also reviewing the application and renewal process for clarity and consistency. Additionally we are working with the Information Technology Committee in the development of an online CPE reporting module.

In regards to CPEs, if your reporting cycle ended on June 30, 2005, remember to complete your CPE maintenance forms and return them, along with the maintenance fee to Anne Gooch at the FGFOA administrative office as soon as possible. We have just processed the revocation paperwork for 11 CFGOs for failure to report their CPEs.

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 Host

Christopher Lyons, City of Sarasota, Chair

The Host Committee for the 2006 Annual Conference held its third meeting on September 23, 2005, at the 2006 conference hotel, the Marco Island Marriot. The committee continued planning the 2006 Annual Conference, which runs from June 10-14, 2006.

The committee continued working on the conference through its established subcommittees and subchairs or co-subchairs, as appropriate. The following subcommittees were previously established: theme/logo, welcome gifts/speaker gifts, volunteers, budget, golf/sports events, association night, opening session/keynote speaker, Tuesday night event, hospitality suite, president's reception, and transportation.

The subcommittees continued efforts to identify social and networking activities that will compliment and enhance the educational opportunities offered at the annual conference.

The Host Committee is still looking for additional members to help plan this event. If you are interested in serving on the Host Committee or have any suggestions, please contact the committee chair at christopher_lyons@sarasotagov.com.

The next Host Committee meeting is preliminarily scheduled for November 4, 2005.

Conference Program

James B. Lewin, Lee County, Chair

The subchairs from the Conference Program Committee met in Tampa on September 13. The process has begun of assigning topics to specific time periods at the conference and discussing possible speakers. A full committee meeting is set for October 7 in Orlando.

Legislative

Jim Seuffret, Manatee County Government, Chair

The Legislative Committee has begun work on the FGFOA legislative policy statements for Florida's 2006 legislative session. The Board of Directors has expressed interest in becoming more involved with the legislative process next year, and a plan will be developed to make that happen.

The first portion of the committee's work has been focused on developing a set of "guiding principles" that do not address any single bill or legislative issue. During Florida's annual legislative session, things happen quickly and unanticipated issues always

arise. Although considerable time may be spent in developing legislative priorities for an organization, an organization's leadership must be prepared to respond quickly to a rapidly changing environment in order to effectively represent the interests of the organization before the Legislature.

The purpose of the guiding principles will be to provide the FGFOA leadership with guidelines to follow in the event that issues arise during the legislative session that were not anticipated in the development of the FGFOA legislative policy. Leadership can refer to these policies for guidance in quickly determining an appropriate response to unanticipated issues, without having to go back to the Legislative Committee for further input.

The draft guiding principles was considered by the Board of Directors at their September 16 meeting. The Legislative Committee is now in the process of developing input regarding specific legislative issues that may be included in the 2006 legislative policy statements.

School of Governmental Finance

Gary Perdew, St. Lucie County – Fire District, Chair

By now you have received the preliminary announcement for the 2005 School of Governmental Finance. While the committee made considerable contributions to the content of the brochure, many thanks to Jeannie Garner and her staff for accepting my rough draft, polishing it and publishing a first-rate document. Please take 15 minutes to read the announcement. You will find a wealth of information on the facilities, the area, seminars, speakers and other events. Pay particular attention to the new procedure for reserving rooms. We implemented the new-and-improved process to reduce the possibility of our members having to find lodging at an off-site location.

In the last newsletter I wrote that the committee was trying to arrange for a four-hour seminar on ethics that adheres to the State Board of Accountancy requirements for the benefit of our members maintaining their CPA designation. I am pleased to announce that arrangements have been finalized and the seminar will take place on Friday, November 18. This four-hour seminar is sanctioned by the State Board of Accountancy and complies with their requirement that all CPAs attend a seminar on this topic in order to maintain currency. While we will do everything possible to accommodate all who must attend the seminar, seating might be limited, especially if you wait until the last minute to register. To ensure availability, please register early.

Calling all golfers! Come and play the Tournament Players Club Valley Course located on the grounds of the Sawgrass Marriott Resort. The beautiful 18-hole, 6,838-yard course offers challenging hills, valleys and abundant water obstacles. The outing will begin at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 16. Included in the nominal \$155 registration fee is one round of golf with cart, range balls, gratuity and prizes. We need 20 participants to get this break in price, so if you intend to participate please let Gary Perdew know by e-mail at gperdew@slcfd.org.

Carl Trabulsky and Mitch Perin, co-chairs of the hospitality suite are waiting to hear from any local chapter volunteering to man the hospitality suite one night. Bring your banner to display while you pour as well as any information about your chapter you want to share with other members in a relaxed atmosphere. If you are interested please contact Carl at (772) 462-8353 or Mitch at (904) 630-2929.

See you in November for a "Week of Discovery."

Technical Resources

Kimball R. Adams, City of Largo, Chair

Technical Questions

Members with technical questions have the following three contact points:

- ▷ Discussion Board at the FGFOA Web site, www.fgfoa.org
- ▷ Anne Gooch at (850) 222-9684 or e-mail agooch@flcities.com
- ▷ TRC Chairman, Kim Adams at (954) 357-7140 or e-mail kadams@largo.com

Chapter News and Announcements

Central Florida Chapter

Our September 8, 2005, meeting was held in a new location – the SunRoom in downtown Orlando. There was a lively discussion about the 2005 legislative session led by a very knowledgeable speaker – John Wayne Smith from Florida League of Cities.

The meeting to be held on October 13, 2005, will be held at the Radisson building. However, the Radisson has a new name – Ivanhoe Plaza Hotel. The topic to be discussed is a GASB update.

All meeting reservations for both members and non-members may be made through Fазie Khan of the Greater Orlando Airport Authority. Please make your reservations no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday of the week before the meeting. His e-mail address is fkhan@goaa.org.

General chapter information:

- Monthly meetings every second Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 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

Membership is strong and growing for the Florida First Coast Chapter with 22 new members this year, bringing our total membership to 94 members (14 associate members and 80 active). The chapter covers eight counties with membership from six of those counties. If you are interested in becoming a member, it is never too late. You can visit the FGFOA Web site to get access to one of our applications or contact John Herbst at jherbst@coj.net. The dues remain at \$20.00 for the year, which runs from July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006.

On September 9, 2005, the FFC chapter held its quarterly luncheon meeting at the Clay County Administration Building in Green Cove Springs where Ken Small, Technical Services Manager of the Florida League of Cities, presented "A View of the 2005 Legislative Session and a Preview of the 2006 Legislative Session from a Government Finance Perspective." Ken has a lot of experience in his field and provided the members a lot of pertinent information.

The next meeting will be both a work session and luncheon with an opportunity to earn four hours of CPE. It is scheduled for Friday, December 9, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Jacksonville City Hall Renaissance Room. The last four-hour CPE session was informative and we expect this upcoming session to be as successful. Arrangements are underway for the guest speaker and topic, so keep an eye out for the final announcement.

The benefit of being a chapter encompassing so many counties is that we have the opportunity to hold our quarterly meetings at different sites. We have held meetings in Jacksonville, Green Cove Springs, Orange Park and Jacksonville Beach with plans to hold the March 10, 2006, meeting in St. Augustine. This will allow us opportunities to reach out to members within the various areas.

The Florida First Coast Chapter offers an opportunity to network with one's peers while receiving educational opportunities. As our communities are growing, so are the demands for services. Thus, it is imperative to seek best practices to provide those services most efficiently and effectively with the minimum impact on the limited dollars. The best way to find out about those best practices is through various networking opportunities. Our chapter is just one of the many means that being a member of the FGFOA provides. We encourage those within our area to take advantage of opportunities to meet with other government employees, as well as support businesses that 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 to be placed on the meeting notification e-mail list if you are not a member. As always, you can go to the FGFOA Web site and check out the local chapter page to find out the latest happenings of the Florida First Coast Chapter.

In continuing to support our purpose to promote improvement of government financial administration in Northeast Florida by increasing the efficiency of government financial administrators, we would like to continue to offer our support to your efforts in studying for the GFO exam. If you would like to form a study circle, please feel free to contact the chapter officers, as they may be able to help match you with a study group.

Again, the schedule for our remaining meeting for 2005-2006 is as follows:

- Friday, December 9, 2005, from 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Renaissance Room, City Hall, City of Jacksonville
- Friday, March 10, 2006, from 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
Location TBA, City of St. Augustine
- Friday June 9, 2006, from 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
Renaissance Room, City Hall, City of Jacksonville

Gulf Coast Chapter

Doug Meyers of the Pinellas County Emergency Management Office was the guest speaker at the chapter's July 12 meeting. He related that many entities have plans for natural and man-made disasters. But he stressed that having a plan is not enough; the plan must be routinely reviewed, be available to interested parties, and be revised to incorporate new information or threats.

The chapter focused on a different type of disaster planning, fraud prevention, at our September meeting.

The chapter's next meeting will be November 8, 2005, at Alfano's Restaurant in Largo. Jeanine Bittinger and Richard Cristini from Davidson, Jamieson & Cristini will discuss GASB 44 – Economic Condition Reporting: The Statistical Section.

Plans for several seminars that the chapter will sponsor in the winter months were not finalized at press time. If you are interested in more information about these sessions, or our monthly meetings, please feel free to contact Harry Kyne at (727) 391-0204, ext. 105.

Heartland Chapter

Next Meeting Date: November 10, 2005, 11:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Location: Conference Room #2, Agri Civic Center, Sebring

- Break for Lunch from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.
- GAAP Update for CPE hours from 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Hillsborough Chapter

The Hillsborough Chapter held its inaugural training session on June 10, 2005, at the Hillsborough County Edgecomb Courthouse. The session included a two-hour presentation by Lori Nissen of KPMG on GASB 43 and 45 "Other Post Employment Benefits."

The chapter's second training workshop was held on Friday, September 9, 2005, at the County Center and included two presentations: a presentation on GASB 40 "Deposit and Investment Risk Disclosure" by the local office of KPMG and an overview on "Popular Annual Financial Reports" presented by Ajay Gajjar, Financial Reporting Manager for the Hillsborough County Clerk of the Circuit Court.

The primary mission of the Hillsborough Chapter is to provide convenient, cost-effective training opportunities to its members. At the August 31 chapter Board of Directors meeting, topics for the next quarterly workshop, as well as future opportunities for CPE, were discussed. Potential topics include: current issues in banking, budgeting issues, unclaimed funds reporting, back-up withholdings – 1099s, social security, and an overview of the Certified Government Finance Officer Program. Having no shortage of topics and potential presenters, the Board is considering the scheduling of workshops more frequently than every quarter. Look to the FGFOA Web site for an updated schedule of training opportunities or watch for e-mail notices if you are a member of the Hillsborough Chapter. Training continues to be provided to chapter members at no cost. Refreshments will be available at future sessions, when possible, and time will be set aside for networking. Information regarding future programs should be directed to Chuck Kuntz at kuntzc@hillsboroughcounty.org or (813) 903-2255.

The Hillsborough County Clerk of the Circuit Court is a host site for the November 10 GFOA Governmental GAAP Update satellite teleconference. The teleconference is scheduled from 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Planning Commission Conference Room, 18 Floor, County Center, Tampa. Also look for information on the Bond Buyer Conference to be held in Tampa the second week in March 2006.

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 or (813) 272-6572. Chapter membership reached 143 as of September 1. Representation includes 114 members from Hillsborough County, 17 from Manatee County and 12 from Polk County.

For more information about the Chapter, please contact Dan Klein at kleinda@hillsclerk.com or (813) 276-8100, ext. 4781.

Nature Coast Chapter

The Nature Coast Chapter was officially sanctioned by the FGFOA on May 13, 2005. The banner was presented to Sarah Koser, from Citrus County – CCC at the annual conference in Hollywood.

The first official meeting was held on July 13, 2005, at the Citrus County Courthouse. We had 20 members in attendance and two special guests, Gib Mitchell, President of FGFOA and Diane Reichard, Board Member for FGFOA. President Mitchell gave a presentation to the group on FGFOA and the advantages of membership. Ms. Reichard spoke to the group about her local chapter, the Central Florida Chapter. We then elected our officers for the year. The following officers were elected for the 2005-2006 term:

- Sarah Koser, President, Citrus County – CCC
- Amy Gillis, Vice-President, Hernando County – CCC
- Melisa Lowe, Secretary/Treasurer, SWFWMD
- Cathy Taylor, Director, Citrus County – BCC
- Susan Sullivan, Director, Citrus County – CCC

The officers were installed by President Mitchell. We then had a brief discussion on the types of CPE we would like to see in the upcoming meetings. We set a standard day of the month for our quarterly meetings, the second Wednesday of each quarter. The first meeting with CPE will be held on Wednesday, October 12, in Room 280 of the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, in Lecanto. The speaker for that meeting will be Mark White of Purvis Gray and Company. He will be speaking on OPEB and the new Florida statute regarding auditor selection.

To get on our mailing list, contact Melisa Lowe at (352)796-7211, ext. 4119 or Melisa.Lowe@swfwmd.state.fl.us. Anyone from other government agencies in or near the five county areas of Citrus, Hernando, Levy, Marion and Sumter is encouraged to participate in our activities. Annual membership dues are only \$15.

Panhandle Chapter

The Panhandle Chapter hosted Bob McKee from the Florida Association of Counties at our last quarterly meeting on July 15, 2005. He gave us an update on the legislative session that was recently concluded in Tallahassee. Luckily it seems that everyone in the chapter faired well from Hurricanes Dennis and Katrina, although attendance was a little lower than normal. The chapter will be hosting our next quarterly meeting on October 21, 2005, at the Best Western Crossroads Inn from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The subject for our presentation has yet to be determined, but we're sure it will be an interesting one. Please make your plans to attend.

South Florida Chapter

Don't miss our next meeting! Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2005, at Tropical Acres Restaurant, 2500 Griffin Road, Dania Beach. The board is finalizing the details with the hope of securing someone from the Office of the Auditor General. The seminar will be submitted for CPE approval. We encourage your attendance and participation.

The program is as follows:

- 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Networking
- 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Speaker
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner

We hope you will attend our meetings to show your support for our organization, and to increase your knowledge. Our meetings are open to everyone. You do not have to be a chapter member to attend our meetings. To make a reservation for a meeting, contact Susan Gooding-Liburd at sagoodingliburd@ci.miramar.fl.us or (954) 602-3051. We appreciate the continuing support of current members and welcome new ones.

We had a successful August seminar. On August 5, a seminar was presented by our chapter on "Review of GASB Pronounce-

ments and Government Audit Update." The speakers were Stephen Gauthier, GFOA Director of Technical Services, and Daniel O'Keefe, Partner, Moore Stephens Lovelace, P.A. Eighty-nine percent of seminar attendees responded in a survey that the seminar was either "Excellent" or "Very Good."

State Representative Tim Ryan was on hand during our last meeting on August 18. Rep. Ryan discussed a myriad of issues including an overview of the legislative session, review of the sales tax exception, and eminent domain to name a few.

The board would like to offer an apology for the difficulties experienced with the audio system during the last meeting. Those issues are being worked on with the management of Tropical Acres and if the issues cannot be resolved we are prepared to relocate to another facility along the I-95 corridor that will have sufficient accommodations for our meetings beginning in 2006.

Don't miss our next exciting seminar in November! The 10th Annual Governmental GAAP Update presented by Stephen Gauthier, GFOA Director of Technical Services will be held on Thursday, November 10, 2005, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST at the Broward Education Communication Network (BECON) located at 6600 S.W. Nova Drive in Davie. The seminar will be held live from Chicago, and it is expected that more than 3,000 attendees nationwide will participate via satellite by way of approximately 150 sites throughout the United States.

Space is limited and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis! Since the maximum capacity of BECON's conference room is 70 people, we are announcing this educational opportunity to local chapter membership first. Please make sure you register by October 17 to reserve your space. After this time, we will announce the seminar to all interested South Florida local governments to fill any remaining seating.

This seminar qualifies for four CPE credits. To register, go to www.gfoa.org, select "10th Annual Governmental Update," and follow the registration instructions. Our site number is Site # FL07. Please note that as our South Florida Chapter's participation and site was recently approved, you may not see our site number listed yet in some of the existing GFOA publications announcing the seminar.

This year the chapter has scheduled a truly unique December holiday event. This year's event will be held at the Polynesian-themed Mai-Kai Restaurant in Fort Lauderdale. On Friday, December 16, attendees will be treated to a scrumptious dinner and a fantastic show featuring performances of native dances in traditional costumes. The cost is \$50 per person.

Our chapter awarded scholarships in the amount of \$750 each. The fortunate recipients were Michelle Anzalone from the City of Hollywood and James Black from Broward County. Mrs. Anzalone was awarded funding to attend the 2005 Career Development Institute, which will be held in October, while Mr. Black was awarded funding to attend the 2005 FGFOA School of Governmental Finance during the month of November. Congratulations Michelle and James. A special thank you goes to Barbara McDaniel, Assistant Town Clerk for the Town of Davie, who served as chair of the Scholarship Committee.

We are now providing meeting notices via e-mail to those members who supplied us with their e-mail addresses. If you are a member and did not receive a notice of the meeting, or if you are interested in becoming a chapter member please contact Doreen Lam at dlam@hollywoodfl.org or (954) 921-3232. In the event any of the information you have provided to the association has changed,

please let us know so we can keep our records up to date.

We are looking for committee members to help our organization plan topics for meetings, increase membership, and perhaps plan a full- or half-day educational session. If you have ideas or suggestions on how we can improve our association or if you want to become a more active member, please contact Georgina Rodriguez, at grodriguez@townofpembrokepark.com or (954) 966-4600, ext. 1232.

Southwest Florida Chapter

The last meeting of the Southwest Florida Chapter was held on Friday, September 16, at the Olde Hickory Golf and Country Club in Fort Myers. The topic was "Financing Your Capital Improvement Program." The discussion included financing capital projects made easy; would you like to borrow some money; where do you start; where do you go; who do you ask. The speakers included Don Berryhill, Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Water Facilities Funding of the Florida DEP; Henry Thomas, Vice President of Public Resources Management Group Inc.; Gary Williams, Executive Director of the Florida Rural Water Association; and Angie R. Brewer, President and Mark A. Brewer, Vice President of Angie Brewer and Associates.

The meeting begins with networking opportunities at 11:30 a.m., lunch at noon, and the educational seminar from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. All FGFOA members are encouraged to attend. If you would like further information on attending the seminar or chapter membership please contact David Delac at ddelac@cityfmyers.com or (239) 461-7125.

Space Coast Chapter

The Space Coast Chapter held a breakfast meeting on July 29, 2005, which was well attended. A four-hour CPE seminar on September 23 was held at the Melbourne International Airport. Topics included dealing with FEMA, fraud and internal control, and requests for proposals. For more information on the seminar, contact Heidi Soto at sotoh@palmbayflorida.org.

The chapter has organized a Program Committee and a Bylaw Review Committee. We also have our first public information officer who is responsible for disseminating chapter information. We are in the process of working on a brochure that will highlight chapter objectives and activities.

Another breakfast meeting is tentatively planned for October 28, 2005. A Christmas Luncheon hosted by the City of West Melbourne will close out the year.

If you are interested in joining our chapter or would like additional information, please contact Ruth Chapman at rchapman@satellitebeach.org.

Treasure Coast

President Gib Mitchell honored the Treasure Coast Chapter by attending our last meeting. He spoke to the members present of his initiative to reach out to small governments. He also impressed upon attendees the importance of becoming involved at the local and state levels and gave examples of the many opportunities such as committees and officer positions.

Pamela Blazek, one of our directors, is adding to her family and was concerned she would not be able to devote enough time to the chapter so she tendered her resignation. On recommendation of the officers, the members present nominated and elected Taryn Kryzda, founding member and past president of the chapter to serve as a

director. Best wishes to Pam and her husband and congratulations to Taryn.

A meeting and luncheon was held September 2. David Pollard, Director of Management and Budget for the City of Port St. Lucie, addressed the membership on long-range financial planning. Please contact Fran Latella at flatella@martin.fl.us or Gary Perdew at gperdew@slcfd.org for chapter information.

Position Announcements

Accountant IV – Leon County Clerk of Court. Salary DOQ. This position is advanced professional accounting, independently performed under the general direction of an accounting supervisor. Assignments include maintaining and monitoring accounting and budgetary records, assisting in the GASB 34 issues relating to the preparation of the county's financial statement. Prepares interim, annual, and interpretive financial, administrative and operation reports. Reviews, analyzes, balances and prepares reconciliation of various funds and accounts, including but not limited to grants. A bachelor's degree in accounting or finance from an accredited four-year college or university, three years combined professionally related experience, and a CPA is required, as well as advanced level in general computing skills, Excel and Word. Two years supervisory experience is preferred. Submit application and resume to Leon County Clerk of the Circuit Court, Human Resources Division, Suite 247, P.O. Box 726, Leon County Courthouse, Tallahassee, FL 32301. Application is available at www.clerk.leon.fl.us. (850) 577-4230.

Assistant Finance Director – City of Winter Garden. The City of Winter Garden, the fastest growing city in Central Florida, is seeking candidates to replace the recently promoted incumbent. Qualified candidates will have extensive knowledge of the laws and policies governing municipal finance and accounting practices and procedures. Must be capable of conducting financial transactions with financial institutions. Knowledge of municipal bonds and contracts and available investment opportunities. Graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in accounting or finance. Master's degree or equivalent is preferred. Licensure as a Certified Public Accountant is preferred. Extensive supervisory experience in financial administration with preference for municipal government experience. Starting salary range up to mid to high \$50K. Apply: e-mail jobs@cwgd.com, EOE.

Budget Analyst – Indian River County. \$36,338 - \$54,517. Performs entry-level budgetary and financial analysis in the preparation and administration of a comprehensive annual budget. Requires a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, public administration or business administration and limited related work experience. Knowledge of governmental accounting practices and procedures, and cost accounting and fiscal analysis techniques required. Must be able to operate a personal computer and calculator. Download application and review job posting at: www.ircegov.com. Apply: Indian River County Human Resources, 1840 25th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960. Fax: (772) 770-5004. EOE.

Budget Manager – Highlands County – BCC. Evaluates budget needs of government departments. Projects revenues and expenditures and recommends adjustments to top management. Advanced word processing and spreadsheet skills required. Salary: \$1,654 - \$2,720 biweekly plus benefits. Must have BA/BS in accounting or

finance-related field from an accredited college or university plus two years of progressively responsible experience in governmental budgeting/finance environment. Must possess a valid Florida driver's license. For complete job description, visit employment opportunities at our Web site: www.hbcc.net or call (863) 402-6500. Apply at 600 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870. Drug-Free Workplace/EOE/Vet. Pref. Employeee.

Chief Accountant – City of Winter Park. Salary ranges \$40,150 - \$61,809 DOQ. Under the supervision of the director of finance and assistant director of finance, assists in a variety of budgeting, accounting and fiscal operations of the Finance Department. Must have BS/BA in accounting or finance-related field from an accredited college or university and three years of experience in an accounting or budgeting position. With the city's acquisition of the electric utilities in June 2005, applicants with experience in tax returns, regulatory and financial reporting requirements for electric utility operations will be given special consideration. Also, experience with H.T.E. accounting software is a plus. For complete job description and online application, visit the employment section at: www.cityofwinterpark.org.

City Controller – City of Winter Springs. Responsible for managing and supervising Accounting Division. Perform general ledger accounting, prepare monthly financial statements, audit work papers, annual CAFR, prepare and monitor annual budget. Develop policies/procedures and perform internal audits. Three years controllership experience, preferably in local government. Bachelor's degree, major in accounting. The city, incorporated in 1959, is located in Seminole County, which is a part of the greater Orlando metropolitan area in East Central Florida. This area is one of the fastest growing areas in the county. The city is primarily a retail, office and residential area with a small amount of light industry and commercial business. The city currently has a land area of 14.6 square miles and a population of 32,955. The city operates according to a council-manager form of government, with an appointed city manager, five elected city commissioners and a separately elected mayor. Closing date: Open until filled. Starting salary range: \$39,930 - \$60,793 DOQ. Apply: Human Resources Department; mail or e-mail resume: City of Winter Springs, 1126 E. State Road 434, Winter Springs, FL 32708; mwilson@winterspringsfl.org.

Deputy Director, Administrative and Financial Services – Village of Wellington. \$74,050 - \$117,550 per year, plus excellent benefits. Full-time; salary. Open until filled. Position overview and requirements: Position is responsible for the management and administration of the village's fiscal accounting systems. Employees in this classification facilitate technical design, implementation and application of automated financial systems. Such systems include, but are not necessarily limited to, utilities billing, recreation programs, planning functions, and building and zoning functions. Directs various administration functions of the village, e.g. payroll, compensation, risk management and benefits. Administers functions under charge to achieve goals within available resources; plans and organizes workloads and staff assignments; trains, motivates and evaluates assigned staff; reviews progress and directs changes as needed. Provides leadership and direction in the development of short and long-range plans; analyzes, interprets, and prepares data for studies, reports and recommendations; coordinates department activities with other departments and agencies as needed; formulates recommendations for action by administration and village officials. Minimum requirements: Bachelor's degree in public administration, finance, accounting or related; supplemented by five years professional experience in the management and administration of

multiple accounting and financial reporting systems, preferably within a public or similar institutional agency; Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO) preferred; or an equivalent combination of education, certification, training and/or experience. To apply: Interested candidates can apply online at www.ci.wellington.fl.us or by fax at (561) 791-4045, or you can submit a resume or application in person to the Employment Services Office, Village of Wellington, 14000 Greenbriar Boulevard, Wellington, FL 33414. Phone: (561) 791-4151. Municipality overview: The Village of Wellington, population approximately 50,000, is a municipality in West-Central Palm Beach County, providing services to a primarily residential community. The Village of Wellington is a Smoke/Drug Free Workplace. Equal Opportunity Employer. Veterans Preference.

Director of Finance – City of High Springs. Population: 4,330. Starting salary \$43,000 - \$53,000. Located in northwest Alachua County. Performs a variety of complex supervisory, administrative and technical finance and accounting duties. Finance Department includes accounting, purchasing, debt and cash management, and investments, assists with budget preparation and review. Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business/public administration/or related field. Five years experience in performing and/or managing accounting and finance operations, preferably in the public sector. Send resume to City Manager, City of High Springs, 110 N.W. 1st Avenue, High Springs, FL 32643 by November 4, 2005.

Finance Director – City of Indian Rocks Beach. (pop. 5,127) Salary starts from \$48,611, DOQ, plus full benefits. Located on the Gulf of Mexico, In Pinellas County, the city is a full-time family-oriented (non-transient, seasonal) residential population with supporting business and tourist elements. The City of Indian Rocks Beach strives to ensure a safe and brighter future for its residents by being responsive to the needs of its citizens, visitors, commerce and natural environment, while securing the integrity and quality in our family oriented beach community. The finance director, city manager, city clerk and city attorney are all charter officers and report directly to the City Council. The total proposed FY 2006 budget of \$6.6 million includes the general fund, special revenue funds and two enterprise funds for sewer and solid waste. This position will be responsible for all aspects of the Finance/Personnel/Information Technology Department, which has a staff of 1.5 FTEs. Requires strong accounting/financial background; familiarity with GAAP and GASB standards, ability to supervise and to work with departments. Specific responsibilities include accounting, financial reporting, auditing, budgeting, insurance administration and risk management. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office and governmental accounting software. A bachelor's degree in accounting, finance or business administration is required with five years experience. Preferences include CPA, CGFO, GFOA certification and/or previous experience as finance director with a municipality. Submit resume with references to: Mayor and City Commission, 1507 Bay Palm Boulevard, Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785. Position open until filled. All application materials are subject to public disclosure. Smoke Free/Drug Free Workplace E/O/E.

Fiscal Analyst II – City of Titusville. Internet: www.titusville.com/depts/hr/employ.htm. \$32,415 - \$36,500. This is professional work of a complex nature preparing and maintaining accounting records. Independent judgment and initiative are required in performing assigned duties. Work involves monitoring and balancing accounts and funds and preparing a variety of periodic fiscal reports. Assists with the annual audit and the preparation of comprehensive annual financial report. Performs related work as required.

Minimum requirements for education and/or experience: Bachelor's degree in accounting. One to two years experience in accounting work preferred. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. Interested applicants must submit a completed employment application to the Human Resources Department, 555 S. Washington Avenue, Titusville, FL 32796 prior to the closing date.

Grants Specialist – City of Alachua. This is a professional position assisting the department director in securing grants and other funding sources, monitoring grant award agreements from a variety of funding agencies, foundations, and jurisdictions. Requires knowledge of local, state and federal grant opportunities and funding resources; a bachelor's degree in political science, finance, public administration, business administration or related field; supplemented with at least two years experience in local, state or federal government with direct exposure to grant writing and project management. Submit employment application and a writing sample from a previous grant to the City of Alachua, Human Resources Department, Attn: Grants Specialist Position, P.O. Box 9, Alachua, FL 32616-0009, fax (386) 462-7525 or online at <http://cityofalachua.com>. Position opened until filled. EOE/DFW.

Internal Audit Director – City of Tampa. Salary range: \$68,681 - 107,598 DOQ. The City of Tampa is seeking highly qualified candidates for the position of internal audit director. The director will lead an Internal Audit Department that is recognized for high performance and operational excellence. This key position is appointed by and reports directly to the mayor. The director is responsible for all audit services and has to possess a keen understanding of government auditing practices. Candidates must have strong leadership and management skills, along with unquestionable personal integrity. Responsibilities include: Developing the long-range and annual audit plan; coordinating and monitoring the work of the internal audit staff; ensuring the audit process complies with government auditing standards; communicating audit results to senior management, the mayor and city council; media liaison and coordination. A bachelor's degree in accounting or a closely related field, master's preferred, from an accredited college or university. Thorough knowledge of GAS desired. Seven years of professional auditing experience with a minimum of three at the manager or senior supervisory level is mandatory. Certification required in one or more of the following: CPA, CIA, CFE, CISA, CGAP. Residency in the City of Tampa is required within six months of appointment. Relocation assistance provided. To apply, submit completed City of Tampa employment application form, current resume and contact information for three professional references to: City of Tampa, Human Resources: Employment Services Division, 306 E. Jackson Street, 7N, Tampa, FL 33602. Applications may also be submitted online at the city Web site, Tampagov.net. The City of Tampa is an equal opportunity employer. Position open until filled. Background checks and drug screen required.

Management Analyst – Village of Wellington. \$40,470 - \$64,240 per year plus excellent benefits. Full time; salary. Closing date: October 12, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. Position overview and requirements: Position is responsible for conducting financial, compliance and operational analysis of village departments, programs or business units. Work includes evaluating compliance, efficiency, effectiveness and financial accuracy. Focuses on business process analysis and re-engineering with an understanding of the technical problems and solutions as they relate to the current and future business environment and automation. Work is performed with considerable independence, subject to established departmental policies and proce-

dures, and supervised by the director of administrative and financial services. Minimum requirements: Bachelor's degree in public administration, finance, accounting or related; supplemented by one to three years progressively responsible experience in research or project management within a public or similar institutional agency; or an equivalent combination of education, certification, training and/or experience. To apply: Interested candidates can apply online at www.ci.wellington.fl.us or by fax at (561) 791-4045, or you can submit a resume or application in person to the Employment Services Office, Village of Wellington, 14000 Greenbriar Boulevard, Wellington, FL 33414. Phone: (561) 791-4151. Municipality overview: The Village of Wellington, population approximately 50,000, is a municipality in West-Central Palm Beach County, providing services to a primarily residential community. The Village of Wellington is a Smoke/Drug Free Workplace/Equal Opportunity Employer/Veterans Preference.

Office of Management and Budget Director – Osceola County. (JOB #PR172-05): \$54,362 + benefits. Preparation and administration of the county budget, performance measures, capital improvement program, special assessments and the financial plan. Bachelor's degree in business, public administration or a related field. Four years of progressively responsible professional, management and supervisory experience. Apply to Osceola County Human Resources, 3 Courthouse Square, Suite 100, Kissimmee, FL 34741 or online at www.osceola.org. VP/EOE/ ADA/Physical/drug testing required. Job Line: (407) 343-2814.

Senior Fiscal Analyst – City of West Palm Beach. This position is responsible for all aspects of the department's financial management, tracking and reporting functions related to its general funds, its federal and state grant and loan funds, and other financial resources available for execution of community development, housing, economic development and small business programs and projects. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a major in accounting, finance, business administration, or related field and four years of progressively responsible municipal budgeting, grants management, billing, collection or revenue generation experience. \$46,193 - \$57,742. Applications available at: www.wpb.org.

Senior Information Systems Auditor – City of Miami. (This is a full-time, unclassified position, exempt under FLSA.) Salary range: \$61,154 - \$94,886 yearly (negotiable within range depending upon training and experience). Closing Date: When a sufficient number of qualified persons has applied. Please apply immediately! The Office of the Auditor General is seeking an advanced-level auditor possessing expertise in auditing complex electronic data. Examples of duties include, but are not limited to conducting or participating in audits, performing management studies; providing managerial assistance; supervising the work of other auditors; assisting in planning, organizing, and performing audits of the city's enterprise resources planning (ERP) system and the integrated modules; conducting and/or participating in investigations of matters of concern in areas with significant computer activity; and conducting financial/operational audits. The successful candidate will possess thorough knowledge of information technology systems, operations, auditing principles and procedures, keep abreast of trends and developments in the field, possess the ability to analyze ERP systems and design efficient and effective computer applications for use. Will perform related functions as required. Requirements: Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) plus master's degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in computer science, accounting or a

closely related field, and two years experience auditing information technology systems. A minimum of one year of experience supervising accounting or auditing staff is required. Experience utilizing audit control language applications is desirable or equivalent combination of training and experience beyond a bachelor's degree in the afore stated fields. All applicants must submit either a State of Florida Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or professional certification as a Certified Information Systems Auditor. No training, certification nor experience shall substitute for these credentials. Submit city employment application and copy of degree and license to: Senior Information Systems Auditor Position, City of Miami Employment Office, 444 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Room #129, Miami, FL 33130. To download an employment application form, and to obtain additional information regarding this or other current City of Miami vacancies, you may access our Web site at www.ci.miami.fl.us or visit the City of Miami Employment Office. The City of Miami is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate.

Town Clerk/Finance Director – Town of Havana. \$50,000 - \$60,000 annual salary. The Town of Havana, located 14 miles north of Tallahassee, is a full-service town with electric, natural gas, water and sewer utilities. Job requirements include bachelor's degree in accounting, current CPA certificate and governmental accounting experience with at least three years in a supervisory capacity. Strong skills in Excel and Word needed. Experience with American Data Group software a plus. Candidate would need good organizational ability and strong written and verbal communication skills. Responsibilities include oversight of all governmental accounting functions including utility billing, licensing, customer service, personnel, accounts payable, accounts receivable, fixed assets, and cash receipts. The finance director prepares monthly financial reports, completes the annual budget, and prepares information for the annual audit. The finance director is responsible for adequate safeguards for town assets, including cash, inventories, equipment, and records. The person in this position reports to the town manager and performs any other duties as may be required by the town manager. This position requires attendance at monthly Town Council meetings, preparation of minutes, and safekeeping of all official town documents. Excellent benefits including Senior Management Service Class in the Florida Retirement System and paid health insurance. Selected applicant must successfully pass a drug screen and background check prior to start date. Equal opportunity employer and drug-free workplace. Send resume to Karen W. Myrick, Town of Havana, P.O. Box 1068, Havana, FL 32333, fax to (850) 539-2830, or e-mail to townclerk-havana@mchsi.com. Position open until filled.

Treasurer – City of Fort Lauderdale. \$65,208 - \$94,432 DOE. Bachelor's degree in accounting, or a closely related field; five years of responsible professional accounting and/or fiscal management experience, including supervisory experience; at least three years in governmental accounting or auditing, including development and administration of cash management, debt administration, investment and revenue accounting, as well as budgeting and forecasting activities. Master's degree may be substituted for one year of experience. Download application from our Web site: www.fortlauderdale.gov and mail completed application for consideration to Averill Dorsett, Director of Human Resources, City of Fort Lauderdale, 100 N. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.

Treasurer – City of Jacksonville. The City of Jacksonville is seeking a seasoned professional to serve as treasurer, responsible for overseeing the city's debt management program and the custody, investment and disbursement of all funds belonging to a large

consolidated city and county government. This position also supervises the administration of the general employees pension plan. The city is seeking a proven leader with line experience as a treasurer or government financial officer, with at least five years experience in the area of municipal finance, accounting or budgeting. Position requires excellent communication skills and demonstrated success in leading a customer-focused work force utilizing principles of total quality leadership, including commitment to data-driven measurement and decision-making. This position requires a bachelor's degree in finance, accounting or related field, and preference will be given to candidates who also possess an MBA or MPA. Certification as CPA, CIA, CFA, CGFO or CGFM a plus. The successful candidate will serve at the pleasure of the mayor, within a strong mayor/CAO form of government, reporting through the city's CFO, and will play a key role in making Jacksonville one of the most financially sound city governments in America. The City of Jacksonville is an equal opportunity/equal access employer and offers a competitive salary and benefits package. For consideration, apply at www.coj.net and fax resume and cover letter with salary expectations to (904) 630-8240.

FGFOA Calendar at a Glance

October 2005

14 CD Seminar – Sarasota
“Cash Management and Investments”

November 2005

14-18 2005 FGFOA School
of Governmental Finance –
Ponte Vedra Beach

December 2005

2 CD Seminar – Orlando
“Healthcare/Ethics”

January 2006

20 CD Seminar – Fort Lauderdale
“Service Efforts and Accomplishments/
Economic Development for Finance
Directors”

February 2006

17 CD Seminar – Tampa
“Leadership/Grants”

April 2006

21 CD Seminar – Daytona Beach
“Cash Management and Investments”

June 2006

10-15 2006 FGFOA Annual Conference –
Marco Island

(continued from page 1)

Benefits. Late this summer, GASB issued an Implementation Guide associated with OPEB Statements No. 43 and 45, and adopted a new Statement, No. 47 on Accounting for Termination Benefits.

Introduction to the New OPEB Implementation Guide

This new document is loaded with lots of details, clarifications, examples and illustrations. But beware; it is not for the faint of heart. There are 258 questions and answers and nine appendices (238 pages in all). Here are a few tidbits of news addressed in the Implementation Guide.

Some pension plans provide a health insurance supplement. If a pension plan makes or promises such payments without any proof of insurance expense or claims, then it is subject to the Pension Statements No. 25 and 27, not the OPEB Statements No. 43 and 54, regardless of being called a health insurance subsidy. If, however, such payments require some proof that the member has incurred some expense (e.g., to gain a tax advantage), then the employer contributions and accumulated assets used for that purpose must be separated from pension purposes and treated as OPEB for accounting purposes. Q&A 7, 10-13, 15-18.

There are several subtleties in the guide's section on Timing and Frequency of Actuarial Valuations and the section on Benefits To Be Included. As one example, in practice, an actuary performs an actuarial valuation "as of" a given date, say October 1, 2005, called the valuation date. The resulting expense and disclosure information may be applicable to the employer's financial statements for the year ending September 30, 2006 or 2007. So the employee/retiree census data and plan asset values, if any, are determined as of the valuation date and the actuarial present values and actuarial accrued liabilities for the projected benefits are calculated as of the valuation date October 1, 2005.

However, due to a lag in engagement and data collection, the actual work may not be undertaken until some time after the valuation date, say during February 2006. The Implementation Guide makes it clear that the OPEB plan provisions (who is eligible for coverage, at what level, for what premium, etc.) which are to be valued by the actuary are not those in effect on the valuation date but those plan provisions adopted and communicated by the employer at the time the actuary is doing the work, February 2006 in this case. So, if the employer adopts and communicates a change to the plan provisions after the valuation date but prior to the time when the actuary is doing the work (say January 1, 2006), then that change must be recognized in the actuarial calculations. This may become important when scheduling changes to the plan provisions. Q&A 49.

There's an interesting clarification in the Guide concerning what is an "employer contribution in relation to the ARC," especially for unfunded plans. The old news is that the "Annual OPEB Cost" is the amount that is expensed on the employer's books, and is mostly made up of the "Annual Required Contribution" (ARC). It is also old news that the "employer contribution" in relation to the ARC offsets that expense. That portion of the annual OPEB cost that is not offset by the employer contribution in relation to the ARC flows down directly into the Statement of Net Assets. At that point, it is called a net OPEB obligation.

To Pre-fund or Not To Pre-fund

Naturally, if the OPEB plan is pre-funded with a trust into which the employer makes deposits (as is done with a pension trust), then the employer's cash deposit into the trust is the employer contribution in relation to the ARC and has the effect of offsetting the annual OPEB cost. If the funding policy calls for a large enough deposit into such a trust, then it may completely offset the expense.

However, when the OPEB plan is unfunded, i.e., when there is no trust fund to build up assets for the payment of future employer subsidies, determining the employer contribution was unclear to some. There had been some discussion and responses from GASB's OPEB Advisory Committee as to what actually is credited against the expense for an unfunded plan.

Statement No. 45 says that in such a case, the employer contribution includes "...payment of benefits directly to or on behalf of a retiree or beneficiary..." The news in the Implementation Guide is that the employer contribution (which offsets the expense) for an unfunded OPEB medical plan, for example, is:

- The age-adjusted premium paid for the year for all covered retirees and their dependents reduced by the actual retiree contributions charged for the year (or the employer-provided expected per capita cost), whenever a fully insured health plan is used to provide the benefits, or
- The actual claims paid for the year to or on behalf of retirees and their dependents reduced by the actual retiree contributions (and presumably reduced by any retiree/dependent stop-loss reimbursements) on an accrual basis, whenever a "risk retention" health plan is used to provide the benefits. This includes health plans that are typically called self-insured, partially self-insured and certain even other types of insured contracts.

This is just one more reason to separate medical and Rx claims records for retirees and their dependents from those records for active employee for reporting purposes. Q&A 60 and 61.

Here's a "no news" item. GASB chose not to answer how to account for the receipt of the Federal Prescription Drug Subsidy under Medicare Part D. FASB has already provided guidance on that topic. But due to the uniqueness of governmental accounting, GASB chose to defer guidance until the matter is studied further.

New GASB Statement No. 47

In June, the GASB adopted an accounting standard that must be considered in connection with any program intended to provide incentives to retire or otherwise terminate employment early (sometimes called Early Retirement Incentive Plans or Early Retirement Windows). It also must be considered in connection with any program of severance pay or other such compensation for involuntary termination. These are called "termination benefits" and are accounted for under the new Statement No. 47. But at times, it can be unclear whether, for accounting purposes, the benefit is a pension benefit (No. 27), an OPEB (No. 45) or a termination benefit (No. 47).

The first determination that should be made is "for what purpose" the benefit is given. The issue turns on whether the benefits are provided as part of an employee's total compensation for prior services or as an inducement to hasten the termination of their employment. If, as compensation for prior service, the value should be allocated to prior years as under No. 27 (for pensions) or No. 45 for (OPEBs). But if the benefits are provided to employees as an inducement to termination, then the value should be accounted for

under No. 47 (Termination Benefits), and recognized in the financial statement for the period in which the termination offer is accepted.

For involuntary terminations, such as certain privatizing transactions or closures or individual employee situations, the value of the termination benefits should be recognized in the financial statements for the period in which the employer becomes obligated to provide the benefits to terminated employees.

There is an exception to all this when the termination benefits constitute an enhancement to an existing pension or OPEB program. In those cases, they should be accounted for under Statements No. 27 or 45, respectively. For example, an early retirement incentive plan offered to employees over age 50 with 25 years of service might provide free medical coverage for a five-year period following the election to retire under the plan.

But if there is already a retiree medical program that charges retirees a specified premium for continued coverage, then this feature of the incentive plan is merely an enhancement to the existing OPEB and should be accounted for under Statement No. 45. On the other hand, a lump sum incentive payment made out of general assets of the employer would probably qualify as a termination benefit and be accounted for under Statement No. 47.

Other News You Can Use

For some governments, a non-actuarial estimate can be useful (and a lot less expensive) for measuring the magnitude of the OPEB liability before implementation. A full-blown fully compliant actuarial valuation can seem expensive if an employer just wants a general idea of the size of the expense and liability numbers.

So a back-of-the-envelope estimate (based on actuarial principles) can be very useful to management prior to actual implementation. Prime candidates for such an estimate are those employers who provide just the so-called "implicit rate subsidy," complying only with Ch. 112.0801, F.S., and no more. These employers permit retiring employees to continue medical coverage but charge them the blended or group rate.

For those who missed the window of time for filing for the 2006 federal subsidy under the new Medicare Part D (Prescription Drug) Program, there's always next year. And even if the premium charged to Medicare retirees is too high for the employer to qualify for the subsidy, there might be some leveraging opportunities. A plan can be secondary to Medicare Part D just like it can be secondary to Parts A and B. Depending on the situation, this might either reduce the employer cost or permit the plan to reduce the retiree's premium.

So for my fellow news junkies, if you don't get enough news from the eight channels on television or Internet bloggers, there's always government accounting news to keep you up at night!

James J. Rizzo is a senior consultant and actuary in the Fort Lauderdale office of Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company (jim.rizzo@gabrielroeder.com). He recently served on the GASB Advisory Committee for the development of the Implementation Guide for Statements No. 43/45.

New Hotel Room Reservation Procedures

Please note that the FGFOA is implementing new hotel reservation procedures for the 2005 School of Governmental Finance and the 2006 Annual Conference.

In recent years, many of our attendees have experienced the inconvenience of having to stay outside of the host hotel at our two large events, the School of Governmental Finance and the Annual Conference. Our hotel room block has filled up sooner than expected by people making reservations they may not use, "just in case." These individuals end up not attending the event and canceling their reservation, but it is too late to help others who have booked into other properties and cannot cancel without a penalty.

So this year, we will use a housing form to make your hotel reservations. Once your registration is **PAID**, you will be sent a personalized housing form via e-mail, to be completed by you and sent directly to the hotel to make your reservation. (If you do not have an e-mail address, a form will be mailed or faxed to you). NOTE: If you register online, but choose to mail in your check, you will NOT receive your housing form until your registration is paid.

We wanted to give you plenty of notice on the new procedure. The registration brochure was mailed out in September, and you can register for the school now and receive your housing form. The annual conference brochure will be mailed out in March 2006.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to e-mail or contact the FGFOA Administrative Offices at (850) 222-9684.

Hurricane Notes

- Working together with the GFOA officers we have established the GFOA Katrina Assistance Forum www.mygfoa.org as a bulletin board where local and state government officials seeking assistance in resuming operations of basic governmental functions can seek assistance from other governments that are willing to help.

You are encouraged to go to GFOA's Web page www.gfoa.org and check out this bulletin board. Please let us know if you encounter any problems with the forum and feel free to post messages.

- Treasury, IRS Announce Special Relief to Encourage Leave-Donation Programs for Victims of Hurricane Katrina: visit www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=147373,00.html.

The FGFOA Newsletter is an official publication of the Florida Government Finance Officers Association, Inc., P.O. Box 10270, Tallahassee, FL 32302-2207; phone: (850) 222-9684; fax: (850) 222-3806; e-mail: agooch@flicities.com; www.fgfoa.org.

The information and opinions printed herein are obtained from sources believed to be reliable; however, the FGFOA makes no guarantee of accuracy. Opinions and recommendations are offered by individuals and do not represent official policy positions of the Florida Government Finance Officers Association, Inc.

FGFOA 2005 School of Governmental Finance Registration Form

Return your completed registration form with fees to: FGFOA School of Governmental Finance, c/o Florida League of Cities, P.O. Box 1757, Tallahassee, FL 32302. Checks should be payable to **FGFOA**. Only MasterCard and Visa cards will be accepted and can be faxed to (850) 222-3806. Unless full payment accompanies this form, advance registration will not be processed. Registration is also available on-line at www.fgfoa.org. **The deadline for registration is November 4, 2005.** (NOTE: The hotel reservation cut-off date is October 23. We encourage you to register prior to this date in order to receive your housing form. See page 14 for more details.)

Please Type or Print Clearly – One Form Per Registrant

Full Name: _____ First Name or Nickname: _____
(As it should appear on your badge)

Title: _____ Affiliation: _____
(City, County, Government or Company)

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Current Certification (i.e. CPA, CGFO): _____

Is this your first time attending the School? Yes No

Method of Payment: Check Visa MasterCard

Card Number: _____ Card Expiration Date: _____

Card Holder's Name: _____ Card Holder's Signature: _____

Payment and Class Roster (Reverse Side) Must Accompany Each Registration

Please circle your appropriate registration fee and write the total amount due in the space below.

Registration Type	Active Member	Associate Member	Non-Member	After 10/14/05 Add
Basic Only	\$130	\$195	\$255	\$40
Intermediate/Advanced Only	\$120	\$180	\$235	\$40
Entire Week	\$230	\$355	\$470	\$40
Other Fees				
Golf Tournament	\$155	\$155	\$155	
Ethics Course	\$55	\$55		
Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (FGFOA Member CPAs Only)				
Total Amount Due: \$ _____				

Registration Fees include admission to all sessions in the block for which you register, plus refreshments and Wednesday night's reception.

Special needs: If you are physically challenged and require special services, or if you have special dietary needs, please attach a written description to your advance registration form.

Cancellations must be received and confirmed in writing by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 28, 2005, to entitle registrant to a refund of registration fees. A \$40 administration fee will be deducted from all refunds; substitutions are encouraged.

Office Use Only	
Payment Received: _____	Check #: _____
Date Received: _____	Amount: _____

FGFOA 2005 School of Governmental Finance Course Selection Form

Please indicate your course preferences below by placing an "X" on the line before the course title. Be sure to select only one course in each time slot, and note that some time slots may conflict with others.

BASIC

Monday, November 14

8:00 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.

- Introduction to Governmental Accounting (Part I)
- Organizing the Budget Function and its Interface with Finance
- Managing a Portfolio in a Rising Interest Rate Environment
- A Guide to Issuing Debt (Part I)

10:00 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.

- Introduction to Governmental Accounting (Part II)
- Research Sources and Statistical Tools for New Budgeters
- Pensions 101
- A Guide to Issuing Debt (Part II)

1:00 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.

- Introduction to Governmental Accounting (Part III)
- Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO) Program
- Can Your Internal Controls Withstand Scrutiny?
- Required Policies for Issuing Debt

3:00 p.m. - 4:40 p.m.

- Introduction to Budgeting
- The Nuts and Bolts of the Legislative Session
- Leadership
- Mock Bond Closing

Tuesday, November 15

8:00 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.

- Introduction to Governmental Accounting (Part IV)
- Technology in Government (Part I)
- Your Finance Team and its Responsibility

10:00 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.

- CDARS – A New Tool for Public Funds
- Introduction to Governmental Accounting (Part V)
- Technology in Government (Part II)

1:00 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.

- Understanding Your Revenues
- Tools for Making Investment Decisions
- Best Practices in Debt Management (Part I)

3:00 p.m. - 4:40 p.m.

- Grant Accounting
- Budgeting for Performance
- Best Practices in Debt Management (Part II)

Wednesday, November 16

8:00 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.

- Basic Cash and Treasury Management
- Preparing for an Audit
- Refunding

10:00 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.

- How to Run an Efficient Finance Department
- Developing Your Capital Improvement Plan
- Investing (Part I)

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED

Wednesday, November 16

1:00 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.

- GASB 40
- Investing (Part II)
- Continuing Disclosure: The Rules, The Requirements, The Benefits

3:00 p.m. - 4:40 p.m.

- Identifying Fraud – An Auditor's Perspective
- Truth in Millage (TRIM) Compliance
- How to Reach Your Actuarial Assumption Rate

Thursday, November 17

8:00 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.

- GASB Update
- Legislative Update and Preview
- Key Economic Indicators for the Treasury Manager

10:00 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.

- The GFOA Distinguished Budget Award Program
- Understanding SWAPs and How to Use Them to Your Advantage
- Arbitrage Calculation and Compliance

1:00 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.

- Accounting for Business-Type Activities
- Tricks, Traps and Investment Strategies
- Debt Portfolio: Managing the Mix, Monitoring, Tracking and Reporting

3:00 p.m. - 4:40 p.m.

- Wide Awake Leadership: Being a Leader that can Grow Leaders
- Indirect Costing
- Economic Forecast and Discussion

Friday, November 18

8:00 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.

- Ethics Seminar (Part I) *(Additional fee required)*
- Sarbanes-Oxley and its Effects on Governments
- Costing Union Proposals

10:00 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.

- Ethics Seminar (Part II) *(Additional fee required)*
- Everyone's a Leader
- Long-Range Financial Planning for Budgeting Professionals
- Circular 230: The Increased Cost of Issuing Debt