



**FLORIDA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION,
INC.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2025

The meeting of the FGFOA Board of Directors took place at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando North in conjunction with the Leadership Class 2025 in Altamonte Springs.

IN ATTENDANCE:

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President-Elect – Nicole Gasparri, Director of Strategic Management and Professional Development, Palm Beach County Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller
Secretary-Treasurer – Kelly Strickland, Director of Financial Administration, City of Sarasota
Director, Sharon Almeida, Finance Director, Royal Palm Beach
Director, Melissa Burns, Finance Director, City of St. Augustine
Director, Nicole Jovanovski, Director of Finance, Sarasota County Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller
Director, Melissa Licourt, Finance Director, St. Johns River Water Management District
Director, Anna Otiniano, Financial Services Director, City of Plantation
Director, Rebecca Schnirman, Director of Financial & Support Services, Palm Beach County
Director, Allison Teslia, Management & Budget Director, Lake County

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Mary-Lou Pickles, Certification Committee
Sarah Simpson, Conference Program Committee
Jamie Roberson, Local Chapter Ad-Hoc Committee
Kadem Ramirez, Professional Development Committee

LOCAL CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Jennifer Cole, Nature Coast Chapter
Kristin Thompson, North Central Florida Chapter

STAFF

Paul Shamoun, Florida League of Cities
Jill Walker, Florida League of Cities

CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum, President-Elect Gasparri called the March 7, 2025, meeting of the FGFOA Board of Directors to order at 9:03 am.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT

Certification Committee

List Serve

Mrs. Pickles presented the committee report starting with a desire to create a List Serve to assist new people on the path to CGFO where the committee is able to answer the questions, monitor & moderate the submissions. The expectation is that not all CGFO are automatically into the group as they may not want to receive the flow of information. There may need to be a future a policy or expectations from the committee about what to post/not post such as specifically asking about the test questions, etc. It is recommended to update the committee manual to indicate that the chair is responsible for the List Serve maintenance.

Ms. Licourt moved, seconded by Mrs. Almeida to approve the list serve as presented by the committee. Motion passed without objection.

On-Demand Training

Next Mrs. Pickles presented the desire to provide on-demand training for CGFO applicants, since we now have on-demand testing. Current webinars will be recorded which allows us the opportunity to save them on a SharePoint link that can be password protected and available for purchase. This is a bridge to get us to the new on-demand testing that will be available in about a year. The committee is recommending on-demand training webinars for \$75 to include unlimited, on-demand access for 1 year.

Mrs. Almeida moved, seconded by Ms. Teslia to implement on-demand training webinars for \$75 to include unlimited, on-demand access for 1-year via a SharePoint link. Motion passed without objection.

CGFO Program Requirements

Lastly Mrs. Pickles brought forth the desire for a newsletter to announce the CGFO of the Year award winner. Currently, the CGFO of the Year is awarded to the candidate that receives the highest cumulative score on all five parts from April to the following March and if there is a tie, the candidate who took all five-parts in one sitting receives the award. The guidelines further state, that the recipient will be recognized in a newsletter article. Since moving to the on-line, on-demand platform, candidates no longer take all five exams in one sitting, and the FGFOA no longer produces a newsletter. The committee is proposing the CGFO Program Requirements be modified from “the recipient will also be recognized in a newsletter article” to “the recipient will also be recognized on the FGFOA website”. And from “In the case of a tie, the candidate that passed all 5 parts in one sitting will receive the award” to “In the case of a tie, the candidate that passed all 5 parts in the shortest timeframe from date of acceptance into the program to date last exam was successfully taken will receive the award”.

Mrs. Schnirman moved, seconded by Ms. Burns to modify the wording as brought forth by the committee. The CGFO Program Requirements will be modified to “the recipient will also be recognized on the FGFOA website” and to “In the case of a tie, the candidate that passed all 5 parts in the shortest timeframe from date of acceptance into the program to date last exam was successfully taken will receive the award”. Motion passed without objection.

Conference Program Committee

Ms. Simpson presented the draft program for the 2025 Annual Conference. It is presented by date, time and track. At this time the speakers are all committed to their sessions.

Educational Program Committee

Mrs. Otiniano presented the Educational Program Committee agenda item noting the events have been well attended. The next webinar will be “An Introduction to GARS”. The committee anticipates that it will also be well received.

Event Host Committee

Ms. Teslia gave the Event Host Committee is actively getting volunteers to hand out gift bags and assist with loading buses at the upcoming FGFOA 2025 Annual Conference. No action was taken.

Local Chapter Ad-Hoc Committee

Mrs. Roberson gave the Local Chapter Ad-Hoc Committee reporting that Monroe County is now a part of the

South Florida Chapter therefore the Local Chapter map can now be updated on the website. There are no other uncommitted counties as they all belong to an active Chapter. No action was taken.

Professional Development Committee

Mrs. Ramirez gave the Professional Development Committee report noting it is the desire of the committee to enhance the committee application with time constraints/expectations for serving, confirming that a member would be able to meet on the teams/zoom platform, adding guidelines to the application in areas of focus like professional development, CGFO, technical help and education. They may offer a webinar in the future to explain the Mentor/Mentee program and its benefits to our members. They may also want to interview with any potential mentor/mentee to set expectations for a successful match. The committee would like this program to be highlighted in a newsletter, at the first-time attendee presentations at Annual Conference and SOGF, and at the Leadership graduation ceremony. It is recommended to consider changing date of the Leadership program to August or perhaps April to accommodate for the busy deadlines that most attendees have in March. This may increase participation. No action was taken.

Technical and Legislative Resources Committee

Mrs. Schnirman presented the Technical and Legislative Resources Committee report noting that a recent GASB exposure draft was created, and the committee is looking at modernizing the current Listserv system. No action was taken.

PRESIDENT REPORT

Minutes

President Colvin presented the minutes from the January 17, 2025, Board meeting for review. After discussion, Mrs. Pickles would like to amend the wording under the Hardship Renewal Extension portion of her committee report. She would like it to renew biannually. Mrs. Pickles will send updated language for clarification.

Ms. Gasparri moved, seconded by Ms. Teslia, to accept the January 17, 2025, minutes with amendments. Motion passed without objection.

Next, President Colvin presented the minutes from the January 24, 2025, Board meeting for review.

Ms. Burns moved, seconded by Mrs. Schnirman, to accept the January 24, 2025, minutes as submitted. Motion passed without objection.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT

Audit Report

Mrs. Shamoun presented the audit report noting we obtained a clean opinion.

Ms. Almeida moved, seconded by Ms. Licourt, to approve the audit as submitted. Motion passed without objection.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Membership Report

Mr. Shamoun presented the membership report noting that as of today our membership is 2,246. No motion was

made.

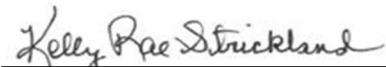
Investment Report

Mr. Shamoun presented the investment report. No motion was made.

NEXT MEETING

The date for the next Board meeting will be on Thursday, April 24, 2025, and Friday, April 25, 2025, at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Lake Buena Vista South, 4955 Kyngs Heath Road, Kissimmee, FL. These will be our Strategic Planning meetings.

ATTEST:



Kelly Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer