FISCAL FORUM

Florida Government Finance Officers Association



As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving season, the FGFOA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs extend our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones.

We are grateful for the dedication, leadership, and service that our members bring to Florida's government finance profession every day. Your commitment to excellence, collaboration, and continuous learning strengthens our Association and the communities we serve.

This season, we celebrate the many accomplishments of our members and the relationships that make FGFOA such a vibrant and supportive organization. We hope you enjoy a Thanksgiving filled with gratitude, joy, and meaningful time with those who matter most.

Happy Thanksgiving from the FGFOA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs!

A Message From FGFOA President Kelly Strickland



As we close another successful FGFOA School of Government, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the FGFOA School Committee and the Host Committee for their outstanding work in planning and delivering an exceptional event. Their dedication, attention to detail, and commitment to excellence were evident in every aspect of the program.

The School of Government provided attendees with a valuable opportunity to expand their knowledge through informative educational sessions led by highly qualified and engaging speakers. The breadth and quality of the presentations offered meaningful insights and practical tools that finance professionals can take back to their organizations and apply in their daily work.

Beyond the classroom, the hospitality and networking events were thoughtfully planned, well attended, and greatly enjoyed by participants. These activities created an environment where members could build relationships, exchange ideas, and strengthen the professional connections that make FGFOA such a vibrant and supportive organization.

One of the greatest benefits of attending the School of Government is the opportunity to learn from one another. Whether through formal presentations, discussions between sessions, or conversations at social events, attendees were able to share experiences and best practices with peers from across the state. These interactions help us grow professionally while strengthening the network of dedicated public finance professionals that serves our communities.

Most importantly, the School of Government exemplified our theme for the year: **Educate, Elevate, and Empower**. Through education, we gained knowledge and insights. Through collaboration and engagement, we elevated ourselves and our profession. Through networking and shared experiences, we empowered one another to meet the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Thank you to everyone who attended, presented, sponsored, volunteered, and contributed to the success of this year's School of Government. Your participation and enthusiasm made the event a tremendous success. I look forward to seeing how the knowledge, relationships, and inspiration gained during the week continue to benefit our members and the organizations they serve throughout the year.

Together, we will continue to **Educate, Elevate, and Empower**

Welcome to the FGFOA Family!!

Please join us in welcoming our newest FGFOA members!! We are excited to have you as part of a statewide network of government finance professionals dedicated to excellence, innovation, and public service.

New Member Tip: The best way to get the most from your FGFOA membership is to get involved. Join a local chapter & attend a meeting, volunteer for a committee, participate in educational programs, and connect with fellow members across the state. The relationships and experience you gain through FGFOA can be invaluable throughout your career.



Spotlight on Leadership



Wayne Meyers serves as Director of Operations for the Justice Administrative Commission, where he oversees procurement, asset management, risk management, payment disbursements, and emergency management. His public service career spans nearly three decades, beginning in information technology before transitioning into management roles that expanded his responsibilities in budgeting, procurement, and operations. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology from Barry University and is a Florida Certified Contract Manager, Certified Public Manager, and Certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt.

Wayne joined FGFOA after being encouraged by past president Rip Colvin to become involved and expand his knowledge of governmental finance. Since then, he has embraced opportunities to grow as a leader through committee service, including the Conference Committee and, most notably, as Chair of the Educational Programs Committee. A graduate of Leadership FGFOA, Wayne credits the Association with helping him step outside his comfort zone, build meaningful professional relationships, and develop new leadership skills.

What Wayne enjoys most about FGFOA is supporting member education and professional development. As Educational Programs Committee Chair and a frequent webinar and conference moderator, he values creating opportunities for members to learn, connect, and take on leadership roles within the Association. These experiences have strengthened both his FGFOA involvement and his leadership role at the Justice Administrative Commission.

Click Here to Learn More About Wayne

Events & Deadlines



School of Governmental Finance 2026 was a Great Success!

The School of Governmental Finance, held October 26–30 in beautiful Clearwater Beach, was another tremendous success. Finance professionals from across the state came together for a week of education, networking, and professional development, furthering FGFOA's mission of advancing excellence in government finance.

A special thank you goes out to the instructors, volunteers, and attendees whose contributions helped make this year's program such a memorable and valuable experience.

Be sure to watch for the December newsletter, where we will feature a full recap of the event, highlight key moments from the week, and share photos from this outstanding educational program.

We look forward to celebrating the success of the School of Governmental Finance with you!

FGFOA Leadership 2027 Applications Open November 9th

Ready to take the next step in your leadership journey? Applications for FGFOA Leadership 2027 open on November 9, 2026, for one of the Association's premier professional development programs. Designed to cultivate the next generation of government finance leaders, this immersive experience focuses on personal leadership growth, team development, organizational effectiveness, and leading with impact in public service.

The Leadership class will be held April 12-16, 2027, in Orlando, and will bring together a select group of 20 professionals for a week of dynamic leadership development, collaboration, and networking. Participants will also complete a DISC personality assessment to gain valuable insight into their communication and leadership styles. Lodging will be provided at the Courtyard Marriott Orlando Downtown.

Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on January 29, 2027, with participants notified on February 12, 2027. If you are looking to expand your leadership potential, build lasting professional connections, and make a greater impact on your organization and the profession, FGFOA Leadership 2027 is an opportunity you won't want to miss.

CLICK HERE to Apply for Leadership 2027



Call for Session Topics: 2027 FGFOA Annual Conference

Our 2026 Annual Conference was a tremendous success. Approximately 1,149 government finance professionals came together at the Lowes Sapphire Falls Resort at Universal to share their inspiration, knowledge, and experiences so that we could all grow in our careers and develop the next generation of fiscal stewards.

In order to continue this important mission, the Annual Conference Program Committee needs your help developing conference session topics and recruiting speakers to present at the 2027 FGFOA Annual Conference at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center in Kissimmee, June 19 - 23, 2027.

Please click on the link below and submit your ideas for session topics and speakers so we can make the 2027 Annual Conference even better!

If you have any questions, please contact Ben Salz at 305-308-7860 or jkirk33628@msn.com.

CLICK HERE to Submit a Topic





FSU Outreach Success

FGFOA past-president Rip Colvin recently presented at a Masters in Public Administration class at Florida State University (FSU). The presentation was well received by the students and faculty alike. Following the event, the professor expressed interest in making FGFOA presentations a regular part of the curriculum each semester. The University

Outreach Committee is excited to continue building this relationship and raising awareness of careers in governmental finance.

Rip will be leveraging his relationships with the FSU College of Business's School of Accounting to make similar presentations in the future.

Virtual Training Opportunities

Upcoming FGFOA Webinars – Mark Your Calendar!

Stay current and connected with FGFOA's lineup of professional development webinars! Each session is designed to provide practical insights, timely updates, and tools you can apply directly in your daily work. Whether you're looking to strengthen your technical knowledge or expand your leadership skills, there's a webinar for you.

- November 19, 2026 – Review of GASB 87/96/101/103/104 and Current GASB Project Agenda (AA)
- December 17, 2026 – Mitigating Audit Findings in Grants (AA)
- January 27, 2027 -- Navigating New Legislative Budget Rules (TB)

Visit the **FGFOA WEBINAR PAGE** and click **"Register Now"** or log in to your member portal and go to the **"Events"** tab.

Don't miss these valuable learning opportunities!

Looking for additional ethics CPE opportunities?

The Florida Institute of CPAs (FICPA) is offering "FICPA Ethics: Protecting the Integrity of the Florida CPAs," created with the DBPR and approved by the Florida Board of Accountancy. Sessions are available online, in-person, and on-site (live or virtually).

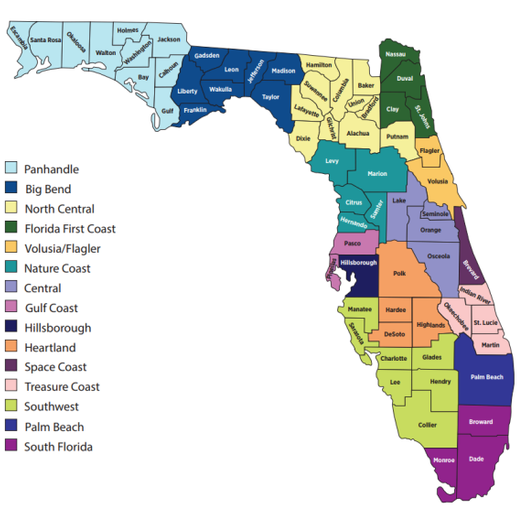
Learn more and register

Spotlight on Membership

Do you know someone who goes above and beyond? A mentor, colleague, or chapter leader who deserves to be recognized? **Nominate them for the FGFOA Member Spotlight!** It only takes a few minutes, and your nomination could help highlight the inspiring work of a fellow member.

CLICK HERE to Nominate a Member

Local Chapter News



South Florida Chapter Celebrates Professional Development and Scholarship Recipients

The FGFOA South Florida Chapter recently welcomed **Nicole Gasparri** as its featured speaker, providing attendees with valuable insights and an engaging discussion on “Leading with Clarity in Challenging Times”. Her presentation offered members an excellent opportunity to learn, network, and exchange ideas with colleagues from across the region.

In addition to the educational session, the chapter demonstrated its commitment to professional development by awarding **three scholarships** to attend the **FGFOA Boot Camp** hosted by the Chapter in October. The scholarships will help emerging professionals enhance their knowledge and skills while building connections within Florida's government finance community.

Congratulations to the scholarship recipients:

- **Lola Roberts, City of Hallandale Beach**
- **Zena Ortiz, City of Hallandale Beach**
- **Dylan LaShure, City of Sunrise**

The South Florida Chapter is proud to support the continued growth and development of finance professionals and looks forward to seeing these recipients benefit from the Boot Camp experience. Congratulations again to the winners, and thank you to everyone who participated in making this event a success.









Save the Date: South Florida Chapter Holiday Networking Event & Miami Heat Game

The FGFOA South Florida Chapter is excited to invite its members to a special Holiday Networking Event and Miami Heat Game on Friday, December 18, 2026, in Miami. This festive evening will begin with a pre-game social from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in a private cabana suite, where attendees can enjoy food, beverages, and valuable networking opportunities with fellow government finance professionals.

Following the social, attendees will take in the Miami Heat game at 7:00 p.m. The evening will conclude with a unique opportunity to step onto the Miami Heat court and shoot free throws after the game. This exciting event promises to be a memorable way to celebrate the holiday season, strengthen professional connections, and enjoy an unforgettable South Florida experience.

Mark your calendars now and watch for registration details coming soon!



Palm Beach Chapter Kicks Off the Holiday Season

The FGFOA Palm Beach Chapter invites members and guests to kick off the holiday season at its annual Holiday Networking Event on Friday, November 20, 2026, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Wellington Community Center in Wellington.

This festive evening will provide an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow government finance professionals while enjoying hors d'oeuvres, drinks, music, and raffle opportunities in a warm holiday atmosphere. Whether you are looking to expand your professional network, reconnect with colleagues, or simply celebrate the season, this event promises an enjoyable evening of conversation and camaraderie.

The Palm Beach Chapter encourages members to come together in support of their local chapter and celebrate another successful year of public service and professional growth. We look forward to seeing you there as we welcome the holiday season and strengthen the connections that make FGFOA such a valuable professional community.

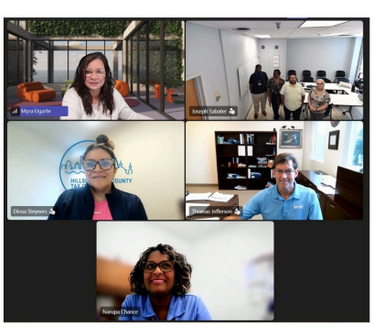
Registration is now open!!

CLICK HERE to Register

Stronger Together: How the CGFO Study Group Is Building a Statewide Community of Success

The Treasure Coast chapter's CGFO Study Group recently began with eight dedicated members, gathering each week to review notes, share materials, and cheer one another on through the certification journey. What started as a small circle of local colleagues has now grown across county lines, welcoming new participants from all over Florida. Members come with different levels of experience—some having already passed one or two exams, others just beginning their testing path—but together they've built a supportive, collaborative community where everyone lifts each other up and works toward success.

Study Partners:
Tracy Bryant – St. Lucie County BOCC
Narupa Chance – City of Port St. Lucie
Lenita Evans – St. Lucie County BOCC
Brandon Felder – St. Lucie County BOCC
Thomas Jefferson – St. Lucie County Children's Services Council
Joseph Sabater – St. Lucie County BOCC
Diosa Steyners – Hillsborough County Tax Collector
Myra Ugarte – City of Port St. Lucie



Get Involved with Your Local FGFOA Chapter

FGFOA's local chapters are the foundation of our association, bringing government finance professionals together to connect, learn, and grow at the local level. Chapter events offer a variety of opportunities, including professional development programs, technical training sessions, networking events, and community engagement activities.

Joining and participating in your local chapter is one of the best ways to expand your professional network, exchange ideas, stay informed on industry trends, and build meaningful relationships with peers who share similar challenges and goals. Whether you are a new member or a seasoned professional, your local chapter provides valuable opportunities to engage, contribute, and enhance your FGFOA experience.

Get connected today by joining your local chapter and checking the Local Chapter Calendar for upcoming events and opportunities to engage with fellow members.

Stay Connected with FGFOA!

View all current and past **E-Bulletins** and editions of the **Fiscal Forum Newsletter** on the FGFOA website:

www.fgfoa.org/e-bulletins

Follow the Florida Government Finance Officers Association on social media to get the latest updates, event announcements, and news that matters to government finance professionals.

Stay informed. Stay engaged. Be part of the FGFOA

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