



Government Finance Officers Association

Monday, May 18, 2020

Dear GFOA Member:

Today, you will be asked to vote on a slate of candidates for GFOA's Executive Board. In accordance with the GFOA bylaws:

“The election of the president-elect and the Executive Board members shall be at the annual business meeting of the Association. The nominating committee shall present at the annual business meeting a slate of candidates for the offices of the president-elect and vacant at-large positions on the Executive Board. Additional nominations for at-large positions may be made, with the consent of the nominee, from the floor and voting shall be according to procedures established under section 4.2 of these [GFOA] bylaws. The person receiving the largest number of votes cast for each office or position to be filled shall be declared elected. In case of a tie vote, the office or position will be determined by lot.”

The nine-member GFOA Nominating Committee has thoughtfully put forth the following candidates for the 2020-2021 president-elect and five vacant members-at-large positions. The members-at-large will serve on the Executive Board for three years. Inside are brief biographies of each candidate.

President-elect:

Michael A. Bryant, Assistant County Manager, County of Mecklenburg, North Carolina

Members-at-Large:

Laurie M. Brewer, Assistant City Manager, City of Georgetown, Texas

Tanya Garost, Chief Financial Officer, District of Lake Country, British Columbia, Canada

Rafiu O. Ighile, CPA, Director of Finance, City of Gaithersburg, Maryland

Brandon Kauffman, Finance Director, City of Lincoln, Nebraska

Margaret Moggia, Executive Manager of Finance, West Basin Municipal Water District, California

Thank you for continuing to support your association through the election process.

Respectfully,

2020 GFOA Nominating Committee

FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT 2020-2021

**Michael A. Bryant, Assistant County Manager,
County of Mecklenburg, North Carolina**



GFOA Activities

- GFOA member for 14 years
- GFOA Board Member from 2017 to 2020
- Ex-officio member of GFOA's Committee on Economic Development and Capital Planning; past member of GFOA's Governmental Budgeting and Fiscal Policy Committee
- Attended GFOA Annual Conferences for 10 years; frequent conference speaker
- Regional training instructor
- Author of the article, "Improving the Budget Process" in *Government Finance Review* in 2015
- Reviewer for GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from 2010 to 2011
- His government won the Award for Excellence for Financial Management in 2013 and again in 2020 for their Budget Public Engagement Initiative; the County has also received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for 29 years
- Member of GFOA's Black Caucus

Contributions to Profession/Jurisdiction

- Provide Executive oversight of the County's Finance Department
- Lead and facilitate County Commissioner's decision-making process on annual budget development activities (\$2B operating budget)
- Transformed the County's operating budget from a traditional department structure to a hybrid program-performance model
- Current member and past Board Member of North Carolina Local Budget Association; served as President and First Vice President of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators Southern Piedmont Chapter; served on the Arts & Science Council Board of Directors; ICMA member
- Served as Chancellor's Board of Visitors as well as lecturer at North Carolina Central University; Alumni chapter member
- Received North Carolina Local Government Budget Association Lifetime Achievement Award
- Received North Carolina Central University's "40 Under 40" award and Community Buildings Initiative's "Leaders Under 40" award
- Served on University of North Carolina-Charlotte MPA Advisory Board
- Board Member and mentor for Wayfinders; Community Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity; and Emergency Financial Assistance Committee Member for the Crisis Assistance Ministry
- Executive development includes the Lee Institute (American Leadership Forum Senior Fellow); National Forum for Black Public Administrators (Executive Leadership Institute); State of North Carolina (North Carolina Governor's Public Management Fellowship); UNC School of Government (Public Executive Leadership Academy); and University of Virginia (LEAD – Leadership, Educating, and Developing)

Goals for GFOA

My plan focuses on strategies that are centered on people, policy, and process.

People – Meet the needs of all GFOA members by promoting GFOA best practices

Policy – GFOA should promote the importance of having a Continuity of Operations Plan

Process – Each government should focus on public engagement and financial transparency, emphasizing the role of the finance officer

Education

North Carolina Central University, Master of Public Administration

North Carolina Central University, Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

Position 1:
Laurie M. Brewer, Assistant City Manager,
City of Georgetown, Texas



GFOA Activities

- GFOA Member for 20 years
- Served on GFOA’s Committee on Economic Development and Capital Planning from 2014 to 2019
- Presenter at GFOA national training on capital planning from 2018 to 2020; taught webinar on economic development best practices in 2017
- Attended 21 GFOA Annual Conferences; past conference speaker on development in 2017 and investment in 2014
- Reviewer for GFOA’s Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for more than 5 years

Contributions to the Profession/Jurisdiction

- Coordinated the update of the City’s Downtown Master Plan and implementation strategies and initiated and executed a plan to relocate city offices from the downtown square to previously underutilized buildings off the square. This helped drive additional economic development in the downtown by putting those buildings back on the tax rolls for mix-used development. It also consolidated city offices to a campus environment by renovating older buildings, enhancing efficiency and effective service delivery
- Directed the re-purposing of the City’s historic fire station to become the City’s first Art Center; coordinated the historic preservation and construction, partnered with a non-profit for operations and development of urban outdoor space to enhance public use
- Member of ICMA, Texas City Management Association (serves on professional development committee), GFOAT (served as Regional Director for GFOAT; currently serves on GFOAT Foundation Board; presented at past conferences); served on Envision Central Texas sustainable development review project committee and the Texas Municipal League Legislative Committee
- Involved in the following community organizations: Williamson County United Way Board of Directors, 2012 to 2015; MLK Day of Caring, 2012, 2013; Georgetown Friends of the Library member; Georgetown Heritage Society member; Williamson County Museum member; Georgetown Parks Pals member; Georgetown Art Works member; Lexington Youth Football League board member, 2005 to 2008; and Lexington United Methodist Church Treasurer, 1995 to 1998
- Certifications include GFOAT (Certified Government Finance Officer); ICMA (Credentialed Manager)

Goals for GFOA

I support GFOA’s 2025 vision of GFOA’s role as a resource, educator, facilitator, and advocate. For GFOA to be successful in this objective and the adopted vision, continued engagement of energetic and forward thinking professionals is essential. We have to continue to be a relevant part of the professional development of both new and tenured professionals.

Education

Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, Master of Public Administration
Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, Bachelor of Business Administration

Position 2:

**Tanya Garost, Chief Financial Officer,
District of Lake Country, British Columbia, Canada**

**GFOA Activities**

- GFOA Member for 4 years
- Serves on GFOA's Committee on Canadian Issues
- Served as moderator for the Canadian Update during GFOA's 2018 Annual Conference
- Her District of Lake Country has received GFOA's Canadian Award for Financial Reporting since 2014

Contributions to the Profession/Jurisdiction

- While working at the City of West Kelowna, led a team to negotiate a new long-term service agreement that allowed the City of West Kelowna provide fire services to Westbank First Nation
- Created a long-term fire services agreement and currently working on servicing agreements with neighboring First Nation band
- Created new reserve policies in both current and previous organizations. Relied heavily on the resources provided by GFOA including best practices and conference presentations to support recommendations put forward to the Mayor and Council
- Presented in front of elected officials about the importance of transparency and consistency in financial information
- Served on GFOABC Board of Directors from 2013 to 2019 (Treasurer in 2016; served two terms as President in 2017 and 2018)
- Past speaker and presenter at the annual GFOABC conference most recently serving as a moderator and a panelist for the CFO Forum: "What keeps you up at night?" in 2018
- Presenter and instructor for GFOABC training courses on topics of property taxation, budgeting, and the role of the finance officer
- Author of several articles for the GFOABC quarterly newsletter
- CA, CPA

Goals for GFOA

I believe that the primary objective of GFOA should be to provide the tools and support to ensure that state, provincial, and local government finance officers have the skillset necessary to contribute, with excellence, to their management team and in service to their elected officials and citizens. This is accomplished through comprehensive training, professional development, and resource offerings.

We are in the middle of the Baby Boomer retirement and at a critical point in developing the next generation of government finance professionals. I believe that GFOA plays an important role in assisting with that knowledge transfer and the development of the next generation of government finance professionals.

Education

British Columbia Institute of Technology, British Columbia, Diploma of Technology, Financial Management specializing in Advanced Accounting

Position 3:

**Rafiu O. Ighile, CPA, Director of Finance,
City of Gaithersburg, Maryland**

**GFOA Activities**

- GFOA Member for 13 years
- Served on GFOA's Committee on Treasury and Investment Management for six years
- Past GFOA Annual Conference speaker on merchant card services in 2016

Contributions to the Profession/Jurisdiction

- In current role, manages all Finance functions, including Accounting, Budgeting, and Procurement
- Created the Grants Division to meet the grants accounting and reporting need of Howard County to ensure compliance with Office of Management and Budget requirements and regulations
- Established Debt and Cash Management function for Howard County to effectively manage the debt issuance and investment portfolio (treasury function) with total asset of over \$600 million
- While working as CFO for the Howard County Public School System, managed Finance, Budget, Benefits, and Technology functions. Implemented the use of Chromebooks for the schools with a student population of more than 59,000 to ensure that all students easily had access to the technology needed for their education
- Serves as Board Member for the Maryland GFOA; voted for the adoption of GFOA's Code of Ethics as the state chapter Code of Ethics
- Member of several organizations including Board of Trustees for the Maryland Local Government Investment Pool; Maryland Association of CPAs; Leadership Howard County; American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; and Institute of Management Accountants
- Participated in the Advanced Investment Management Program at the University of Pennsylvania, The Wharton School (2013)
- CPA; CGMA

Goals for GFOA

GFOA should continue to focus on educating its members through best practices, training, and conferences. GFOA best practices allow governmental entities to have a renowned benchmark that they can share with their elected officials as a model for achievement.

Training is another area that GFOA excels in and should always be a focal point to enhance the benefits of its members. A top priority for most governments is hiring and retaining great talent. Training these talents is critical to the fiscal well-being of governments.

Education

University of Maryland, University College School of Business Administration, MBA, and Advanced certificate in Accounting
Bendel State University, Nigeria, Bachelors of Science, Economics

Position 4:

**Brandon Kauffman, Finance Director,
City of Lincoln, Nebraska**

**GFOA Activities**

- GFOA Member for 11 years
- Currently serves on GFOA's Committee on Economic Development and Capital Planning; has assisted with best practice review and writing primers
- Advocated on behalf of GFOA members by discussing key priorities with elected officials and federal agencies during GFOA's Committee Meeting in Washington, DC, in 2018 and 2019
- Past moderator of GFOA Annual Conference sessions
- His City of Lincoln, Nebraska, has won GFOA's awards for Budget (1 year), CAFR (16 years), and PAFR (2 years)
- While working at the City of Topeka, Kansas, the City attained GFOA's Budget (20 years), CAFR (11 years), and PAFR (5 years) awards

Contributions to the Profession/Jurisdiction

- 18-year career in local government management and finance serving four governments in the Midwest
- Manage the development, implementation and evaluate the \$562 million budget for the City of Lincoln, Nebraska, in compliance with charter, ordinances, policy, and state requirements
- In current role, implemented new software for the budget, reporting, and agenda management for the City Clerk; implemented a new P-Card program
- While serving as Director of Finance and Administration for the City of Topeka, Kansas, worked to re-build the City's finances, receiving a bond upgrade, implemented transparency tools for enhanced financial reporting
- Currently serves as Secretary of the Great Plains GFOA and former Past President; Past President of the Kansas GFOA; ICMA member
- Volunteers as Treasurer for Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska; coaches youth basketball and officiates games; served on the boards for Leadership Butler County, Kansas, and the South Wichita YMCA
- CPFO

Goals for GFOA

I believe the primary objectives of GFOA should be for education and guidance of its members through research, training, support, and advocacy. This helps provide better policy and the pursuit of excellence in the public sector. Research is important to ensure that GFOA is preparing members with best practices and guidance in carrying out best financial operations. Training works to develop and educate members. Support can be furnished through multiple areas such as leadership development, career enhancement, and networking with other members. Advocacy at the federal level ensures that municipal interests are communicated at the national level, so policy makers understand the impacts to their constituents.

Education

Wichita State University, Master of Public Administration
Kansas State University, Bachelor of Science in Political Science

Position 5:

**Margaret Moggia, Executive Manager of Finance,
West Basin Municipal Water District, California**



GFOA Activities

- GFOA Member for 17 years
- Participated on the 2019 GFOA Local Conference Committee for the 113th Annual Conference in Los Angeles, California
- Member of GFOA's Women's Public Finance Network; served as Co-Chair to Mentorship Committee and oversaw the development of application and other resources to facilitate mentor relationships
- Participated in GFOA's Ethics Working Group, which helped develop GFOA's new Code of Ethics
- Served on GFOA's Committee on Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting from 2014 to 2019; participated in working groups and meetings to review best practices, comment on proposed GASB and AICPA guidelines
- Past GFOA Annual Conference session moderator
- Served as Reviewer for GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

Contributions to the Profession/Jurisdiction

- Actively manage the District's long-term financial planning through the development of financial models and financial policies, addressing unfunded liabilities, and work with municipal advisor to manage the District's debt portfolio. This includes the development of the District's annual budget to ensure that they meet the strategic goals, rate development and sales projections, and effectively plan for an extensive capital plan
- Worked on the development of a small and community banking program and business outreach program to engage with banks and vendors to increase community participation
- Held multiple leadership positions in professional associations: California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (Member since 2005; served as 2018 President, Chair of Conference Program Committee, Senior Advisor to Membership Committee, and past involvement with Career Development, Board Member, and served on several conference host committees); California Municipal Treasurer's Association (Member since 2007; served as 2016/2017 President, Membership Chair, and Conference Committee)
- Certified Public Financial Investment Manager, Association of Public Treasurers
- CPA

Goals for GFOA

GFOA's role should be to **educate, inform, and connect** its members:

Educate – GFOA should continue to evaluate courses and develop new courses that reflect today's hot topics

Inform – GFOA should continue to look for ways to inform its members through mailed notices, electronic newsletters, and social media outlets

Connect – GFOA should continue to find opportunities to connect its members through identifying more forums and networking opportunities.

Education

UC Santa Barbara, Bachelor of Arts in Accounting

2019-2020 GFOA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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