



## 2020 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

### ● SPECIAL SECTION

Like so many other conferences this spring, the GFOA conference planned for New Orleans, Louisiana, became virtual. More than **2,800 conference attendees** tuned in between May 18 and June 25, so we're calling it a success. Did you miss it, or are you looking for a refresher? Catch up with our special Virtual Conference Section.

### ● Executive Board Members | 10

GFOA welcomed six new board members to our Executive Board at our annual business meeting, held virtually on May 18. Meet our newest members and learn about the unique experience they bring to their board service.

### ● Hero Awards | 15

GFOA's Hero Award recognizes finance officers who have demonstrated extraordinary actions during a time of financial, natural, or human-made crisis. Read about this year's recipients.

### ● Conference Recap | 17

With a keynote, more than 40 sessions, a virtual exhibit hall, and a networking event, our 2020 Virtual Conference was a success. Our recap captures it all, from opening business to a sneak peek for 2021.

## Get to Know GFOA's President-Elect and New Executive Board Members

Government Finance Officers Association is governed by an 18-member Executive Board, which consists of 15 at-large members, the current president, the past president, and the president-elect.

At the association's annual business meeting on May 18, the following individuals were elected to GFOA's Executive Board.



**Michael A. Bryant**  
President-Elect

*Assistant County Manager,  
County of Mecklenburg,  
North Carolina*

Bryant has been a GFOA Member for 14 years and a member of GFOA's Executive Board (from 2017 to 2020). He's been an ex-officio member of GFOA's Committee on Economic Development and Capital Planning and a member of GFOA's Governmental Budgeting and Fiscal Policy Committee, in addition to serving as a reviewer for GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award program (from 2010 to 2011) and a member of GFOA's Black Caucus, as well as conducting GFOA training sessions. Mecklenburg County won GFOA's Award for Excellence for Financial Management in 2018, for Best Practices in Budget Monitoring and Reporting, and again in 2020, for its Budget Public Engagement Initiative.

As president-elect, Bryant's strategic focus will center on people, policy, and process:

- **People.** Meeting the needs of all GFOA members by promoting GFOA best practices.

- **Policy.** Promoting the importance of having a continuity of operations plan.
- **Process.** Helping every government focus on public engagement and financial transparency, emphasizing the role of the finance officer.

As assistant county manager for the County of Mecklenburg, Bryant provides executive oversight of the finance department and leads and facilitates the county commissioner's decision-making process on annual budget development activities [Mecklenburg has a \$2 billion operating budget]. He worked to transform the county's operating budget from a traditional department structure to a hybrid program-performance model.

Bryant has received the North Carolina Local Government Budget Association Lifetime Achievement Award, North Carolina Central University's "40 Under 40" award, and Community Buildings Initiative's "Leaders Under 40" award.

He is a current member and past Board Member of North Carolina Local Budget Association, and he has served as president and first vice president of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators Southern Piedmont Chapter and a member of the Arts and Science Council Board of Directors. He is also a member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

Bryant was on the Chancellor's Board of Visitors at North Carolina Central University, where he is a lecturer and Alumni chapter member. He

also served on the University of North Carolina-Charlotte MPA Advisory Board. Bryant is also a board member and mentor for Way Finders (a non-profit that provides the tools and guidance to help people avoid homelessness and live their best lives), a community volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, and a member of the Crisis Assistance Ministry Emergency Financial Assistance Committee.



**Laurie M. Brewer**  
New Board Member

*Assistant City Manager,  
City of Georgetown, Texas*

Brewer has been a member of GFOA for 20 years. She was a member of GFOA's Committee on Economic Development and Capital Planning (from 2014 to 2019) and a reviewer for GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award program for more than five years, as well as presenting training sessions.

Brewer supports GFOA's 2025 vision of its role as a resource, educator, facilitator, and advocate and feels that success will require the continued engagement of energetic and forward-thinking professionals. "We have to continue to be a relevant part of

the professional development of both new and tenured professionals," she stressed.

As assistant city manager for the City of Georgetown, Brewer coordinated an update of the city's Downtown Master Plan and implementation strategies, including initiating and executing a plan to relocate city offices from the downtown square to previously underutilized buildings off the square. The project helped drive additional economic development in the downtown by putting those buildings back on the tax rolls for mixed-used development. It also consolidated city offices into a campus environment, renovating older buildings and enhancing efficiency and effective service delivery. Brewer also directed the re-purposing of the city's historic fire station, which became the city's first art center, coordinating the historic preservation and construction, and partnering with a non-profit for operations and development of urban outdoor space to enhance public use.

Brewer is a member of ICMA, Texas City Management Association (where she serves on professional development committee), and Government Finance Officers Association of Texas (GFOAT, where she was regional director and is now a member of the Foundation Board). Brewer served on Envision Central Texas sustainable development review project committee and the Texas Municipal League Legislative

Committee. She is a Certified Government Finance Officer through the GFOAT and an ICMA Credentialed Manager.

She's also been a member of these community organizations: Williamson County United Way Board of Directors (2012 to 2015); MLK Day of Caring (2012, 2013); Georgetown Friends of the Library; Georgetown Heritage Society; Williamson County Museum; Georgetown Parks Pals; Georgetown Art Works; Lexington Youth Football League (board member, 2005 to 2008); and Lexington United Methodist Church Treasurer (1995 to 1998).



**Tanya Garost**  
New Board Member

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

Garost has been a GFOA member for four years and has served on GFOA's Committee on Canadian Issues. Under her leadership, the District of Lake Country has received GFOA's Canadian Award for Financial Reporting each year.

Garost is committed to making sure that GFOA provides the

tools and support to make sure that state, provincial, and local government finance officers have the skillset they need to make excellent contributions to their management teams and in service to their elected officials and citizens. This can be accomplished, she said, through comprehensive training, professional development, and resource offerings. Also, as we're in the middle of the Baby Boomer retirement and at a critical point in developing the next generation of government finance professionals, Garost said, GFOA plays an important role in assisting with that knowledge transfer and with developing the next generation of government finance professionals.

Before joining the District of Lake Country, Garost was general manager of finance and corporate services for the City of West Kelowna, British Columbia. There she led a team to negotiate a new long-term service agreement that allowed the city to provide fire services to the Westbank First Nation. She created a long-term fire services agreement and is currently working on servicing agreements with the neighboring First Nation band. Garost developed new reserve policies at both the District of Lake Country and the City of West Kelowna, relying heavily on the resources provided by GFOA, including best practices and conference presentations, to support

recommendations put forward to the mayor and council.

Garost served on the Government Finance Officers of British Columbia Board of Directors (2013 to 2019; as treasurer in 2016 and president for two terms 2017 and 2018). She is a CA and CPA.



#### **Rafiu O. Ighile, CPA**

*Director of Finance,  
City of Gaithersburg, Maryland*

Ighile has been a member of GFOA for 13 years. He was a member of GFOA's Committee on Treasury and Investment Management for six years.

Focusing on educating members through best practices, training, and conferences is Ighile's goal for GFOA. The association's best practices provide governmental entities with a renowned benchmark that they can share with their elected officials as a model for achievement, he noted. GFOA also excels at training, which should always be a focal point to enhance the benefits of its members, Ighile said. Hiring and retaining great talent is top priority for most governments, and training these talents is critical to the fiscal well-being of governments.

At the City of Gaithersburg, Ighile manages all finance functions, including accounting, budgeting, and procurement. He created the city's Grants Division to meet the grants accounting. In his previous position, as chief finance officer for the Howard County (Maryland) Public School System, he managed the finance, budget, benefits, and technology functions. Ighile also implemented the use of Chromebooks for the schools with a student population of more than 59,000 to ensure that all students had easy access to the technology needed for their educations. Before that, as deputy director of finance for Howard County (Maryland) Government, Ighile ensured compliance with Office of Management and Budget requirements and regulations. He also established the debt and cash management function for the county, allowing it to effectively manage the debt issuance and investment portfolio (treasury function).

Ighile is a member for the Maryland GFOA board, where he voted for the adoption of GFOA's Code of Ethics as the state chapter Code of Ethics. He is a member of several other 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 the Institute of Management Accountants. He is a CPA and CGMA.



### **Brandon Kauffman**

*Finance Director,  
City of Lincoln, Nebraska*

Kauffman has been a GFOA member for 11 years. He has served on GFOA's Committee on Economic Development and Capital Planning and has assisted with best practice review and writing primers. He also advocated on behalf of GFOA members during GFOA's Committee Meetings, discussing key priorities with elected officials and federal agencies in Washington, D.C. (in 2018 and 2019). Under his leadership, the City of Lincoln won GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award once, the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR) award for 11 years, and the Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR) award for two years. Under his leadership at the City of Topeka, Kansas, the city attained the GFOA's CAFR, PAFR, and Budget Presentation Award for every year of his 3-year tenure.

Kauffman believes that GFOA's primary objectives should be the education and guidance of its members through research,

training, support, and advocacy, which will provide better policy and an enhanced pursuit of excellence in the public sector. Research ensures 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 areas including leadership development, career enhancement, and networking with other members. Federal advocacy ensures that municipal interests are communicated at the national level, so policy makers understand the impacts their decisions have on their constituents.

At the City of Lincoln, Kauffman manages the development, implementation, and evaluation of the city's \$562 million budget, in compliance with charter, ordinances, policy, and state requirements. He implemented new software for Lincoln's budget, reporting, and agenda management for the City Clerk and implemented a new P-Card program. In his previous role as director of finance and administration for the City of Topeka, Kansas, he worked to rebuild the city's finances, achieve a bond upgrade, and implement transparency tools for enhanced financial reporting.

Kauffman is a member of the Great Plains GFOA (current secretary and former president), Kansas GFOA (past president), and ICMA. He volunteers as Treasurer for Catholic Social

Services of Southern Nebraska; coaches youth basketball and officiates games; and has served on the boards of Leadership Butler County, Kansas, and the South Wichita YMCA. He is a CPFO.



### **Margaret Moggia**

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

Moggia has been a GFOA Member for 17 years. She was a member of GFOA's Committee on Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting (2014 to 2019) and the 2019 GFOA Local Conference Committee for GFOA's 113th Annual Conference in Los Angeles, California. Moggia is a member of GFOA's Women's Public Finance Network, where she was co-chair to the Mentorship Committee and oversaw the development of application and other resources to facilitate mentor relationships. She also participated in GFOA's Ethics Working Group, which helped develop the association's new Code of Ethics, and she has been a reviewer for GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award program.



Moggia sums up her vision for GFOA in three words: educate, inform, and connect.

- **Educate.** Continue to evaluate courses and develop new courses that reflect today's hot topics.
- **Inform.** Continue to look for ways to inform members through mailed notices, electronic newsletters, and social media outlets.
- **Connect.** Continue to find opportunities to help members connect by identifying more forums and networking opportunities.

Moggia actively manages the West Basin Municipal Water District's long-term financial planning through the development of financial models and financial policies, addressing unfunded liabilities. She also works with a municipal advisor to manage the district's debt portfolio. She's responsible for the development of the district's annual budget, ensuring it meets its strategic goals and rate development and sales projections, and effectively managing the district's extensive capital plan. Moggia also worked on the development of a small and community banking program and business outreach program to engage with banks and vendors, helping increase community participation.

Moggia is a long-time member California Society of Municipal Finance Officers board (president in 2018 and former Conference Program Committee chair, Membership Committee senior advisor) and the California Municipal Treasurer's Association (president, 2016/2017). She is a Certified Public Financial Investment Manager through the Association of Public Treasurers and is also a CPA. 



**Are you interested in being considered for GFOA's Executive Board? Watch GFOA's weekly newsletter and our website this fall for an application.**



## 2020 HERO AWARDS

# Leadership to Inspire

We're proud to announce the winners of GFOA's second annual Hero Awards—finance officers who have demonstrated extraordinary actions during a time of financial, natural, or human-made crisis. Our heroes—Dayton, Ohio's **LaShea Lofton** and **John Troyer** of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina—were selected by the GFOA Executive Board Hero Award Committee for spectacular feats of leadership over the past year.

GFOA recognized its Hero Award recipients during its 2020 Virtual Conference.



### **LaShea Lofton**

*Finance Director,  
City of Dayton, Ohio*

LaShea Lofton had a lot to deal with in 2019.

There are water main breaks, and then there are water main breaks. The one Dayton experienced on February 13 was extraordinary. A 36-inch transmission pipe in the

middle of the Great Miami River broke, ultimately spilling 150 million gallons of drinking water. Not only was the break hard to find and get to, but the river was at flood stage, meaning it was murky and moving fast. The city had to find and fix the leak, creating an emergency operations center with department heads and city leaders. Citizens were left without water service for several days, and the emergency ultimately affected more than 400,000 people. The broken line was fully repaired several months later, costing the city more than \$860,000.

Then in May, the Ku Klux Klan held a rally in downtown Dayton. Administrators spent months preparing a coordinated public safety response that cost the city more than \$650,000. More than 350 police officers were assembled to keep the peace, at a cost of roughly \$250,00, and another \$400,000 was needed for materials. Ultimately, the nine Klan members showed up for the rally were massively outnumbered by 600 or so peaceful protesters, and there were no arrests, citations, or use of force—an ideal outcome, even though some thought it meant the response had been overkill. But if the rally had turned violent and the city hadn't prepared, the outcome could have been tragic.

This highlights the impossible position many municipalities find themselves in. They can't deny groups the right to peaceably assemble in public spaces, even the KKK. But if a gathering is likely to turn violent, governments have to take every precaution and spend whatever is necessary. And there's no real way to recoup the costs. [State

Senator Cecil Thomas, a former Cincinnati councilman and executive director of the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission, offered a partial solution, according to the Cincinnati Enquirer: After several years of Klan gatherings in Cincinnati in the late 1990s, "The city sent the Klan a bill for \$17,000 for all of the security costs. We told them the only way they were allowed to come back is they had to pay that bill," Thomas told the newspaper. "They haven't come back since."]

But there was more to come. Also in May 2019, more than a dozen tornadoes swept through the Dayton region, injuring more than 200 people. Several tornadoes touched down in highly populated areas of, destroying 942 homes in the area; another 837 homes received at least minor damage. The city has spent millions of dollars following the Memorial Day tornadoes, and those costs were expected to have an impact on the next year's budget, city officials told WDTN at the time. They explained that the city was diverting resources to pay for the disaster response. The area received a federal disaster designation, and Dayton applied for FEMA assistance, which would cover up to 75 percent of its tornado-related expenses.

But the worst was yet to come. In August 2019 Dayton was the site of a mass shooting in the Oregon District. Nine people were killed in 32 seconds, and 32 were injured.

Through it all, Lofton worked with departments citywide to ensure that taxpayer dollars were accounted for. She coordinated with federal and state agencies to ensure maximum federal reimbursements and guided the departments to ensure that the city maintained transparency and accountability.



## John Troyer

*Finance Director,  
Town of Hilton Head  
Island, South Carolina*

Drawing on experiences with Hurricanes Matthew (2016), Irma (2017), and Dorian (2018), the Town of Hilton Head increased its reserved debt capacity. In early

September 2019, when Hurricane Dorian passed by the town to hit other areas in the state, Hilton Head was able to send first responders to some of the affected jurisdictions, helping them with their responses, under Troyer's leadership.

So far, the town has collected more than \$40 million in federal and state reimbursements for more than \$50 million spent on those responses. Troyer has provided an excellent example of helping the emergency planning, and training departments work together in a time of emergency. 🏆



**Do you have a finance office hero  
you'd like to nominate for 2021?  
(That can include yourself!)**

**Please share—we could all use some  
inspiration. Applications will be  
announced early next year in GFOA's  
newsletter and on our website.**





2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# A Virtual Success

**G**FOA's 2020 conference was something of a triumph over unforeseen difficulties. We'd planned an impressive event in New Orleans, Louisiana, in May, but of course the COVID-19 pandemic made that impossible. We immediately decided, however, that just because we couldn't hold the conference in person didn't mean we couldn't hold the conference. And thus, GFOA's 2020 Virtual Conference was born! The event was held from May 18 to June 25 and was virtually attended by more than 2,800 participants.

Here's the rundown.

## The Annual Business Meeting

GFOA Executive Director/CEO Chris Morrill welcomed online attendees on May 18 and introduced GFOA President Terry S. Stone, assistant superintendent for business and operations, Hanover County Public Schools, Ashland, Virginia.

**The president's address.** Stone acknowledged that we're in a very different place than we were last year, when she began her service as president. She went on to discuss that "beyond the personal toll

the pandemic has taken on all of us, COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on state/provincial and local government revenue and impacted expenditures at a time when our jurisdictions need to provide resources and support to our front line workers who are making a heroic effort to keep our communities safe."

She also noted that like our members, GFOA has adapted to these challenging times by establishing the Coronavirus Resource Center ([gfoa.org/coronavirus](https://gfoa.org/coronavirus)) and Fiscal First Aid Resource Center ([gfoa.org/ffa](https://gfoa.org/ffa)), which provide research papers, complimentary webinars, news updates, podcasts, resources from partner organizations, and other tools to assist the issues the GFOA community is facing in responding to COVID-19.

She concluded with a message of support: "I want you to know that the entire GFOA staff is committed to serving you—so that you can better serve your communities—particularly in a time of crisis like you currently face."

**Policy Statement.** Members voted and approved the policy statement, *The Financial Accounting Foundation Board of Trustees Should Provide Governmental*



“The entire GFOA staff is committed to serving you—so that you can better serve your communities—particularly in a time of crisis like you currently face.”

GFOA Past President  
Terry Stone

*Trustees and State and Local Government Associations with Meaningful Input on GASB Appointments.* Read a description at [gfoa.org/materials](https://gfoa.org/materials).

**New Executive Board Members.** The association’s members elected a new GFOA president-elect and five new members-at-large, who will each serve a three-year term beginning immediately. The president-elect is Michael A. Bryant, assistant county manager for the County of Mecklenburg, North Carolina. The members-at-large are: Laurie M. Brewer, assistant city manager for the City of Georgetown, Texas; Tanya Garost, chief financial officer for the District of Lake Country, British Columbia, Canada; Rafiu O. Ighile, CPA, director of finance for the City of Gaithersburg, Maryland; Brandon Kauffman, finance director for the City of Lincoln, Nebraska; and Margaret Moggia, executive manager of finance, West Basin Municipal Water District, California.

In case you skipped ahead, you can go back and read their profiles on page 10.

**Passing of the presidential gavel.** GFOA President Terry Stone passed the presidential gavel to Marion M. Gee, director of finance, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, St. Louis, Missouri. Gee talked about the strength of GFOA and said, “We are not letting COVID-19 slow down any of the new programs we’ve been working on.” He outlined some of GFOA’s major initiatives for the remainder of the year, including the release of *Governmental Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting (GAAFR)*, or the “Blue Book”—which you can purchase at [gfoa.org](https://gfoa.org); GFOA’s redesigned website; our new learning management system; and a refreshed Certified Public Finance Officer program.

Gee concluded that “GFOA’s strength is its members—dedicated public servants like you who are making a difference

every day in their communities. As our states, provinces, cities, counties, and special districts face the greatest financial challenges in generations, your leadership is more important than ever.”

## COVID-19 Keynote Roundtable

GFOA members and conference registrants tuned in on the afternoon of May 18 to listen to a panel discussion on the critical role that state and local governments play and the services they provide as the situation of COVID-19 evolves. GFOA Federal Liaison Director Emily S. Brock and, Indiana Finance Authority Public Finance Director Dan Huge moderated. Speakers included Senator Bob Menendez (New Jersey), Senator Bill Cassidy (Louisiana), Representative Dutch Ruppersberger (Maryland–2nd District), Representative Steve Stivers (Ohio–15th District), Representative Brad Schneider (Illinois–10th District), and Kent Hiteshew, who the Federal Reserve hired at the end of March to help with its municipal market expertise. Attendees were able to get answers and updates on the CARES Act, Families First Coronavirus Relief Act, the proposed HEROES Act, municipal liquidity facility, and more.

The Congressional leaders urged GFOA members to reach out to their local representatives to talk about their experiences and what resources are needed, and to provide feedback on how their governments are being affected by the new laws passed in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

If you need contact information for your representatives, please e-mail GFOA’s Federal Liaison Center at [flc@gfoa.org](mailto:flc@gfoa.org).

An archived recording of the roundtable discussion—complimentary to all GFOA members—will be available on the Virtual Conference site at [gfoavirtual.elevate.commpartners.com](https://gfoavirtual.elevate.commpartners.com) until September 30.



2020 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

4 weeks      40+ sessions      2,800+ participants

### Hero Awards

GFOA's Second Annual Hero Award recipients were announced during the Virtual Conference. The award recognizes finance officers who have demonstrated extraordinary actions during a time of financial, natural, or human-made crisis. Read about this year's recipients on page 15.

### GFOA Groups

**Black Caucus.** GFOA's Black Caucus held its annual business meeting on June 9. To learn more about GFOA's Black Caucus and to join, go to [gfoa.org/black-caucus](https://gfoa.org/black-caucus).

**Women's Public Finance Network.** GFOA's Women's Public Finance Network held its annual business meeting on June 10. Learn how to get more involved with the group and how to join at [gfoa.org/wpfn](https://gfoa.org/wpfn).

### Social Events

**Past Presidents.** Nearly 30 GFOA past presidents and GFOA staff members gathered virtually on May 19 to catch up and kick-off the start of the Virtual Conference.

### Virtual Sponsors and Exhibit Hall

GFOA would like to thank this year's sponsors and exhibitors for their commitment to the government finance profession! Visit the "Sponsors" and "Exhibit Hall" tabs on the Virtual Conference site ([gfoavirtual.elevate.commpartners.com](https://gfoavirtual.elevate.commpartners.com)) until September 30 to learn about the industry's leading vendors serving governments. Click on each logo tile to engage with the company and their teams through videos, meetings, articles, and other resources. The site is available on demand so continue to check back often to help provide your organization with top resources.

### Sessions

Nearly 120 speakers presented more than 40 sessions that were streamed between May 18 and June 25. Speakers covered familiar core topics like accounting, budgeting, treasury management, and debt and



**"As our states, provinces, cities, counties, and special districts face the greatest financial challenges in generations, your leadership is more important than ever."**

GFOA President  
Marion M. Gee





also provided new tools and leadership skills to help attendees steer their jurisdictions through the pandemic. Participants were able to ask questions, answer live polls, and chat with presenters and other attendees on the Virtual Conference site. They also engaged with GFOA's interactive communities on the event mobile app, Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. The Virtual Conference allowed participants an opportunity to earn more than 40 CPE credits. All attendees also received access to view session recordings until September 30 on the Virtual Conference site.

**Ask the Expert.** Many attendees participated in weekly "Ask the Expert" sessions, where they were able to ask public finance experts in specialized areas questions about how they're addressing their organizations' issues. Topics included COVID-19 response; fiscal first aid; the CPFO program, committees, Executive Board, and other ways to engage with GFOA; and accounting and financial reporting.

**Archived recordings.** The virtual sessions were recorded and posted one week after the live sessions took place. Virtual Conference registrants are invited to view the recordings at their convenience until September 30. (CPE credits are not awarded for viewing the recordings.)

#### **Learning management system.**

GFOA's new learning management system provides more ways for you to build your professional skills, including bringing the courses right to your computer, on your own schedule. If you couldn't participate in this year's Virtual Conference, keep watch to sign up to view the session recordings at [gfoa.org](http://gfoa.org). (CPE credits are not awarded for viewing the recordings.)

**Session highlights.** Here's a sampling of some of this year's offerings.

#### ***Accounting and Auditing Year in Review***

*(May 18).* Kinney Poynter, executive director of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers, kicked things off with a discussion about the likely audit implications of COVID-19 federal funding for state and local governments, as well as the impact of the GREAT Act and proposed changes to uniform guidance for federal grant funds. Next, David Bean, director of research and technical activities for the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), discussed three major projects related to the financial reporting model and recognition of revenue and expenses, all of which will result in due-process documents being issued by June 30, 2020. Finally, Michele Mark Levine, GFOA's director

Multiple congressional leaders participated in the COVID-19 keynote roundtable on May 18, including Representative Brad Schneider (Illinois – 10th District), pictured above. The discussion was moderated by GFOA Federal Liaison Director Emily S. Brock and Indiana Finance Authority Public Finance Director Dan Huge (also pictured).



of technical services, reviewed major provisions of GASB Statements numbers 92 to 95, GASB Implementation Guide number 2020-1, and expected provisions of two standards expected to be issued in final form by June 30, 2020.

#### ***Enterprising Accounting: Business-Type Activities and Proprietary Funds***

*(May 20).* Margaret Moggia, executive manager of finance for the West Basin Municipal Water District, California, spoke about understanding your financial future, potential drivers of your budget, the impact of COVID-19 on your operations, and how to prepare for the upcoming GASB pronouncements. Next, Diane Reichard, chief financial officer for the City of Plant City, Florida, discussed setting user charges and fees, revenue sufficiency study and rate analysis, what costs should be covered, options for funding capital assets, and fund balance reserve policy. Ted Phillips, chief financial officer for Huntsville Utilities, Alabama, covered GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases*, and accounting and financial reporting for leases from the lessee perspective.

#### ***Preventing Fraud Before It Happens... Uncovering Fraud When It Does***

*(May 20).* A fraud event can happen to any government at any time. Randy Sherman, director of finance and administrative services for the City of Riviera Beach, Florida, and Louis Boglioli, financial services director for the City of Stuart, Florida, talked about the unexpected cyberattacks they experienced at their small, seemingly safe governments. A main take-away was that even small governments can be vulnerable, so preparation is key. It is critical to have an emergency plan in place in the case of an external fraud event. Governments should ensure that data are backed up and can be accessed for basic operations. Karen Karwoski, senior vice president and treasury management executive for

Simmons Bank, spoke to the importance of a banking relationship when creating an emergency plan in the event of a cyberattack. Your bank has resources and planning tools to help you stay safe and to prepare.

#### ***Financial Transparency in an Age of Excessive Data Availability***

*(May 21).* Ron Galperin, city controller for the City of Los Angeles, California, and Debbie Chiu, budget operations manager for the City of Kansas City, Missouri, discussed the increasing availability of data and how they cut through the noise by providing context to their budget data through stories; educating the public through financial transparency; giving meaning to the information behind the numbers by connecting it to services; telling stories with the comprehensive annual financial report and large data sets; using big data to communicate a specific message about relevant challenges, such as finding foodbanks during COVID-19; using data visualization to create the message; and using data mapping to provide focus and meaning.

***Incremental Steps to Move Away from Incremental Budgeting*** *(May 27).* Speakers Patti Hetrick, budget director for Anoka County, Minnesota; Brad Harris, finance and accounting consultant for the University of Tennessee–MTAS; and Walter C. Rossmann, director of finance for the City of Milpitas, California, covered why incremental budgeting is easy, and why so many governments use it. They also addressed why it's not the best approach; better budgeting approaches; tools governments can use to change; and how to get buy-in from leadership when making a change from incremental budgeting to a better approach.

The complete list of Virtual Conference sessions is available at [gfoa.org](https://gfoa.org). 📄



**CHICAGO**

**JUNE 27-30, 2021**

### **Save the Date**

GFOA's 115th Annual Conference will take place on **June 27-30, 2021**, at the Hyatt Regency & Swiss Hotel Chicago, Chicago, Illinois. Check back on GFOA's website for registration to open later in the year.



### **Continue the Conversation**

Join the discussion on GFOA's social media sites:



**GFOA Members Forum**



**@GFOA**  
**(#GFOA2020 and #GFOA)**



**GFOA of the US & Canada**  
**GFOA Members Group**



**\_gfoa**



## 2020 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

GFOA would like to thank the following sponsors of our virtual conference.

Learn more about them and engage with their teams through videos, meetings, demos, and articles at [gfoavirtual.elevate.commpartners.com](https://gfoavirtual.elevate.commpartners.com).

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