



The Messenger

A newsletter for Michigan Government Finance Professionals

From the Board

We last met with many of you in East Lansing for the 2023 Spring Seminar with an impending snow storm that did not deter many as we had remarkable attendance of 200. It was an excellent agenda and we extend our thanks once again to the Spring Seminar committee. A few additional items of note on Board activity since our last communication. The Board has:

- Submitted a comment letter to the GASB drafted by the Accounting Standards Committee Additional Proposal for Implementation Guidance Update Exposure Draft -2023 (Project 24-16g-s).
- Held a successful Michigan Chapter Social Event at the GFOA Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon where over 70 Michigan Government Finance Officers attended.
- Continued membership recruitment efforts, including sponsoring a booth at the Michigan Township Association conference that has lead to communications with Saginaw Valley State University regarding student recruitment coordination.

Some additional items of mention:

Treasurer Adam Bonarek reports membership remains strong with 695 active members as of May 2023.

The GFOA Detroit sub-committee continues to explore the possibility of hosting a GFOA Conference in the City of Detroit in the next application cycle beginning with the 2029 conference. They have reached out to GFOA staff and Board Members to make the case for Detroit.

Board applications will be posted soon and will be due at the end of August. Watch for that opportunity to expand your contribution to the organization and engage with colleagues across the state.

Board meetings take place the second Thursday of each month and are open to members who would like to attend. Meetings are held via Zoom although several meetings this year will be in-person with a Zoom option. For meeting details contact MGFOA Executive Director Bob Hertel at executive@MiGFOA.org.

Local Government Advisory Team Updates

The Michigan Department of Treasury’s next Local Government Advisory Team (LGAT) meeting will be held on Monday, July 17th.

During LGAT meetings, Treasury staff cover topics such as legislative developments, general administration topics, State Tax Commission updates, and roundtable discussions with members. Members include representatives from MML, MTA, MAC, MGFOA, the auditing industry, regional planning agencies, local government, and MMSA.

You can find minutes from prior LGAT meetings by logging in to the MGFOA website and selecting minutes from the dropdown. You can also find more information about this team on the Involvement page of the website.

Contact MGFOA Representative Beth Friend with any questions regarding the LGAT or comments you would like conveyed to the Treasury. Beth can be reached at bfriend@eastbaytwp.org or (231) 947-8719.

Upcoming Training & Seminars

The 2023 training year is in full swing. This month features Yearend Financial Statements & Closing Adjustments on Thursday, June 22. Back to Basics 2023 Sessions 1 & 2 are complete and Session 3 will be held Tuesday, October 24. As a reminder, those attending all three Back to Basics sessions within a two-year period receive free attendance at the next MGFOA Spring Seminar and a certificate of recognition as a Back to Basics graduate.

Members can also take advantage of online courses covering such topics as the recent Arbitrage Rebate session at any time for free or a minimal fee by visiting the MGFOA website:
<https://www.migfoa.org/Members/Webinars>.

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| MGFOA Spring Seminar | MGFOA Fall Institute |
| MSU Kellogg Center | Boyne Mountain Resort |
| East Lansing, Michigan | Boyne, Michigan |
| Friday, March 8, 2024 | October 8 - 11, 2023 |

Accounting Standards

Plante Moran Principal Marie Stiegel and Principal William (Bill) Tucker of Maner Costerisan serve as Chairpersons for the Accounting Standards Committee. Marie & Bill report that the Accounting Standards Committee is currently focused on continuing their work on updating two MGCCA Statements (No. 4 and No. 10). GASB is expected to release one exposure draft in the third quarter of 2023 which the committee will review and respond to.

Remaining committee dates for 2023 are June 16 and August 11. Committee meetings are held at Hartland Township Hall 2655 Clark Road, Hartland MI 48353 with an MS Teams option. Contact btucker@manercpa.com or marie.stiegel@plantemoran.com for further information or to join the Accounting Standards Committee.

Legislative

The Legislative committee is currently monitoring activity surrounding (1) a package of bills focused on implementation of Proposal 2 which passed in November 2022 and codified certain key voting rights for Michigan residents and (2) legislation regarding veteran exemptions. They would also like to call member attention to new eligible millage rate calculations for 2023 personal property tax calculations which can be found on the Treasury website under "Millage Rate Comparison Reports". The committee meets virtually on Fridays at 9am. Remaining 2023 meeting dates are: September 15, November 3 and December 5 and are held jointly with the Michigan Municipal Treasurer's Association. Contact Chairpersons Peter McGregor (peter.macgregor@kentcountymi.gov) and Brodie Killian (killianb@stifel.com) for further information.

Mentoring & Membership

The Mentoring & Membership Committee is pleased to invite all members to the first Virtual Wellness Forum taking place on Wednesday, June 14 from 12:15pm to 12:55pm. This free, Zoom session will be led by Health Coach Susan Burbank. The topic will be Understanding the Pillars of Wellness. Join your MGFOA colleagues in a short break supporting your personal well-being .

Also, if you have not renewed your membership for the current year please do so as soon as possible!

The Membership & Mentoring committee meets the third Monday of every month at 2pm and is always accepting new members. For further information contact co-chairpersons Kari Blanchett (blanchettk@pfm.com) or Tahsha Mitchell (mitchellt@pfmam.com).

Professional Development

In addition to supporting current year course offerings the PDC committee has: looked at additional offerings and added an "Arbitrage" webinar that had over 80 participants in May; worked to find a way to offer hybrid trainings, recommended purchase of two OWLs to aid in this effort in conjunction with the Technology Resources Committee; and, set the training schedule for 2023 including return to live sessions for back to basics.

You do not need to be a part of the committee to share your thoughts on topics of interest or input on your training experience. Feel free to reach out to our Professional Development committee chairpersons Kari Shea (kari.shea@plantemoran.com) and Bill Brickey (william.brickey@plantemoran.com) or consider joining to lend your support to these important committee efforts.

Technology Resources

The Technology Resource Committee meets the first Friday of every other month from 9am to 10am via Zoom. Their next meeting is Friday, August 4.

Co-chairpersons Ben Stone (bstone@ibcp.com) and Mark Warner (mark.warner@plantemoran.com) note the committee's most recent efforts include: working with the Professional Development Committee in the in the research and testing of the Whova app, which made its test run at Spring Seminar and will be fully utilized at the Fall Conference; researching an OWL Camera which will allow for more effective hybrid training and conference options; making a recommendation to the board that led to the purchase of two OWL units; and, welcoming two new members. Matt Lane from Great Lakes Water Authority and Kyle Kitmiller from Core Business Technologies.

Member Spotlight

Congratulations to Washtenaw County Treasurer Catherine McClary and Chief Deputy Treasurer Kirsten Osburn whose team was recently recognized by the GFOA with a 2022 Award for Excellence as a "shining example of innovation" for their work integrating robotic process automation software robots (bots) into their process of receiving and recording revenue. The bots are now in place and will save 450 staff hours annually for as long as the software is in use and allowing staff hours to focus on more value-added tasks.

McClary and Osburn were recognized along with six other municipalities across the United States and Canada for their efforts in leading outstanding financial management innovation. You can learn more about these projects at www.gfoa.org/2022-awards-for-excellence-winners.