



Board Members			Committee Chairs		
President	<b>Cindy West</b>	Present	Annual Conference	<b>Ryan Luckett</b>	Present
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	<b>Linda Cook</b>	Present	Career Development	<b>Tamara Ellison</b>	Absent
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	<b>Ashlan Troutman-Webb</b>	Present	Communications	<b>Melanie Chandler</b>	Present
Treasurer	<b>Donna McGinnis</b>	Present	Government Relations/Strategic Planning	<b>Carlos Encinas</b>	Absent
Secretary	<b>Tashana Rivers</b>	Present	Membership	<b>Marlena Joseph</b>	Absent
Director	<b>Amy Bennett</b>	Present	Scholarship/Awards	<b>Ivey Adams</b>	Present
Director	<b>Ramona Bivins</b>	Present	Technical Resources	<b>Kevin Hutcheson</b>	Present
Past President	<b>Sheryl Bowman</b>	Present	Technical Resources	<b>Jennifer Chamblee</b>	Present
Director	<b>Jennifer Fricks</b>	Present	Administrative	<b>Sue Joe</b>	Absent
Director	<b>Susan Van Nus</b>	Present			
Historian	<b>Angie Sorrow</b>	Present			

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Cindy West called the meeting to order at 12:46 p.m. and recognized our sponsors and contributors, thanking them for being a part of GGFOA and supporting GGFOA every year.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Copies of the October 10, 2023 Business Luncheon Meeting were available on every table for inspection. A motion to approve the minutes for the Annual Business Luncheon Meeting was made by Kevin Bush and seconded by Alicia Page. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**TREASURY REPORT**

Donna McGinnis presented the FY 2024 Financial Reports, year to date. The current balance is \$583,545.18, with \$184,741.42 at Truist Bank and \$398,803.76 at Vanguard as of September 30, 2024. Copies of the Balance Sheet as of 9/30/2024, the Profit and Loss statement November 2023-September 2024, and a Budgetary Overview report for each month FY 2024 were available on every table for inspection. Members were given an opportunity for discussion. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Phylcia Kent, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kevin Hutcheson. **Motion passed unanimously.**



### **GFOA UPDATE**

Shayne Kavanagh with GFOA gave an update on the various services provided by GFOA, including the budgeting resources on the GFOA website. He mentioned to tune in for 2024 GAAP update offered next month. Shayne announced a new GFOA initiative in education, On-Demand Learning, an accredited self-study training program. He also announced a 3-part Webinar Series through GFOA: Optimism for the Finance Officer. He said to keep an eye out for his personal favorite, an A.I. update, as well as a forthcoming ChatGFOA tool. Lastly, Shayne encouraged everyone to enter the GFOA Mental Model Makeover Challenge; 1<sup>st</sup> prize is an all expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. to attend the 2025 GFOA Annual Conference.

### **GGFOA – YEAR IN REVIEW**

President Cindy West reported on the year in review, including many opportunities for GGFOA members to acquire training online as well as by attending the many relevant classes offered at the Annual GGFOA Conference. She announced that a member of the GGFOA Board is available to formally present your GFOA National Award at your jurisdiction, and to send a request through the GGFOA website. Cindy thanked everyone who stopped by the Scholarship table to sign-up to volunteer on one or more GGFOA Committees, and thanked all those who've supported the GGFOA scholarships. She also thanked the committees and the board for their hard work and dedication working together for many months to assemble a successful conference. She thanked the sponsors for their support and gave thanks to Carl Vinson Institute of Government for all their hard work and effort working in partnership with the GGFOA committee members in order to ensure a great conference. Finally, Cindy thanked all of the speakers and moderators for their time, knowledge and professionalism.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Annual Conference** - Ryan Lockett stated it was an honor to serve this year as your conference committee chair. The conference committee worked hard to coordinate the extra Sunday afternoon sessions, the wonderful dinners, and our Sunday and Tuesday evening entertainment with help through our partnership of respected sponsors. Ryan reminded all to please fill out the surveys as we do read all the comments in order to improve your experience. He encouraged others to get involved with GGFOA. The Conference Committee members were recognized and thanked. Ryan also thanked our president Cindy West, John Hulsey with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, as well as Tracy Arner and Breanna Matheson with CVIOG for all their help.



**Career Development** - Chair Tamara Ellison has had interest from several members to join the committee. She is awaiting the next Wednesday News You Can Use webinar details, and reported a great turnout for the September 18<sup>th</sup> webinar on Post-Issuance Compliance on Tax Exempt Debt.

**Communications** – Melanie Chandler reported that the Communications Committee produces 4 quarterly e-newsletters each year, with the following one going out next month. She mentioned if anyone would like to contribute content to please let her know.

**Membership** – In Marlena Joseph’s absence, Sheryl Bowman reported the GGFOA membership has grown by approximately 12%. The 995 members are comprised of 883 regular members, 90 associates, 7 retirees, 7 educators, and 8 student members.

**Scholarship/Awards** – Ivy Adams was delighted to report that all 500 scholarship raffle tickets had been sold! She thanked everyone for their support of the fundraising raffle including sponsors, members, and all who helped work the scholarship booth. Ivy recognized the scholarship committee members and announced the 2024 GGFOA Scholarship recipients.

**Technical Resources** – Kevin Hutcheson with co-chair Jennifer Chamblee said that updating the new website has gone well. They are currently working on the website’s I.P. compliance.

**Government Relations/Strategic Planning** – This committee is responsible for providing legislative updates that are relevant to GGFOA. Carlos Encinas will be preparing a report to summarize bills before the Georgia General Assembly that may be of interest to GGFOA members. Look in the spring eNewsletter for detailed information of legislative session.

**RECOGNITION OF CARL VINSON LOCAL FINANCE OFFICER GRADUATES** – John Hulsey affirmed Carl Vinson Institute’s core value is education and is committed to excellence in government. He recognized the approximately 62 new FY 2024 graduates of the Local Government Finance Officer program. The program is a partnership and collaboration between GGFOA and CVIOG to provide Level I and Level II certification as well as continuing education hours. John also recognized past participants of the program and asked them to stand.

**RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC FINANCE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GRADUATES** – John Hulsey stated PFLA is a cohort program launched in 2020 with the focus on leadership and financial skills for government leaders. He recognized past participants of the program and asked them to stand. He reported to date they have graduated 56 participants with 20 applicants slated as cohorts for the 2024-2025 program which begins at the end of the month in Athens.



**RECOGNITION OF 2023-2024 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS** – President Cindy West recognized the GGFOA officers and committee chairs who served this past year and presented them with plaques in recognition of their service and volunteerism, acknowledged by all in attendance.

**PRESENTATION OF SERVICE AWARD** – In recognition of his spirit of volunteerism in promoting the purpose of GGFOA, Cindy West presented Conference Chair Ryan Luckett with the GGFOA Service Award.

**PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT’S AWARD** – In recognition for her many years of leadership and contributions to GGFOA, Cindy West presented past president Angie Sorrow with the President’s Award for Outstanding Service.

**PRESENTATION OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS** – Scholarship Chair Ivy Adams presented GGFOA scholarship award certificates to those recipients in attendance. The 2024 Scholarship Recipients were:

**GGFOA/GFOA Leadership Academy Scholarship:**

- Tifanie Cheng, Camden County

**Jim Pehrson Conference Scholarship:**

- Macey Bryan, Putnam County
- Joseph Martin, Warner Robins

**Public Finance Leadership Academy (PFLA) Scholarship:**

- Beverly Hilton, City of Tucker
- Chere Rucker, City of Flowery Branch

**Level I Certified Finance Officer Scholarship:**

- Sierra Maus, Camden County
- Misty Schrock, Floyd County
- Tameka West, Henry County

**Level II Certified Finance Officer Scholarship:**

- Sloan Jinks, Henry County

**RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS** – Cindy West thanked all past GGFOA presidents for their service and asked them to stand and be recognized.



**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT** – Sheryl Bowman, past president, presented the 2024-2025 board members as follows:

President – Linda Cook  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Ashlan Troutman Webb  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Donna McGinnis  
Treasurer – Tashana Rivers  
Secretary – Susan Van Nus  
Director – Jennifer Fricks  
Director – Amy Bennett  
Director – Ryan Lockett  
Director – Ramona Bivins  
Historian – Sheryl Bowman  
Past President – Cindy West

**APPROVAL OF SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025 YEAR** – Inquiry for nominations from the floor was asked by Sheryl Bowman. Motion to approve the slate of officers as listed for 2024-2025 was made by Kevin Hutcheson and seconded by Geneva Thomas. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**OATH OF OFFICE** – John Hulsey administered the Oath of Office to the 2024-2025 GGFOA board members.

**INTRODUCTION OF 2024-2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRS** – Newly elected president, Linda Cook, introduced the 2024-2025 Committee Chairs as follows:

Annual Conference Chair – Dustin Farron  
Career Development – Tamara Ellison  
Communications Chair – Melanie Chandler  
Government Relations/Strategic Planning – Carlos Encinas  
Membership Chair – Marlena Joseph  
Scholarship/Awards Chair – Jonathan Smith  
Technical Resources Chair – Benjamin Meadow



**CLOSING REMARKS** – Linda Cook stated she is honored to serve as your President this year. She mentioned she has served GGFOA since 2014 from Putnam County with the support of her County Manager, Paul Van Haute whom she introduced. She encouraged members to pursue further professional development by obtaining Level I and Level II Local Government Finance Officer Certifications, and to look into other programs to expand professional skill sets such as the PFLA Academy. Linda thanked everyone in attendance and reminded all that there will be no Wednesday activities due to the forecasted storm; Wednesday’s keynote session will be rescheduled for a virtual session to be held at a later date, as a courtesy to attendees. However, Tuesday afternoon classes, the Banquet and festivities will still be held. Linda encouraged the Board and all award recipients to come up front for pictures after calling for a nomination to adjourn the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Kevin Hutcheson made the motion to adjourn the meeting; Carol Harrison 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**GGFOA Annual Business Meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.**