



## November 2017

### [Training](#)

Check calendar and register on-line.

### [Employment Opportunities](#)

See openings or add an announcement.

### [VGFOA Certificate Program](#)

Course content & requirements.

### [Membership Directory](#)

Contact someone, or update your information online.

### [VGFOA Board](#)

Meet your Board, see committee assignments, and make contact.

### [Do you have a story to share?](#)

Submit an article to the [Editor](#) for a future newsletter.

### [VGFOA's Strategic Plan](#)

Directions for the future.

### [Renew Membership](#)

## President's Message

Happy Holiday Season!

This is my first newsletter as the VGFOA President and I want to begin with some "thanks you". I want to thank Renee for her tremendous contributions to the organization and wish her well as an outgoing Board member. I want to thank Kathy for all of her accomplishments as President this past year. I want to thank all of the Past Presidents for their continued dedication. I want to thank the Board members for their service. I want to thank all of our employers who support our participation in VGFOA. Most of all, I want to thank all of you for your support and involvement. Also, congratulations are in order for Curtis on his new role as President Elect and for our new Board member, Donna, who will be spotlighted in this newsletter.

As I kick off my term as President, I want to highlight some of the new offerings VGFOA has launched over the past year. While we continue with our stellar Certificate Program and top notch Conferences, we are always looking for ways to expand our educational opportunities and we have done so with our new [Professional Development Program](#). Stay tuned for the upcoming topics and dates.

We have begun facilitating conference [calls with the Board and the membership](#). The topic this past year was VGFOA Committees. We will have new topics for the calls in the upcoming year. We now hold [mentorship workshops](#) and will be conducting the next one on Wednesday morning before the start of the Spring Conference. At both Conferences, we have started hosting a [luncheon to welcome first time attendees](#). **I hope everyone will join us in May at our new exciting Spring Conference location – The Main – a brand new Hilton property in Norfolk!**

I will work with the Board over the next year to introduce even more enhancements to this already great organization. I encourage you all to help VGFOA grow by joining a Committee or seeking a future Board position. I promise you will not regret it.

**VGFOA**  
**Announcements &**  
**News**

See the latest updates and news.

**National GFOA on**  
**the Web**

Visit now.

Join the conversation at:

**Linked in**  or

**VGFOA Listserv**

Discuss and exchange information with the membership

At the Fall Conference I said that I hope to interact with each of you in some way this year and I meant it. Please feel free to contact me at [dbergeron@manassasva.gov](mailto:dbergeron@manassasva.gov). Remember, VGFOA is YOUR organization. **Please stay involved and let the Board know what VGFOA can do to support you.**

Thank you and enjoy your holidays!

**Welcome New VGFOA Executive Board Member**  
**Donna Witt**

At the October 2017 annual business meeting, Donna Witt, Director of Financial Services for the City of Lynchburg, was elected to the Executive Board of the VGFOA. Donna has been with the City for 18 years and served as Director for 11 of those years. Donna served on the Education Committee and will now chair the Communications, Legislative, & Standards Setting Committee.

**2018 Membership Renewal**

Just a friendly reminder that VGFOA Membership renewal is in full swing. Members can renew online or by downloading a membership application at the [Join VGFOA](#) webpage. Payment for 2018 membership renewal is due by January 31, 2018. After that date, there will be a \$10 late fee added to your dues.

**GNAC Update**

2017 has been a great year for the Radford University-VGFOA certificate program. To date, over 209 people have completed the certificate program.

We have been working to expand our online course offerings to allow greater flexibility for members seeking to complete the VGFOA Certificate. The online Retirement and Benefits, Risk Management, and Procurement course launched over the summer. We anticipate bringing Operating and Capital Budgeting online in late spring/early summer 2018.

For those who prefer face-to-face workshops, the 2018 workshop schedule has been posted to the VGFOA website. Members who are in the process of completing CPFO exams can also register for one of the online review courses available in Debt Management, Treasury & Investment Management, or GAAFR

<http://www.radford.edu/content/cobe/gnac/cpfo.html>).

## Education / Training Update

The Virginia Government Finance Officers Association (VGFOA) has partnered with Virginia Tech's School of Public & International Affairs (SPIA) and Office of Continuing Professional Education (CPE) to design and deliver a new series of educational programs focused on addressing a variety of topics critical to today's government finance professionals. In the initial year of the partnership, Virginia Tech will offer four in-person workshops and three online webinars to address topics such as government/policy, compliance, trends, budgeting, payroll law, procurement, leadership, and technology. Workshops will be designed in collaboration with VGFOA leadership. In-person workshops will be held at Virginia Tech venues located across the Commonwealth. These programs will strengthen the current offerings of VGFOA, building on the Association's history of providing relevant and timely professional education offerings to its members through conferences and the VGFOA certification program.

The upcoming schedule includes the following programs:  
See VGFOA Web Site for Details

Description	Date	Topic	Location
One Day Workshop	1/30/2018	Strategic Planning/Financial Policies/ Best Practices	Richmond
Webinar	2/22/2018	Virginia Public School Authority	

### 2017 VGFOA Certificate Courses

The 2017 Certificate courses are open for registration. Registration fees for 2017 are \$225 for Members; \$275 for non-Members. Online registration is available by [clicking here](#).

Nov 30 - Dec 1	Advanced Governmental Accounting	Roanoke
Dec 7 - 8	Intermediate Governmental Accounting	Fairfax

### On-Line Courses!

Don't forget - our online courses are offered year round! Registration fee is \$150 for online courses. Online registration is available by [clicking here](#).

Courses available on-line include: Cash Management & Banking, Debt Management for Public Finance Officers, Intermediate Governmental Accounting, Internal Controls, Auditing & Fraud, Introduction to Governmental Accounting, Retirement & Benefits, Risk Management

and Procurement.

## **New Certified Public Finance Officers (CPFO)**

The CPFO Program of GFOA is a broad, educational self-study program designed to verify knowledge in the disciplines of government finance. Attaining certification is a mark of excellence in government finance. To earn the CPFO designation, candidates must pass a series of five examinations covering the major disciplines of public finance.

Congratulations to the following individuals from Virginia who recently achieved the CPFO designation in 2017:

- Patsy Brown, Director of Accounting, Chesterfield, VA

## **2017 VGFOA Fall Conference Update**

Thanks to everyone that attended the fall conference in Roanoke in October. We had a total of 234 attendees, including vendors. Despite the excitement of the fire alarms at breakfast on Thursday, everything went well. Presentations from the conference have now been posted on the VGFOA website.

In 2018, the fall conference will be held at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa at Short Pump on October 24-26.



## Joseph N. Black Lifetime Achievement Award

At the 2017 Fall Conference Steven A. Solomon was awarded the Joseph N. Black Lifetime Achievement Award. His daughters were present to receive the award. Steven will always be remembered as a valued and generous colleague and friend to many in the field of government finance. Solomon, 57, died November 11, 2016, after a brief illness.



## Communications, Legislative & Standards Setting Update

### GFOA - Call to Action

GFOA urges members to continue reaching out to your Congressional representatives and ask them to oppose repealing the [SALT deduction](#): Is your Congressional representative on the [House Ways and Means Committee](#)? Call them right away and urge them to voice their opposition to eliminating deductibility. GFOA's Report, "[The Impact of Eliminating the State and Local Tax Deduction](#)," shows the percentage of tax filers in their districts that use the deduction and the potential impact of eliminating it.

As part of its tax reform efforts, Congress has discussed whether to eliminate the ability for taxpayers to deduct state and local taxes (SALT). On July 11, 2017, Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Executive Director, Chris Morrill, moderated a [panel discussion](#) with The Big Seven before Congress about state and local tax (SALT) deduction.

*Virginia Government Finance Officers' Association's mission is "...to foster financial excellence in government by creating opportunities for professional development."*

