

KSGFOA Newsletter

Kansas Government Finance Officers Association



Quarterly Newsletter of the Kansas Government Finance Officers Association • 2006, No. 2

2006 Board of Directors

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President

Dennis Howard, Director of Finance and Administration for the Department of Infrastructure and Transportation • Johnson County
913-715-8319 • dennis.howard@jocogov.org

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Maureen Rogers, Finance Director • City of Merriam
913-322-5509 • maureenr@merriam.org

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316-284-6019 • rahsmuhs@newtonkansas.com

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785-368-3970 • Lwood@topeka.org

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Troy Bruun (2008), Deputy Chief Financial Officer • Sedgwick County
316-660-7591 • tbruun@sedgwick.gov

Robin Cook (2006), Assistant Budget Director • Johnson County
913-715-0555 • robin.cook@jocogov.org

Ben Hart (2007), Director of Strategic Financial Management • City of Olathe
913-971-6442 • bhart@olatheks.org

Jean Epperson (2008), City Clerk/Director of Finance • City of Derby
316-788-1519 • jeanepperson@derbyweb.com

Robert Reece (2006), County Administrator • Pottawatomie County
785-457-3455 • rreece@pottcounty.org

Diane Rosecrans (2007), Director of Finance/City Clerk • City of Winfield
620-221-5593 • drosecrans@winfieldks.org

GFOA Representative

Dennis Howard, Director of Finance & Administration • Johnson County Department of Infrastructure
913-715-8319 • dennis.howard@jocogov.org

WSU Affiliates

Mac Manning, Public Affairs Associate • Wichita State University
316-978-6541 • Mac.Manning@wichita.edu

Bart Hildreth, Kansas Regents Distinguished Professor of Public Finance • Wichita State University
316-978-6332 • Bart.Hildreth@wichita.edu

President's Message

Dennis Howard • Director of Finance and Administration for the Department of Infrastructure and Transportation, Johnson County

Dear Members:

The Kansas Government Finance Officer's Association is in its 7th year. I am writing to you to request your feedback regarding specific issues at the KSGFOA.

Our bylaws set out two goals,

1) The purpose of the KSGFOA is to promote the improvement of the methods of government financing in Kansas as developed and recommended by the Government Finance Officer's Association of the United States and Canada, the Government Accounting Standards Board, and other recognized authorities in the field of government administration and finance,

and

2) To provide professional development opportunities for the membership of the Association.

The KSGFOA Board of Directors would like to measure the effectiveness of the organization at delivering those goals. As government professionals, your feedback is critical to this process.

To that end, the Board would appreciate you filling out a brief survey that will be available on the KSGFOA website this fall. Please return the survey, either by e-mailing or faxing it to Benjamin Hart, Chairman of the Membership Committee at bhart@olatheks.org or fax (913) 971-6283.

Thank you for taking the time from your busy schedules to complete this survey in an effort to help the Association better serve your needs.

Dennis Howard
KSGFOA President

Dennis Howard is the 2006 President for KSGFOA and is the Director of Finance and Administration for the Johnson County Department of Infrastructure and Transportation. Dennis can be contacted by phone at (913) 715-8319 or e-mail to dennis.howard@jocogov.com.

100th Annual Government Finance Officers Association Conference

by Troy Bruun

The Government Finance Officers Association's 100th annual conference, "A Century of Progress in Government Finance" was held May 7-10, 2006 in Montreal, Quebec. Sedgwick County's CFO, Chris Chronis, confirmed much progress has been made during his century of service.

Concurrent sessions began Sunday afternoon and were offered in:

- Accounting, Auditing and Financial Planning
- Budgeting and Financial Planning
- Cash Management and Investing
- Debt Management
- Management and Policy
- Pension and Benefits

Sessions offered information for new members in government finance as well as seasoned veterans from both small and large governments. Technical information and also various management skills were presented at the conference, but the most rewarding experience was talking with peers about common issues that impact all of us.

More than 150 vendors exhibited their products and services ranging from arbitrage rebate services to utility billing systems. An overwhelming majority of vendors offered software solutions and all vendors gave away knick knacks such as pens, stress balls, notepads, candy, etc. Side note, vendor giveaways are great for picking up gifts for your in-laws.

The welcoming event was held Sunday night at the Uniprix Tennis Stadium in Montreal. Conference attendees talked with old friends and the evening set the tone for the remainder of the conference. Chris Isaak was the featured performer and most stayed and enjoyed his concert.

The keynote speaker for Monday morning's opening session was Dr. Uwe Reinhardt, Professor of Economics and Public Affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. Dr. Reinhardt is recognized as one of the nation's leading authorities on health care economics. He has the rare ability to make a complex topic like; how to change our health care system so that it is more affordable and easier to manage, and boil it down in simple terms. The solution is—we're screwed.

Tuesday's general session included a speech by David Broder, a national political correspondent for The Washington Post. He discussed the political climate in Washington and gave his views on upcoming political races.

The Montreal host committee sponsored an event at the Montreal Science Centre on Tuesday evening. I did not attend the event, but opted instead to visit several of the local pubs. Montrealers are very friendly people and much to my relief, the standard greeting for males is a handshake, not the traditional kiss on both cheeks when they greet females.

Overall the conference was a success. The information I received from presenters, vendors, and fellow finance officials will help me continue improving operations at Sedgwick County. The 2007 annual conference will be held June 10-13 in Anaheim, California.

Troy Bruun is the Deputy Chief Financial Officer for Sedgwick County. He can be reached at 316-660-7591 or tbruun@sedgwick.gov.

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Conferences

KSGFOA is proud to sponsor two training and networking opportunities later this year:

August 31: "2006 Accounting Update" features Mark W. Dick and Shelly Hammond from Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, LC. Topics include:

- Update on GASB pronouncements
- Sarbanes-Oxley in the government world
- Disaster/pandemic preparedness: continuation of operations
- 1 hour of ethics training (for new Kansas requirement for permits to practice)

The session will be at Cabela's in Kansas City, Kansas from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM (lunch included). 5 hours of CPE credit are available.

October 18—20: KSGFOA Fall Conference, "The Finance Officer: A Heart for the Vision with the Voice of Reality." Two pre-conferences are scheduled for October 18, and the main conference takes place on October 19 and 20. Sessions include:

- Writing and Presentations for the Finance Officer (interactive workshop)
- Evaluating Developer Proposals
- IRS Audit Survival Stories
- 1 hour of ethics training
- Get a Handle on Internal Control
- Bond Issuance 101
- True Stories of Strategic Planning and Budgeting for Outcomes
- Project Management and Accounting
- Performance Measures (for the Rest of Us)
- Sharpening Your Investment Skills
- Technology and Techniques of Electronic Transactions

Plus, some fun sessions to help us catch a little "vision":

- GIS for Finance Officers
- Trends in Urban Design and Housing Demographics
- Elected Officials are People Too (Really)—How to Speak their Language

More detailed information will follow later this summer. There are some excellent speakers lined up, both from outside and within the KSGFOA membership. Please make plans to attend the Fall Conference, bring your staff, and pass the word around to those we haven't seen for a while!

