



Newsletter

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EDITION 2

WFOA Newsletter is published quarterly for members and friends of the Washington Finance Officers Association.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2016 WFOA Conference is Rapidly Approaching

Have you saved the date September 20 - 23 for the annual WFOA conference? Registration opened in late May. Make sure you get registered and payment is received by June 30 to take advantage of the early bird registration fee. Don't forget to book your hotel room!



Carmen Hayter

The success of WFOA is dependent upon the volunteers and the entities that allow their support to the WFOA organization. A big shout out to the Angela Golden, 2016 Local Conference Chair, Jack Broyles, Education Co-Chair, Mickie Cooper, Education Co-Chair, Marcie Klobucher and Sandra Vong, MRSC, Dale Hough, Sponsorships, and their respective committees for all their hard work putting together fantastic educational opportunities and great activities for the upcoming conference! Dust off your Star Wars attire to join us in this year's theme "Power of the Past, Force of the Future". As the great Yoda would say "Mind what you have learned. Save you it can." Take the time to check out the learning sessions available at this year's conference on the WFOA website's [conference sessions page](#). The WFOA Board looks forward to seeing everyone in September.

SISTER ORGANIZATION CONFERENCES

This spring has afforded me the opportunity to attend conferences put on by organizations like WFOA in other states along with a wonderful Washington Public Treasurers Association (WPTA) conference held in Chelan. The opportunity to attend these conferences provides each of our association the ability to our organizations by learning from each other and sharing speaker data, and improves our organization structure to best serve our membership. The honor to represent WFOA at these conferences has been amazing.

The California Society of Municipal Finance Officers conference was held in early March at the incredible venue of Disneyland. They had record high attendance of 1,400 from the previous year's record of 900. The classes provided a breadth of training for entities of all sizes. I learned a lot about their organization and how they administer a conference of this size. It has been suggested in the past that WFOA look into this model and learn from both CSMFO and the Oregon Government Finance Officers Association as WFOA moves into the future of fewer locations available to hold the size of conference we have grown into. Stay tuned as WFOA explores the conference management model for the future. OGFOA had a "Back to the Future" theme with a real 1988 DeLorean. I was able to attend several classes related to workforce sustainability which threads a common issue we have in our workforce.

WPTA's conference highlight for me was an amazing session on cyber security which I can see as an opportunity for a future WFOA conference. Alaska Government Finance Officers Association held the spring conference in Denali this year. It was very interesting to hear of the different economic challenges Alaska faces. AGFOA also had classes on sustainability in the workforce and recruiting the next generation. WFOA looks forward to hosting each of these entities along with the British Columbia presidents at our conference in September.

WEBINARS

WFOA is continuing its progress to provide webinars and on demand training opportunities for the benefit of our membership. As a goal set for my term as the WFOA president potential topics being developed may include:

- Calming the unhappy customer --for frontline employees
- A checklist for successful performance appraisals

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2016 State Budget Process a Sign of Challenges to Come

By **SERENA DOLLY**

Government Relations Analyst/AWC and WFOA Leg & Professional Standards Committee Member

2016 was set to be a short 60-day legislative session. The Legislature's primary goal was to make needed adjustments to the state's biennial budget passed in 2015 due to increased costs from Medicaid, health-care, jails, and the worst wildfire season in state history.

As the Governor, House, and Senate each developed their own budget proposals, several items impacting local governments became part of the negotiations. These included proposals to eliminate nearly all of MRSC's funding, end long-standing distributions of the state's Fire Insurance Premium Tax, increase costs to local governments to send trainees to the Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy, and merge the LEOFF 1 retirement system with the Teachers' Retirement System 1. AWC and others opposed all of these items.

The House and Senate finally reached a budget compromise on Monday, March 28, and passed the proposal the next day. With one exception, the compromise budget did not include cuts to state-shared revenues with local governments, such as liquor revenue, SST mitigation, and criminal justice assistance. However, the budget did contain several direct impacts, including:

- New requirements that would have decreased or eliminated Fire Insurance Premium Tax distributions to 44 cities and 2 fire districts.
- A sweep of all new revenues coming in to the Public Works Trust Fund through FY 2019. This would have been the final nail in the coffin of this effective local government infrastructure financing program.

On April 18, Governor Inslee took action on the supplemental budget and vetoed a number of items, including changes to fire insurance premium tax distributions and additional Public Works Trust Fund sweeps. In addition, he vetoed a \$10 million diversion from the State Auditor's Office Performance Audit funds. A full list of items vetoed is [here](#).

Now we turn our attention to preparing for what is expected to be a long and challenging 2017 session. We anticipate all state distributions and programs for local governments to be closely scrutinized as the Legislature scours every line item to help them make a multi-billion dollar investment in the state's K-12 education system per the Washington Supreme Court's McCleary decision.

President's Message . . .

Continued from Page 1

- Developing job descriptions and position standards.
- Be on the lookout for these webinar opportunities later this summer.

THANK YOU

The term of WFOA President presents many wonderful opportunities, challenges, and a network of friends. My sincere thanks and admiration goes out to the entire WFOA board and all the committees for your support and hard work that is critical to the success of our organization.

WFOA is always looking for members looking to become involved in this rewarding organization. We all look forward to seeing you in September!

– Carmen Hayter

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SPONSOR



THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 CONFERENCE
PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORS



Finance Profession Loses a Great Friend and Colleague



JOSEPH C. GUINASSO

August 5, 1966 - April 14, 2016

WFOA has lost a dear friend and professional colleague, Joseph C. Guinasso. Joe was a longtime member of WFOA and since 2011 served as the Finance Director at the City of Sammamish. Prior to Sammamish, he worked at the City of Bellevue.

Joe passed away at the age of 49 on April 14, 2016, at home surrounded by his family (Sinatra was playing in the background). Joe is survived by the greatest loves of his life, his wife Stacy and their children, Vinny and Julietta, who will miss him dearly. Very proud of his Italian heritage and the family he loved so much, Joe is also survived by his hero (his father) Robert Guinasso Sr., his mother Roberta Guinasso, his siblings Robert Guinasso Jr., Susan Southerland and Linda Guinasso, in-laws Lefty and Ina Wilson, sisters-in-law Julie (Chuck) and Nancy (Loren), and nieces and nephews, Steven, Daniel, Sarah, Jenn, Michael, Colie and Anthony, and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be mailed to the Swedish Cancer Institute, c/o Swedish Medical Center Foundation, 747 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122. Please reference Joe's name so the Foundation directs your gift to help fund comfort care items used while patients receive chemotherapy.

Task Force Examining City Business Licenses and Taxes Underway

by **SERENA DOLLY**

Government Relations Analyst/AWC and WFOA Leg & Professional Standards Committee Member

Last session, the Legislature passed HB 2959, which established a task force to develop options for centralizing and simplifying city B&O taxes and business licensing. While the task force is expected to spend much of its time considering city business taxes, the legislation also requires an evaluation of options for all cities to use the state's Business Licensing Service (BLS).

Forty-three cities currently impose a B&O tax, and approximately 220 of the state's 281 cities issue local business licenses. Nearly 70 cities participate in BLS, and the state is scheduled to release a new licensing system in early June. At the same time, four of the state's largest cities have launched FileLocal, an online portal where businesses can get local licenses and pay local B&O taxes in one place. FileLocal is expected to expand to additional cities later this year.

Task force members recognize individual cities have different perspectives on B&O taxes and business licensing. With that in mind, the city representatives are developing principles to evaluate any recommended solutions to centralization and simplification. At a minimum, these principles will include (1) revenue neutrality to cities; (2) maintaining local authority and flexibility; and (3) no increase in administrative costs.

The nine-member task force is chaired by the Department of Revenue and includes four business representatives and four city representatives. Representing cities on the task force are AWC's CEO Peter King, FileLocal Executive Board Member Glen Lee, Finance Director Andy Cherullo of Tacoma, and Finance Director Kim Krause of Burien. The task force will meet at least monthly through the end of 2016 and must submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2017.

We hope WFOA members will watch AWC's [Legislative Bulletin](#) for task force developments and support the fundamental principles of maintaining local control and protecting against negative revenue impacts. For more information about the task force and how cities are approaching it, please do not hesitate to contact AWC's Peter King or Serena Dolly.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 CONFERENCE SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS



Come to Spokane for Our 2016 Conference



by **ANGELA GOLDEN**
2016 Conference Chair

On behalf of the Washington Finance Officers Association Local Conference Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the 2016 WFOA Annual Conference being hosted September 20-23 in Spokane. The theme for this year's conference is "Power of the Past, Force of the Future". We are celebrating our 61st Anniversary of the WFOA this year. Please join with many other WFOA members in this significant event!

The conference will be held at the Spokane Convention Center located in downtown Spokane. Spokane offers a variety of options for dining, entertainment and shopping. The Washington State Chinese Lantern Festival will begin on Friday, September 23, so stay another night to view the larger-than-life displays of light and culture.

The conference will have many opportunities for continuing education and networking for WFOA members. We estimate nearly 80 hours of available sessions from which to choose, plus keynote presentations and a full day of preconference classes.

The golf tournament will be held at Downriver Golf Course on Tuesday morning. This beautiful golf course is considered one of the oldest courses throughout the Spokane area. The Wednesday night reception will feature "The Palazzo" hosted casino entertainment. Try your luck at games such as blackjack, roulette, and Texas Hold Em' poker after a stroll through beautiful Riverfront Park. Light appetizers and beverages will be available. Come dressed in your finest Star Wars apparel Thursday and dance the night away.

As you know, the conference is pulled together annually by WFOA volunteers. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the WFOA Board of Directors, the members of the Local Conference committee and the Education committee for all the time, effort and enthusiasm they have shared in organizing this great event! We are extremely excited to offer a conference with high-quality sessions and speakers.

SPOKANE CONVENTION AND TRADE CENTER
334 West Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99201
[Map and Directions](#)

HOTEL INFORMATION
WFOA has reserved a block of rooms at the following hotels at a conference rate:

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Spokane City Center
322 N Spokane Falls Court
Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 455-9600
[DoubleTree](#)

Red Lion Hotel at the Park
W. 303 North River Drive
Spokane, 99201
(509) 326-8000
Group Code WASH0918
[Red Lion Hotel](#)

GASB 68 – Pension Implementation



By **STACIE TELLERS**
Legislative and Professional Standards Chair

Here's the million dollar question: How did your entity's pension implementation go? I would like to get your feedback on the good and bad of your implementation process, outstanding questions or issues, road blocks, and even successes of the pension implementation. Who did you reach out to: the State Auditor's Office, GFOA, GASB, a CPA, or fellow finance officers? How was your audit and were there any results of your audit that you would like to share? What training would be helpful for you for pension reporting in 2016, think of specific areas that could be addressed?

I am very interested in hearing from you on these questions and more! Please contact me, Stacie Tellers, Legislative and Professional Standards Chair at stellers@ci.olympia.wa.us.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 CONFERENCE BRONZE LEVEL SPONSORS



Auditor's Office to release FIT for GAAP

By **SHERRIE ARD**
State Auditor's Office

Last July, the Washington State Auditor's Office released its Financial Intelligence Tool (FIT) for local governments that report under the BARS cash basis of accounting. Coming by the end of June, FIT will also be available to most entities that report under GAAP. (Excluded are housing authorities, risk pools and government associations.)

FIT combines financial information reported annually to the State Auditor's Office with other data sources to create a variety of analysis features to:

- Provide standard, transparent, financial reports based on current and historical data
- Offer understandable, and easily accessible financial analyses
- Guide financial decision makers of any experience level



Tips for GAAP users

If you report using GAAP, here's what you need to know about this first release of FIT for GAAP:

1. Initially, only your 2015 data will be available to you.
2. If you'd like to see 2013 and 2014 data, there will be guidance within the FIT application for how to request SAO staff to provide this to you.
3. If you request this data, SAO staff will provide your 2013 and 2014 data and ask you to verify.
4. Once verified, SAO will upload this data to the FIT application and you will have three years of data available!
5. This is not mandatory; however, if you decide you would like to see the prior years' trend, we encourage you to make this request in July. Why? It will be after the CAFR deadline but before budget season is in full swing – a perfect time to analyze your entity's fiscal health!

To learn more about FIT click [here](#).

MRSC Launches New Debt Resources Including GO Debt Calculator

From the Municipal Research and Services Center

MRSC, under the direction of Finance Consultant Toni Nelson, has developed a series of web resources to help local governments better understand and utilize their available debt.

The resources include basic statutory information on local government debt in Washington State, a guide to debt limits for various jurisdiction types and situations, as well as guidance and examples of effective debt management policies.

MRSC has also developed an online debt calculator tool (for cities only at this time) that makes it easy for cities to identify their existing voted and non-voted debt capacity and to explore various debt scenarios to see what makes the most sense for their jurisdiction.

All of these resources can be accessed on MRSC's [website](#).

WFOA-AWC Legislative Team Partnership - Update

by **STACIE TELLERS**

Legislative and Professional Standards Chair

In our last WFOA newsletter the partnership between the WFOA Legislative and Professional Standards Committee (LPSC) and the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) legislative team was introduced. This partnership will provide AWC an established group of government finance professionals who can assist in the review and provide feedback on proposed legislation that would have a financial impact on local governments and WFOA with current legislative issues and learning opportunities.

Our first conference call occurred on Monday, April 18, and covered the 2016 Legislative session results. This included updates on various bills, the Legislature's approved budget, expected budget vetoes by the Governor, and an overall discussion of the state budget process.

The group is looking forward to another meeting later this year – after elections - to discuss the potential bills of the 2017 Legislative session, the political environment at the state, budget issues, and issues at the federal level. If you are interested in joining the LPSC, even for just the learning experience of how the legislative process works and how it can affect you and your entity, please contact Stacie Tellers, Legislative and Professional Standards Chair at stellers@ci.olympia.wa.us.

WASHINGTON REGIONAL FINANCE OFFICER GROUPS

Sno-King Utility Finance Officers
Quarterly: as announced
Contact: Robert Wagner
360-668-6766 ext.103
robertw@crossvalleywater.net

Puget Sound Finance Officers Association
2nd Wednesday of February-March,
May-August, October-December
Contact: Kim Krause
206-439-3150
kimk@burienwa.gov

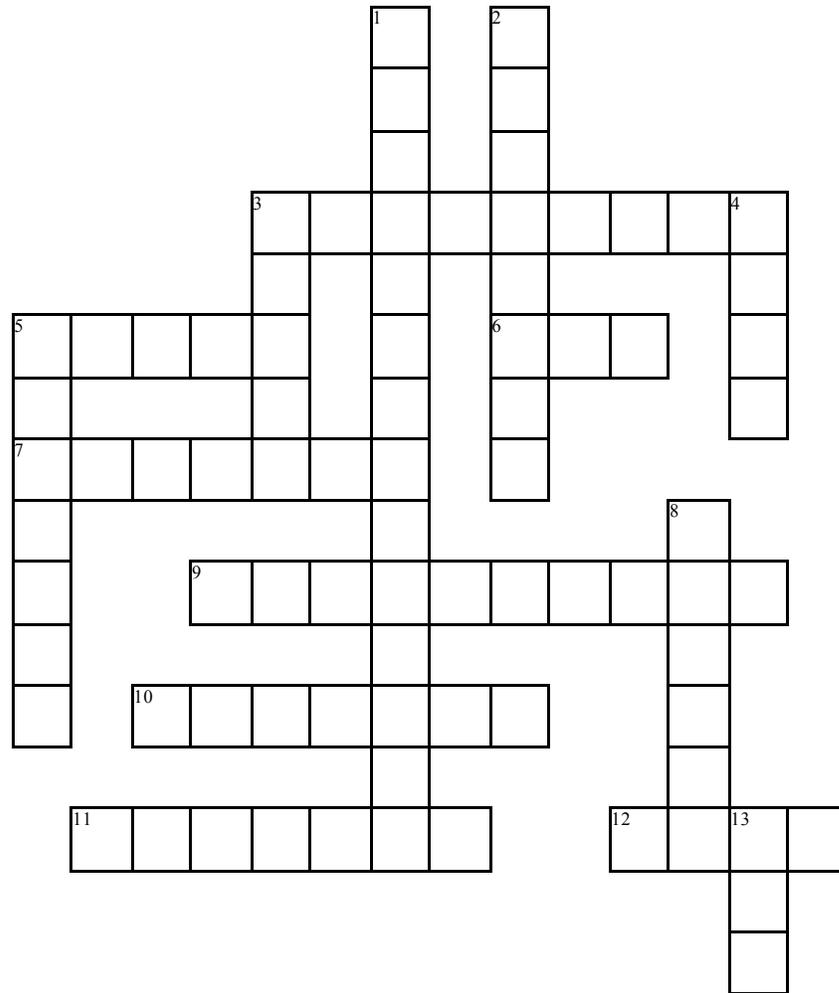
Olympia AGA (www.aga-olympia.org)
Monthly – as announced
Contact: Stefanie Niemela
360-725-4402
stefanie.niemela@del.wa.gov

Eastern Washington Finance Officers Association
Second Friday in May & October
All-day workshop
Contact: Marsha Peterson
509-745-8871
waterville@nwi.net

Southwest Washington Finance Officers
Feb., May, & Nov. (location TBA)
Contact: Mari Ripp
360-225-8281 x114
rippm@ci.woodland.wa.us

Central Washington AGA
Monthly: Second Wednesday at noon
Contact: Judy Pless
509-962-7502
judy.pless@co.kittitas.wa.us

WFOA June newsletter – a Crossword Labs puzzle



Across

3. One option for B&O Taxes
5. Conference theme: ___ of the past ...
6. Platinum Sponsor - ___ Member Pooling Program
7. After the Conf. stay to see the Chinese ___ Festival
9. The T in WPTA
10. ___ Authorities excluded from SAO's FIT
11. Platinum Sponsor
12. MRSC developed an online ___ calculator

Down

1. Stacie wants to know how your GASB 68 Pension ___ went
2. K-12 Court decision
3. Conference theme: ... ___ of the future
4. WFOA's ___ Partners with AWC legislative team
5. Conference Wed. evening entertainment: The ___
8. PSFOA contact and B&O Task Force member
13. Another option for B&O Taxes

Complete the crossword and find the phrase. Email your answer phrase within two weeks of newsletter publication to dan.speigle@sos.wa.gov. One correct answer will win a \$5 Starbucks gift card.

Each clue below has a number from the crossword and F – for the first letter in the answer, L – for the last letter in the answer. When there are two possible answers I indicate which direction the word goes, Across or Down. Fill in the letters and spell the words. So if word number 25 was WFOA, 25F would be “W”; 25L would be “A”. Get your pencil ready... and good luck!

2F 6F 11L 8F 9F 10F 3L 11F 7L 1F 3F 8L
down