



# Newsletter

MARCH 2022

EDITION 1

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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Jack Broyles

Hello and welcome to 2022! It is hard to believe that another year has passed by and that we are now just six months away from our 2022 conference.

Recently, I attended the California State Municipal Finance Officer's annual conference in San Diego. That's right! After a gap of nearly two years, the CSMFO group held a "live" conference. Not only did CSMFO host a live conference, they also had registered attendance in excess of 1,200. This event can only be described as a success for the organization, one that WFOA will soon replicate.

It has been two long years since the first official Covid-19 case was diagnosed in the United States, right here in the State of Washington. Since that time, you have endured nearly total closure of the economy, varying degrees of face mask requirements, new vaccinations developed, several false starts as we work toward normalcy, two virtual conferences, untold numbers of virtual meetings, and seemingly endless other opportunities to talk to people online. Add to this unpredicted revenue shortfalls, new federal grants and the requirements that come with them, labor challenges and supply shortages, all attributed to the pandemic. It has been challenging for all of you to perform your daily duties while trying to maintain an existence that consisted of little more than go to work, go home, go to bed.

After attending a live conference in California, it has become clear, that while the principle reason WFOA exists, namely providing educational opportunities to our members, that education is only part of the recipe needed for continued professional success. If you are anything like me, you require synergy, networking, and commiseration with your fellow finance professionals. The type of interactions that are only possible when events are held "in person". Your WFOA Board understands this, and relief is on the way! Mark your calendars for September 13 - 16, 2022, and join us in Tacoma as we hold our first live event in nearly three years. Hotel rooms are now available, please see our website at <https://www.wfoa.org/training-header/conference/2019confhotels/> for details.

Despite the difficulties of the past two years, WFOA continues to serve its members by providing essential training opportunities in spite of the challenges. I would like to say a special thank you to Education Committee Co-Chairs Debbie Booher and Beth Wright, along with all the members of the Education Committee, for continuing to bring our members timely and relevant classes. It was just three short years ago that the Board had a discussion, for likely the 100th time, about how we could serve our members better by providing online training. Unfortunately, it took a pandemic to get the technology caught up with the Board's visions, but today WFOA is able to offer most educational opportunities online, allowing attendance from organizations anywhere in the state. We have seen registrations from small governments all across the state; governments that normally cannot afford to send staff or cannot allow their only finance professional to leave the office for an entire day. Your Board recognizes that online will always be part of our future offerings and we would not be in the position to offer online training without the commitment of the Education Committee and its leadership.

The Board also restructured the fee schedule for both the conference and non-conference educational opportunities. It pays to be a member of WFOA. Training opportunities are significantly less expensive to members and the Board continues to develop ideas that make your membership even more valuable. If you are a member but others in your organization are not, please consider inviting them to join WFOA! As with most other things in life, larger numbers often relate in more safety, stability and lower costs. Encourage your co-workers to join today!

As we enter the home-stretch in conference planning, I admit I am more excited for Tacoma 2022 than I have been for any conference in quite a long time. "You don't know what you got 'til it's gone" (cue light pop music here) has never been truer in my life. I look forward to seeing as many of you as I can in Tacoma. It will be so great to continue relationships that have been

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## Planning is Well Underway for 2022 WFOA Fall Conference



By **NICOLE MUEGGE**  
2022 Conference Chair

We have some exciting things in store for our Tacoma conference. We are looking forward to reconnecting with all of you. The Education Committee has begun putting together and scheduling the awesome sessions for you to attend.

Planning is also underway for the welcome reception where everyone can truly unplug and reconnect again. The committee is excited to put together a grand reception to welcome you all back in person. The Wellness Committee has also been hard at work developing some great resources and planning for a fun interactive walk with fellow finance officers. And last, but not least, volunteers are busy preparing and organizing the Thursday night banquet that will include entertainment by Patrick and the LVB; check him out at [www.PatrickLVB.com](http://www.PatrickLVB.com).

Needless to say, we are looking forward to welcoming you back! If interested in serving on the 2022 Local Conference Committee, contact [Nicole Muegge](mailto:Nicole Muegge) at: [nicole.muegge@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:nicole.muegge@co.thurston.wa.us).



## WFOA Scholarships to the GFOA Conference



By **DEBI DAHLSTROM**  
Member Communications/Scholarship Chair

Did you know that WFOA gives TWO GFOA Conference Scholarships every year? WFOA will reimburse the cost of the Early Bird Registration plus some hotel costs for a total up to \$750.00.

We have extended the application due date for the GFOA conference scholarships to no later than the last working day of March. We will be scoring the applications received based the following criteria; 1) if your entity have received a GFOA Conference Scholarship in the past two years; 2) if you have received a GFOA Conference Scholarship in the past four years; 3) the population your entity serves; 4) the number of WFOA scholarships your entity has received in the past four years. Sitting WFOA Board Members are NOT eligible for a GFOA Conference Scholarship. The top two scoring individuals will be awarded the GFOA Conference Scholarships.

Click here [Scholarship Application | Washington Finance Officers Association \(wfoa.org\) https://www.wfoa.org/training-header/scholarships/](https://www.wfoa.org/training-header/scholarships/) and submit your scholarship application for the GFOA Conference being held June 5 - 8, 2022, in Austin, Texas.

## President's Message. . .

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in development in the dozen years that I have been active in WFOA and that have had to be put on hold.

I know I speak for all of your Board members when I say WFOA truly appreciates you, your membership, and your patience during the most tumultuous times many of us have ever experienced. Your patience and trust in WFOA will be rewarded when we are finally able to share a meal and laugh together, something that has been far too infrequent the past two years. See you in Tacoma!

## Education Non-Conference Training



**By DEBBIE BOOHER**  
Education Committee Co-Chair

**W**e continue to offer affordable webinar opportunities for WFOA members. We are hoping to offer some live trainings next fall but will continue to focus on webinars for our non-conference training.

As always the State Auditor's Office will continue to provide their exceptional training on BARS and Federal Grants. BARS training for both GAAP and cash basis continues to be offered and are well attended by members. Federal Awards Requirements (including grants) is a very popular topic with many agencies receiving federal funds to support operations during the pandemic. These are offered several times throughout the year. Check our website for updates and opportunities for these courses: <https://www.wfoa.org/training-header/>

A suggestion from the conference evaluations was to offer a course on multi-generational workforce. We were able to utilize a training group who focuses on governments to present an interactive workshop. It is always interesting and educational to learn how we interact with different groups defined by generations. This will be a continuing focus for many agencies as we work to maintain a stable workforce and the need to obtain qualified applicants for succession planning.

Beginning and intermediate Excel classes have been added to our spring schedule and our own member Steve Rogers from Kitsap 911 will again provide his expertise. These work well with the Zoom format so all attendees can work on their computer utilizing the tips and tools being shared. The new GFOA training for their certification program will not be able to be offered at the conference this year, so we are looking at the option of having a separate webinar if there is enough interest. Please reach out to me if this is of interest to you. Email [Deb Booher](mailto:Deb.Booher@wfoa.org). We have offered several training sessions over the past months and are proactively creating new options. There are several classes open for registration which you can find on our website, non-conference training section. The Education Committee is working hard for new options and additional classes. Below are some of the areas we will be focusing, but if you have a topic and possible instructor, we would love to work with you to provide additional opportunities.

- Intermediate and Advanced Accounting
- Economic Update
- Fleet Management
- GFOA certification program

The Education Committee is always looking for volunteers and ideas as we create our sessions for both the conference and non-conference training. If you have a class you would like to coordinate, please join us in our monthly meetings or reach out with an email to Deb Booher or Beth Wright. Our monthly meetings are held via Zoom platform. It is a nice way to share ideas and touch base with our fellow peers.

## WFOA Seeking Member to Join the Local Government Advisory Committee

**W**FOA is seeking to fill a vacant member position (one of three) on the Local Government Advisory Committee. We are seeking an active WFOA member who is interested in providing valuable review, feedback and recommendations to the Washington State Legislature, SAO, and GASB. The committee meets three times per year, to review and respond to proposed financial policy changes at the state and federal level, and provides advice to the SAO on matters related to uniform financial reporting to cities and counties. Further information can be found here: <https://sao.wa.gov/bars-annual-filing/local-government-advisory-committee/>

Interested WFOA members, please send a letter of interest to Dale Hough, Lacey Fire District 3, 1231 Franz St. SE, Lacey WA 98503 or via email [Dale Hough](mailto:Dale.Hough@wfoa.org). Be sure to include your employment history summary and a statement as to your interest in this position.

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## Internship Grants – Apply Today!

March is here and you still haven't applied for the WFOA Internship Grant? What are you waiting for? The City of Kirkland had 44 applications for its Recovery Intern. Our students are looking for experience so help them with a step up to their career. You are awesome as a finance officer so why not share your awesomeness and be the key to the door of opportunity for a student? Help create a path toward their future career, apply for an internship grant today.

Interns are eager to help. They are looking for the essential skills development, developing a network of mentors and peer groups, as well as experiencing the wonderful world of governmental finance. Consider having them assist with asset inventory, documentation, journal entries, or policy updates.

DON'T DELAY apply for a WFOA Internship \$5,000 grant to help get you started. Additional information and applications are on the WFOA webpage - [Internship/Scholarship Program | Washington Finance Officers Association](#).

## Reminder from Auditor's Office of Important Dates

Annual filing webinars: SAO's Annual Filing System Webinar dates have been announced! March 22 – 23 and April 19 – 20. Visit <https://sao.wa.gov/bars-annual-filing/filing-training-and-workshops/#online-filing-workshops> for registration information.

Monday, May 30, 2022: Annual filing deadline for December 31, 2021, year-end governments. Please note that the deadline falls on the Memorial Day holiday and we will not have staff available to assist with filing questions. We recommend local governments begin filing their report early to allow adequate time for questions.

Fiscal Year 2022: Leases accounting and reporting implementation is now effective. Please visit <https://sao.wa.gov/bars-annual-filing/leases> for all your lease accounting needs.

## 2022 WFOA Excellence Award

Please get your nomination in soon for the Excellence Award. Have you been wanting to nominate a fellow public finance officer for the WFOA Excellence Award? Now is your chance! The deadline for submitting nominations for the WFOA Excellence Award is April 30, 2022. The application is easy to fill out, and no printing is involved, just fill it out on the website and press the submit button. Here is the link: <http://www.wfoa.org/training-header/wfoa-member-award-for-excellence>

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