

2009 IGFOA Advanced Budgeting Instructors

William (Bill) Balling Managing Director, WRB, LLC Consulting

Bill Balling has over thirty-six years of professional experience in Municipal Government. For 29 years he served as Village Manager in Buffalo Grove and since 2006 has served as the Managing Director for WRB, LLC Consulting, providing Management Services to Cities and Villages in Organizational Analysis Development, Direct Management Services, Municipal operating systems and services deployment, and Special research consulting. Bill is a life member of ICMA and maintains active involvement as a Credentialed Manager. He is also actively involved with the ILCMA, chairing the Membership Services Committee. He is a recipient of the Robert B. Morris Lifetime Achievement Award from ILCMA. In addition to continuing involvement in the local government arena, Bill serves as the co-chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), and is a Bank Director for Northbrook Bank and Trust. These positions provide Bill with a unique prospective on the complex interrelationships of metropolitan business and governmental agendas. Bill received his Liberal Arts degree from Elmhurst College and a Master of Arts in Public Affairs from Northern Illinois University. Bill has also been Certified in the Kellogg Management Institute (KMI# 10), from the Kellogg Graduate School of Business at Northwestern University.

Larry W. Maholland, CPA Director, Local Government Management Services (Sikich)

Larry Maholland, CPA is responsible for providing technical services to Sikich's government clients in all areas of performance measures and performance-based strategic planning including process development, training, surveys, and process improvement development and implementation. Larry is the former city administrator of the city of St. Charles, Illinois. Prior to becoming city administrator, he served as the director of finance and administrative services for St. Charles, director of finance for Park District. Larry is a frequent speaker on various aspects of budgeting, strategic planning, and performance measurement having presented to national and international conferences. In 2003, Larry was selected as the outstanding Alumnus/Model Administrator by the Chicago Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration and Northern Illinois University. Larry received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Illinois State University, Master of Business Administration from Keller Graduate School of Management, and Master of Public Administration from Northern Illinois University. He is a Certified Public Accountant, and also attended the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, Advanced Government Finance Institute, Government Finance Officers Association, Program Budgeting, University of Michigan, Graduate School of Business, and Six Sigma Methodology, with completion of Black Belt training program.

Ghida Neukirch Deputy Village Manager, Village of Buffalo Grove

Ghida Neukirch has served as the Deputy Village Manager for the Village of Buffalo Grove since May, 1999. She is responsible for the Departments of Building & Zoning, Planning, Information Technology, Communications, and works with the Village Manager in the coordination of Police, Fire, Public Works, Finance & Golf Operations. She has a Bachelors Degree in Industrial Psychology from DePaul University and a Masters Degree in Public Administration-Urban Management from Northern Illinois University. She has been a Credentialed Manager from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) since July, 2004. She currently serves as Past-President of the Illinois City/County Management Association, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Buffalo Grove Area Chamber of Commerce. She resides in Arlington Heights with her husband Scot, who is a Finance Director for another local municipality, and their two children, Jaclyn and Zachary.

Michael T. Peddle, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Public Administration
Assistant Chair, Department of Political Science
Senior Research Associate, Center for Governmental Studies
Northern Illinois University

Mike Peddle is an economist and accountant by training. He has been on the faculties of Northwestern University, College of Holy Cross, university of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Northern Illinois University. He has taught in the Division of Public Administration at NIU since 1990, specializing in public finance, financial management, local economic development policy, and methodology. His expertise in strategic financial planning, economic development, and growth management has been widely sought by state government, local government, non-profit, and business clients throughout the country. He also has volunteered his time and financial expertise in a wide variety of settings from serving as the chairman of the board for a small financial institution to providing strategic planning assistance for nonprofits in DeKalb County. He currently chairs the City of DeKalb's Finance Advisory Committee and is a member of the Board of Directors and Finance Chair for Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois. Mike earned a B.A. in Economics and an M.P.A from Drake University, and a Ph.D. in Economics from Northwestern University. He passed the National Uniform CPA examination in May 1990.

Richard A. Schnuer
Finance Director, City of Champaign

Richard A. Schuner oversees a staff of fifteen that performs financial planning and budgeting; financial operations (payments, billing, receipts, investments, and capital asset records); debt issuance and management; financial reporting; records management the duties of the City Clerk, and provides financial services to the City of Champaign Township. In addition, the Finance Department advises Council and staff on the financial aspects of various issues including economic and community development. Richard serves as Co-chair of the City's Capital Improvements Review Team, which develops the Capital Improvements Plan, and as Treasurer of the Fire Pension Fund. Richard has a Master of Business Administration Degree with a Concentration in Public Management, University of Chicago, 1979, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree, Tufts University, 1975. Richard's employment history includes: Program Director, Medford Community Center, Medford Massachusetts, 1976-1977; Governor's Fellow, Illinois Bureau of the Budget, Summer 1987; Presidential Management Intern and Budget Analyst, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C. 1979-1982; Assistant Administrator and Director of Community Development, Takoma Park, Maryland, 1982-1983; City Administrator, City of Geneseo, Geneseo Illinois, 1983-1985; Finance Director, City of Champaign 1985 to present. Richard is a past President of the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association. He makes frequent presentations to state, national, and international audiences on various public topics, and has authored articles for professional publications.

Kevin Wachtel
Finance Director and Treasurer, Village of Riverside

Kevin Wachtel was appointed Finance Director and Treasurer for the Village of Riverside in June 2006. Prior to working in Riverside, Kevin was the Assistant Village Administrator for the Village of Palos Park from 2001 to 2006. While in Palos Park, Kevin developed five GFOA Award winning budgets documents and initialed their first 5 year budget. Kevin has also worked for the Villages of Wilmette and Niles. Kevin earned a B.S. in Political Science in 1998 and Master of Public Administration – Urban Management degree in 2000 from Northern Illinois University. He is active in the Illinois Government Finance Officers' Association where he served on the South Metro Chapter Board from 2005-2009, including President from 2007-2008. Kevin was awarded the 2003 IGFOA Chicago Metro Scholarship to attend the GFOA Conference. Kevin has spoken at multiple IGFOA conferences and seminars on various aspects of local government budgeting.