

IGFOA Downstate Chapter Conference Speakers
February 16 – 17, 2023

Lori A. Beeler, CPA, CGMS, Director for the Grant Accountability and Transparency Unit, Illinois Governor's Office of Management and Budget

Lori Beeler is the Director for the Grant Accountability and Transparency Unit (GATU) within the Governor's Office of Management and Budget (GOMB). Under the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA), GATU is responsible for designing and implementing Illinois' frameworks and systems to implement Federal Uniform Guidance.

Lori has been a part of GATA since its inception. She was an original member of the Illinois Single Audit Commission that drafted the GATA legislation. Prior to joining GATU in 2016, she served on several GATA subcommittees and workgroups developing GATA rules for the State of Illinois and designing associated frameworks. Lori brought a wealth of grant experience into her role with GATA. Prior to joining GATU, she was responsible for coordination of all external audits for the Illinois Department of Transportation, oversight and management of subrecipient single audit reports and implementation of GATA processes for DOT.

Michelle Binns, Senior Managing Consultant, PFM Asset Management

Michelle Binns joined PFM Asset Management in 2006 and is a senior managing consultant staffed in the Chicago office. In her current capacity, she works closely with a variety of local government clients in Illinois to develop and implement prudent investment strategies for short, intermediate, and long-term funds, including fixed income and multi-asset class portfolios. Her responsibilities include investment performance analysis, cash flow modeling, portfolio structuring and restructuring, providing economic summaries and research, and evaluating investment policies and practices for compliance with state and local investment statutes.

Michelle is the Chair of IGFOA's Partners Forum and a member of the IGFOA Executive Board.

Brad Cole, Executive Director, Illinois Municipal League (IML)

Brad serves as executive director of the Illinois Municipal League, which is the statewide association of 1,298 cities, villages, and towns. The League's mission is to articulate, defend, maintain, and promote the interests and concerns of Illinois communities. Previously, Brad was Senior Vice President of Pepsi MidAmerica, a privately-owned soft drink bottling and distribution business servicing a five-state franchise territory. His duties involved supervision of all aspects of the company, including finance, administration, human resources, fleet management, equipment services, and sales. Prior to entering the private sector, he worked as Downstate Director for U.S. Senator Mark Kirk, of Illinois. In that position, he was a key member of the senator's senior management team and was responsible for strategies initiative, outreach and constituent services in 95 (of 102) counties of Illinois. Cole served as Mayor of the City of Carbondale, Illinois for two four-year terms, which followed one four-year term on the City Council.

Before entering local government service, Brad was Deputy Chief of Staff to Illinois Governor George H. Ryan. He directly advised the Governor and coordinated the administration of government services relative to the southern 40 counties of Illinois. Active as a leader for numerous public and private organizations, he has served on a library board, a park district board, a school board, a regional healthcare system board, a multi-state economic development commission, and in many other similar posts. He has been appointed to commissions by four of the past five Governments of Illinois and was nominated to national board appointment by President George W. Bush. He is Chairman Emeritus of Sister Cities International (a citizen diplomacy organization based in Washington, DC), having served two years as chairman of its global board of directors. Brad Cole is a graduate of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale with a bachelor's degree in a double major of Political Science and Biological Science, and a Master of Legal Studies degree from the SIU School of Law. He originally hails from Macon Illinois.

David Cook, Executive Director, IPBC

Mr. Cook has served as the first Executive Director of the Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative (IPBC) since July 2013. Previously Mr. Cook worked in local government throughout Illinois for 29 years and retired as the Village Manager of Hinsdale in 2013. Mr. Cook has a BS in Accounting from Eastern IL University. Mr. Cook has previously

served as Chairman of the Illinois Metropolitan Investment Fund and President of the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association.

Sergeant Steven Formenti, Will County Sheriff's Department

Sergeant Steven Formenti has been a Police Officer since 2001 and a member of the Will County Sheriff's Department since 2004. He currently serves as the Sheriff's Departments Training Unit Supervisor. He is also a proud member of the Sheriff's Department Honor Guard and is a Veteran of the Illinois Army National Guard.

Deputy Jeff Jerz, Will County Sheriff's Department

Deputy Jeff Jerz has been a Police Officer since 2001 and a Deputy with the Will County Sheriff's Department since 2004. He is currently assigned to the training unit and is an instructor in tactical trauma and shock management, use of force, firearms, MACTAC/Urban Tactics, Rapid Deployment and Rescue Task Force as well as an Illinois Active Threat Master Instructor. He has trained hundreds of Officers in tactics to neutralize and active threat and is currently working with fire departments and other police departments in his county on training both police and fire personnel to go into active threat environment to save lives. To date, he has taught over 10,000 civilians in how respond during and active threat/active shooter situation and is frequently asked to speak to community groups, schools, and business. He also serves as a Crisis/Hostage Negotiator Assistant Team Leader on the Departments SWAT Team and is a proud member of the Sheriff's Departments Honor Guard.

Heidi Leonard, Senior Vice President of Government & Institutional Banking, Regions Bank

Heidi Leonard is a Senior Vice President of Government & Institutional Banking at Regions Bank where for the past four years she has been serving state & local government, public school, and nonprofit clients. In this capacity, she is responsible for formulating market strategy, working with relationship managers and lending the bank's capital with a focus on community development, fraud prevention and financial wellness education.

She has served as a board member on Indiana Women in Public Finance, the Hamilton Southeastern Education Foundation, and the Hub & Spoke Institute, in addition to volunteering for seven years with the Indianapolis Children's Museum Guild. Heidi recently joined the Indiana Executive Council on Cybersecurity, where she serves as chair of the finance committee. Since receiving her MBA from Indiana University in 2020, Heidi has remained engaged at the Kelley School of Business, teaching an introductory financial management class, as well as serving as a guest speaker and mentor to the Finance Diversity Program.

William D. McCarty II, Director of the Office of Budget and Management, City of Springfield, Past President - Executive Board - IGFOA Chair - IGFOA Legislative Committee

William D McCarty II became Director of Budget and Management (OBM) on May 2, 2011. As Director of OBM, Director McCarty is responsible for overseeing tax administration, accounting, accounts payable, budgeting, payroll, purchasing, and citywide fleet maintenance services. From October 2007 through May 2011, Bill was Chief Financial Officer, Bureau of Property Management for the State of Illinois Central Management Services (CMS). Other State service includes federal finance manager for CMS and lead Medicaid analyst for the Governor's Office of Management and Budget.

From April 2005 through April 2009, he served as Village President of Williamsville, Illinois and prior to that spent three years as Village Trustee in Williamsville. He received a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Notre Dame and holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Illinois – Springfield.

Currently, Bill is the Immediate Past President of the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association Executive Board and is Chair of the IGFOA Legislative Committee. He is also a member of the Illinois Municipal League (IML) Legislative Committee, a member of IML's Personnel and Pensions Policy Committee and is Chair of the National Association of Fleet Administrators (NAFA) U.S. Government Affairs Committee.

Jason Perry, President, Azavar Government Solutions

Jason is the President and Chief Executive of Azavar Government Solutions since 1996. He attended the University of Illinois. Throughout his career he has been devoted to standing up for local governments by making sure that public utilities are paying their fair share to these entities across the country. Over the past 10 years he has developed cloud-

based solution – Localgov - that helps municipalities streamline administrative functions such as business license permits, local tax collection and much more.

Kathleen F. Rush, Vice President, GovHR USA

Kathleen F. Rush, prior to retirement had over 30 years active experience as a local government management professional including service in DeKalb, Woodridge, and Riverside, Illinois. From 2009 until 2017, Ms. Rush served as the Village Administrator in Woodridge, a progressive, vibrant, diverse community in south central DuPage County. During her tenure in Woodridge, Ms. Rush was responsible for an approximate \$44.5 million budget and 126 full-time employees.

In Riverside, Illinois, Ms. Rush served as the Village Manager from 1998 to 2009. As a national historic landmark, Riverside is a unique, small town with a high demand for resident service and attention to historic preservation. Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, designer of Central Park, NY, the Village of Riverside presented a unique set of challenges and projects. The community is known for its significant amount of open space, distinctive zoning and curvilinear streets.

Prior to serving in the Manager's role in Riverside, Ms. Rush did serve as the Assistant Village Administrator in Woodridge. She served as the acting Director of Public Works for a time during which she served as the project manager during the construction of a new Village Hall.

Ms. Rush holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and a graduate degree in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University. Ms. Rush serves on the Board of Directors for the DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform.