

IGFOA 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE MODERATOR INFORMATION

Sofia Anastopoulos, Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer, IMET

Sofia Anastopoulos is the Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer of IMET. Sofia began her work in the public sector at the Government Finance Officers Association in 2005, where she authored several publications on investing. She then founded her own firm, Public Funds Consulting, before joining IMET. Sofia is passionate about helping local governments learn, appreciate and implement best practices in treasury and investing. Sofia is a graduate of Northwestern University and received an MBA from DePaul University in Chicago. She holds the designation of Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).

Jon Beckmann, Director of Finance and Operations, Waukegan Park District

Jon Beckmann is the Director of Finance and Operations at the Waukegan Park District. In this role, he oversees the Park District's \$46 million dollar annual operating and capital improvement budget. In addition, Jon is accountable for all finance-related areas as well as human resources, IT, risk management, and golf operations. He is a Certified Park and Recreation Executive (CPRE). Jon serves as Secretary of the IGFOA Executive Board and is a member of the IGFOA Professional Education Committee.

Paul N. Christensen, CPA, CPFO, Deputy City Manager/Executive Director Strategy & Planning/Finance Director, City of Woodstock

Paul N. Christensen is the Deputy City Manager, Executive Director of Strategy & Planning, Finance Director, and Treasurer for the City of Woodstock. Paul has held the Finance Director position since November of 2013 and was promoted to also serve as the Assistant City Manager on July 18, 2016. As part of an organizational structure change, Paul was promoted to Deputy City Manager and Executive Director of Strategy & Planning on January 3, 2022. Prior to this, he worked at the Village of Schiller Park (2008-2013) and the Village of Fox Lake (1997-2008).

At the City of Woodstock, Paul is responsible for directing and supervising all financial responsibilities for the City's 78.7-million-dollar budget. This includes budgeting, investing, debt, utility billing, payroll, accounts payable, and maintaining all aspects of the general ledger. In addition, he is responsible for implementing procedural improvements to the overall organization. Lastly, working closely with each Department's Director, he oversees IT and Library functions.

Paul is a Certified Public Accountant, a Certified Public Finance Officer and holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Iowa. Paul is a member of the Illinois Society of Certified Public Accountants (ILCPAS), the Government Finance Officers Association of United States and Canada (GFOA), and the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association (IGFOA).

Christina Coyle, Director of Finance, City of Elmhurst

Christina Coyle became the Director of Finance for the City of Elmhurst in February 2022. She oversees the City's \$200 million annual budget, accounting, financial reporting, and financial planning. Prior to joining the City, Christina was the Assistant Finance Director and subsequently the Finance Director at the Village of Glen Ellyn, where she worked for 10 years. Previously, Christina was a government Audit Manager at Baker Tilly US, LLP. Christina serves as Chair of IGFOA's Technical Accounting Review Committee (TARC) and is a Certified Public Accountant. She graduated from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, with a double-major in Finance and French.

Sandy Evans, Director of Finance, City of O'Fallon

Sandy Evans is the Director of Finance for the City of O'Fallon and has been with the city for over 17 years. She is a member of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), Illinois Government and Finance Officers Association (IGFOA) and Illinois Municipal Treasurers Association (IMTA). Sandy is an active member of IGFOA, currently serving as Chair of the Membership Committee and is a past president of the IGFOA Downstate Chapter. Sandy received her B.S. in Finance from Eastern Illinois University, Charleston., IL and completed her Master of Public Administration from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, IL.

Melissa Gallagher, Chief Financial Officer, Lake County

Melissa Gallagher is the Chief Financial Officer for Lake County. She joined Lake County in November 2021 as Deputy Finance Director and was appointed Interim CFO in January 2024. Melissa was appointed CFO in June 2024. She previously served as Finance Director for the City of Rolling Meadows. Melissa is a long-time member of the IGFOA, serving as President of the Executive Board in 2018 and as a member of the Technical Accounting Review Committee (TARC). She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Science from Michigan State University and a Master of Accounting and Financial Management Degree from Keller Graduate School of Management. Melissa is a dedicated lifelong learner with a strong commitment to personal and professional development.

Susan Griffin, MBA, Municipal Finance Consultant, Retired Municipal Finance Director

Susan Griffin retired after 27 years as a Finance Director, serving 25 of those years with the Village of Lake Bluff. Previously, Susan was the Principal Accountant for the City of Lake Forest. She has worked for the last six years as Interim Finance Director/Finance Consultant for MGT/GovTemps USA for five northern IL municipalities. Susan can't seem to break away from municipal accounting like other retirees! She has the honor of being a member of the first class of GFOA's Certified Public Finance Officer designation.

Elizabeth Holleb, CPA, Finance Director and Treasurer, City of Lake Forest

Elizabeth Holleb is the Finance Director and Treasurer for the City of Lake Forest, Illinois, having joined the city staff in June of 2012. She is a Certified Public Accountant with more than 30 years of work experience in municipal finance. Previous employers include the Government Finance Officers Association, the Village of Northbrook, the Village of Oak Park and the City of Highland Park. Elizabeth has a BS in Accounting from Ball State University, where she was a Cum Laude graduate of the Honors College. In January 2020, Elizabeth was appointed by Governor Pritzker to the Illinois Police Officers Pension Investment Fund Transition Board as a Municipal Representative and was subsequently elected to the Permanent Board effective January 2021. Elizabeth is the President of the IGFOA Executive Board, a member of the GFOA Education Advisory Council, and a member of the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency's Board of Directors. She has previously served on the IGFOA Chicago Metro Chapter Board and the Illinois Metropolitan Investment Fund Board of Trustees.

Tracy Kennett, CPA, Chief Financial Officer, Village of Shiloh

Tracy Kennett has led municipal finance departments for the past eleven years, serving as the Chief Financial Officer for the Village of Shiloh since November 2020. Prior to Shiloh, he was the Director of Finance and Treasurer for the City of Wood River. Tracy began his professional career in public accounting, working in that field for well over a decade and spending significant time performing local government audits.

Tracy is a graduate of Southern Illinois University (Carbondale). He obtained his CPA license shortly thereafter. Tracy is a member of IGFOA, GFOA, AICPA, ICPAS and IMTA, and serves IGFOA as the one of the Regional Coordinators for the Downstate Chapter Southern Region.

Andrew Kim, Director, Public Finance, PMA Securities, LLC.

Andrew Kim joined PMA Securities in 2015. He has been in the public finance industry since 2009 as both an investment banker and a municipal advisor and has extensive experience structuring numerous bond issues for communities throughout the State of Illinois. At PMA, Andrew is responsible for expanding PMA's Public Finance footprint among municipal units of government in the northern region of the State of Illinois. Andrew's education includes a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Northwestern University and a Master of Public Policy from the University of Chicago.

Courtney R. Kouzmanoff, Finance Director, Champaign Park District

Courtney R. Kouzmanoff is currently the Finance Director for the Champaign Park District. Before joining the Park District, she was the City of Champaign's Financial Services Manager/Budget Officer. Courtney holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Illinois-Chicago and is working to obtain her CPFO designation. She also currently serves as the IGFOA Downstate Chapter President and previously served as Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. In the community, Courtney also serves on the Board of Directors for a local non-profit organization.

Diane Gillian Lantz, Executive Director, IGFOA

Diane Gillian Lantz is the Executive Director of the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association (IGFOA), serving in that role since March 2015. She was previously a member of IGFOA and is passionate about helping IGFOA members obtain the most value from their membership and fulfilling the organization's mission "to promote excellence in government finance".

Diane has spent over 30 years as a government finance professional, including Assistant Director of Finance for the Village of Elk Grove, Assistant Director of Technical Services for the national GFOA, and Financial Reporting Manager for the State of Ohio, Office of Budget and Management. While at the State of Ohio, she was integral in converting the State to reporting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and preparing the State's first annual comprehensive financial report. In addition, Diane twice served as Interim Executive Director for the Illinois Metropolitan Investment Fund (IMET).

Diane is a graduate of Miami University, Oxford, Ohio with a Bachelor of Science in Business (major in accounting) and a CPA in both Illinois and Ohio. She is a member of the GFOA, ILCPAS, AICPA, and ILCMA.

Frederick G. Lantz, CPA, Retired

Frederick G. Lantz, a Certified Public Accountant, retired in 2023 from Sikich, LLP after working at the Firm for 30 years. At Sikich, he was responsible for providing technical services to Sikich's clients in all areas of governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, budget development, revenue and expenditure forecasting, and cash and debt management. Prior to joining Sikich, Fred was an assistant director for the Technical Services Center of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for 10 years, where he was a nationally recognized expert in the state and local government industry. At GFOA, he managed the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program, providing governmental accounting, auditing and financial reporting guidance to state and local government officials and their auditors, and served as a liaison to the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

Fred is a member of the Illinois CPA Society, the IGFOA, serving on the Technical Accounting Review Committee, the GFOA serving on the Special Review Committee for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program, and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Fred is looking forward to his wife of 30+ years retiring soon so they can finally begin to travel, including watching their older son coach football at a state-ranked high school in Minnesota.

William D. McCarty II, Chief Operating Officer, Illinois Central Management Services

William D. McCarty II became the Chief Operating Officer for Illinois Central Management Services (CMS) on July 10, 2023. As COO, Bill is responsible for overseeing the Bureau of Statewide Property Management, Federal and State Surplus Operations and Emergency Services. Prior to joining CMS, Bill spent 12 years as the Director of Budget and Management (OBM) for the City of Springfield. From October 2007 through May 2011, Bill was Chief Financial Officer, Bureau of Property Management for 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.

Bill is a former member of the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association Executive Board, serving as President in 2021, and is Chair of the IGFOA Legislative Committee. He is a member of the National Association of Fleet Administrators (NAFA) Board of Directors and is former Chair of NAFA's U.S. Government Affairs Committee. 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.

Rachel Musiala, CPA, Finance Director, Village of Hoffman Estates

Rachel has been with the Village of Hoffman Estates for twenty-nine years. She started with the Village as the Accountant in 1995 and moved on to Fiscal Operations Manager, Assistant Director, and then onto Director of Finance, the position she currently holds. She earned a Bachelor of Accountancy from Northern Illinois University and is a Certified Public Accountant.

Rachel has been a part of the Budget Review Panel for the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program for many years and has completed the GFOA Advanced Government Finance Institute. Rachel has volunteered for IGFOA for many years, most recently as chairperson for the Professional Education Committee. Rachel is also a Certified Pension Fund Trustee.

Josh Peacock, CPA, Finance Director, Village of Streamwood

Josh Peacock is in his 13th year at the Village of Streamwood where he serves as the Finance Director. His primary responsibilities include advising the Village Board of all financial related matters, organizing the completion of annual Audits (including the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report), and preparing the annual Budget (\$79.4 million). Josh has played a key role implementing the Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP) Tyler Munis. He has been involved in several projects including integrating an online bill payment system, email billing, and the automation of bank-issued checks. Recently, he worked on a Water Rate Study to create a new dual rate structure that helped form current legislation. Josh also helped form legislation for a local Food and Beverage Tax. He is a member of the Village's Wellness Committee, Safety Committee, Staff Liaison to the Veterans Commission, an Executive Committee Member of both MICA and IPBC (insurance pools), and the Treasurer of Summer Celebration (Streamwood's Annual Summer Festival). Josh has also served as the Village's Deputy Village Clerk.

Josh started his professional career in public accounting with RSM. He spent 10 years as an auditor serving primarily the public sector. Josh was a firm designated internal control specialist trained in matters pertaining to the documentation and analyzing segregation of duties. He also served as the lead auditor on several large state-wide pension systems.

Josh earned a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy with a Minor in Finance from Saint Joseph's College (Indiana) and is a CPA. He is a member of the GFOA, and Illinois GFOA. Josh is a baseball fan (Chicago White Sox) and has bowled three perfect games in league competition.

Molly Talkington, MPA, Finance Director, City of Rolling Meadows

Molly Talkington is currently the Finance Director for the City of Rolling Meadows, serving in that role since May 2022 and bringing 20 years of experience to the city. Prior to joining the city, she was the Finance Principal/Comptroller for the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, an agency that focuses on regional transportation planning. She has held positions throughout the State, including as the Finance Director for the Village of East Dundee and the City of DeKalb, the Budget Officer for the City of Champaign, and the Budget Analyst in the City of Naperville.

Molly has a Master of Public Administration from Northern Illinois University and a Bachelor of Science in History from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. She served as the Downstate Chapter President for the Illinois Government Finance Officers' Association (IGFOA). As a member of IGFOA and the Government Finance Officers' Association, she leads and moderates training sessions for other government professionals and continues to volunteer in other capacities for both organizations. She is the current President- Elect for the Government Finance Officers' Association's Women's Public Finance Network.

Julie Zolghadr, Retired Budget Division Manager, City of Springfield

Julie Zolghadr was a member of the budget staff for the City of Springfield since 1989 and served as the budget division manager since 1995. Her division oversaw the activities of 12 city agencies with a total annual budget of approximately \$260M across 40 funds. The division reviewed all spending documents, personnel transactions, pending legislation, and provided key support to the City's labor relations function through analyzing collective bargaining economic requests.

Julie is a regular presenter for the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association, Illinois Municipal League, Illinois Municipal Clerks Association, Illinois Municipal Treasurers Association, and the Illinois Association of County Board Members. Most recently, she served as a presenter for the June 2022 Austin Texas national GFOA conference where she spoke about the looming issue of what happens after ARPA. She is an advocate of making budget information accessible, transparent, and understandable to all readers.

Julie retired from the City of Springfield on May 5, 2023, and has since become adept at drywall mudding, cleaning out closets, and yelling out the answers during Jeopardy.