

# IGFOA 2022 DOWNSTATE CHAPTER CONFERENCE

February 17-18, 2022

President Abraham Lincoln Springfield, A DoubleTree Hotel  
701 East Adams Street, Springfield IL 62701

## AGENDA

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022

**9:30 – 10:00 AM**            **Check-in and Networking**

**10:00 – 10:10 AM**            **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

*Julie Kusturin, Assistant Chief Financial Officer, Peoria County and  
President, IGFOA Downstate Chapter*

**10:10 – 11:25 AM**            **Finance Officer or Firefighter: Stop Putting Out Fires with  
Effective Departmental Goal Setting**

*Speaker: James “Jim” Arndt, President/CEO, Arndt Municipal Support,  
Inc.*

Failure to prepare. Prepare to fail. You can choose to direct your daily, weekly, and monthly activities by setting achievable goals for you and your team or you can allow the daily ebb and flow to control your activities. The choice is yours!

*Learning Objectives: Participants completing this session will be able to:*

- Understand the importance of setting actionable and achievable goals;
- Develop a participation-based methodology to set departmental goals;
- Understand the importance of assigning a champion to each goal;
- Develop an accountability system tied to accomplishing a goal; and
- Create a routine reporting mechanism for the department and City leadership.

**CPE:** About 1.5 hours    **Field of Study:** Personal Development – Non-Technical    **Level:** Overview

**11:25 – 11:40 AM**            **Break**

**11:40 AM – 12:30 PM**       **Illinois Municipal Bond Update**

*Speakers: Shelly Scinto, Of Counsel, Ice Miller LLP*

**Robert P. Vail**, Senior Vice President/Managing Director of  
Public Finance, Bernardi Securities, Inc.

**John Vezzetti**, Vice President, Bernardi Securities, Inc.

**Kevin Wills**, Investment Banking Specialist, Bernardi Securities,  
Inc.

Join this panel for a discussion of current bond market trends, municipal bond issuance types for Illinois cities and villages, special service area and tax increment financing bonds, legislative updates, and pension obligation bonds.

*IGFOA Downstate Chapter reserves the right to modify the agenda and/or speakers.*

*Learning Objectives: Participants completing this session will be able to:*

- Learn about various bond issuance types available to Illinois cities and villages;
- Determine if pension obligations may be beneficial for your municipality;
- Gain an understanding of tax-exempt advanced refunding bonds and bank qualification;
- Explore financing alternatives for designated TIF areas and special service areas; and
- Learn how Illinois bond financing can be coupled with Federal grants and other available money.

**CPE:** About 1.0 hours

**Field of Study:** Finance – Technical

**Level:** Update

**12:30 – 1:30 PM            Networking Luncheon**

**1:30 – 2:20 PM            Financial Fraud Schemes: What You Should Know**

*Speaker: Randy Charles Wilborn, Vice President and Product Owner, Regions Bank Treasury Management Products and Services*

This session will discuss common financial schemes used by fraudsters and perpetrators planning to steal money and data. Learn how these schemes, such as Business Email Compromise and Cyber Fraud are carried out and the best practices to help prevent your community from becoming a victim. Participants will also learn about trends related to fraudulent losses.

*Learning Objectives: Participants completing this session will be able to:*

- Gain an understanding of commonly used financial related fraud schemes;
- Become aware of solutions used to combat these schemes and financial losses; and
- Appreciate why employee education and best practices such as dual-control can prevent financial losses.

**CPE:** About 1.0 hours **Field of Study:** Finance-Technical/Information Technology-Technical **Level:** Overview

**2:20 – 2:30 PM            Break**

**2:30 – 3:20 PM            The Top 3 Challenges in Local Government**

*Speakers: David Jelonek, CPA, Partner, GW & Associates, P.C.*

*John Wysocki, Partner-in-Charge, GW & Associates, P.C.*

There are many challenges facing local governments. Some challenges are shared among departments, others are not. This session will focus on the top challenges facing local governments from an audit perspective. From new GASB pronouncements to changes in funding sources, from the pandemic to audit preparedness, finance departments across Illinois face an environment of constant change and growing uncertainty. This session will address these topics and others.

*Learning Objectives: Participants completing this session will be able to:*

- Discuss with other local government professionals the challenges facing their communities and departments;
- Hear from audit professionals their perspective on the challenges found over the past few years; and
- Learn how to prepare your finance department to face these challenges and uncertainties.

**CPE:** About 1.0 hours      **Field of Study:** Accounting (Governmental) – Technical      **Level:** Overview

**3:20 – 3:30 PM**      **Break**

**3:30 – 4:45 PM**      **Legislative Update**

*Speakers:* **Brad Cole**, Executive Director, Illinois Municipal League (IML)  
**William D. McCarty II**, Director – Office of Budget and Management, City of Springfield, IGFOA President and Legislative Committee Chair

This session will provide participants with an update on State legislative matters relevant to Illinois local governments.

*Learning Objectives: Participants completing this session will be able to:*

- Gain knowledge of new Illinois Public Acts significantly affecting local governments;
- Understand pending Illinois General Assembly legislative proposals that may significantly affect local governments; and
- Explore recent developments in proposed pension reform legislation.

**CPE:** About 1.5 hours      **Field of Study:** Business Law – Technical      **Level:** Update

**4:45 – 5:00 PM**      **Open Discussion/Q&A**

*Julie Kusturin*, Assistant Chief Financial Officer, Peoria County and President, IGFOA Downstate Chapter

**5:30 – 7:30 PM**      **Networking Dinner at Saputo’s Restaurant**

## **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2022**

**8:00 – 9:00 AM**      **Breakfast**

**8:50 – 9:00 AM**      **Announcements**

*Julie Kusturin*, Assistant Chief Financial Officer, Peoria County and President, IGFOA Downstate Chapter

**9:00 – 10:15 AM**      **Common Reporting Deficiencies and How to Avoid Them**  
*Speaker: Anthony Cervini, CPA, CFE, Partner-in-Charge, Government Services, Sikich LLP*

Tired of getting the same comments every year from GFOA or looking to ensure your report is free from some of the most frequently noted errors? Are you considering submitting your government's financial report for the GFOA award, but unsure whether it would be accepted? Worry no more as this session will discuss the most common deficiencies seen in governmental financial statements and how to avoid them. Learn how to ensure your Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) submission is accepted and receives the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. If you're still not ready to prepare an ACFR, this session will discuss the other GFOA award programs – one might be just right for your government!

*Learning Objectives: Participants completing this session will be able to:*

- Identify common reporting errors found in governmental financial statements;
- Learn best practices for identifying and correcting potential reporting errors when preparing and reviewing financial statements; and
- Gain an understanding of the criteria for various GFOA Award Programs and how to review your own ACFR.

**CPE:** About 1.5 hours      **Field of Study:** Accounting (Governmental) – Technical      **Level:** Overview

**10:15 – 10:30 AM**      **Break**

**10:30 – 11:45 AM**      **Inclusion, Accountability, and Transparency: How to Operationalize Equity within Your Organization**  
*Speaker: Kimberly Richardson, Assistant City Manager, City of Peoria*

By starting from the internal environment of an organization and building a “learn-pilot-act-learn” culture based on equity approaches, learn how to strengthen government operations in order to respond comprehensively and collaboratively to the needs of your community.

*Learning Objectives: Participants completing this session will be able to:*

- Clearly define equity in the field of public administration;
- Learn how an equity impact analysis tool is used to improve the impact of policies and services; and
- Understand a few concrete examples of how to include equity in decision-making, team building, and leadership development.

**CPE:** About 1.5 hours      **Field of Study:** Personnel/Human Resources – Non-Technical      **Level:** Overview

- 11:45 AM – NOON**      **Open Discussion and Closing Remarks**  
*Julie Kusturin, Assistant Chief Financial Officer, Peoria County and  
President, IGFOA Downstate Chapter*
- NOON – 12:45 PM**      **Luncheon with the IGFOA Executive Board**