

IGFOA 2026 DOWNSTATE CHAPTER CONFERENCE

February 5-6, 2026

I Hotel & Illinois Conference Center

1900 S 1st St., Champaign, IL 61820

AGENDA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026

9:30 – 10:25 AM **Check-in and Networking**

10:25 – 10:30 AM **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Courtney Kouzmanoff, Director of Finance, Champaign Park District,
President, IGFOA Downstate Chapter

10:30 – 11:20 AM **Session 1: What is the Federal Reserve and Why Should We Care?**

Speaker: Michelle Binns, Director, PFM Asset Management

Why does the Fed keep coming up in everyday conversation? Who are they, what do they do, and why is a near fistfight part of their origin story? In this session, we will review the origins of the Federal Reserve System and delve into the nitty gritty of its components, including the Federal Reserve Banks, Board of Governors and the Federal Open Market Committee. We'll also discuss the various tools the Fed uses to keep our economy from dropping like a sack of potatoes during trying times and why its public comments can change attitudes quicker than the latest TikTok craze.

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

- List at least two key components regarding the structure and duties of the Federal Reserve System.
- List which tools the Fed uses to shape monetary policy.
- Describe and discuss how the Fed impacts the U.S. economy.

CPE: About 1.0 hours **Field of Study:** Economics – Technical **Level:** Overview

11:20 AM – 12:30 PM **Session 2: Conflict Resolution & Management**

Speaker: Scot Wrighton, Senior Management Consultant, *LeaderGov*; &
Team Leader, *Interim Solutions, LLC*

This session deals with one aspect of so-called “soft” leadership skills. Using interactive assessments, exercises and small group discussions, the session will give participants practical tools they can utilize in their cities and counties, and implement in their departments, to enhance working relationships, improve morale, and enable work teams to be more effective and productive, and ultimately make the government offices they manage more enjoyable places to work.

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

- Understand and identify four(4) different types/categories of workplace conflict

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

- Understand and identify the five (5) conflict resolution styles, and which one is the preferred conflict resolution style of the session participant
- Develop strategies for conflict resolution that foster trust, and a cohesive and resilient team environment
- Development strategies emphasizing that conflict resolution is not about winning, but about creating a path forward

CPE: About 1.0 hours **Field of Study:** Personal Development – Non-technical **Level:** Overview

12:30 – 1:30 PM Networking Luncheon

1:30 – 2:20 PM Session 3: Selecting & Empowering Teams/Evaluating Team Dynamics

Speaker: Scot Wrighton, Senior Management Consultant, *LeaderGov*; & Team Leader, *Interim Solutions, LLC*

This session touches on several aspects of so-called “soft” leadership skills, including the use of influence, effective communication, and visioning, and then applies them to workplace team development—specifically transforming what likely starts out as a group of people with no prior commitment to each other or a common work task, into High Performing Teams. Using interactive assessments, exercises and small group discussions, the session will give participants practical tools they can utilize in their cities and counties, and implement in their departments, to use teams appropriately to solve problems and improve efficiency in the workplace.

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

- Differentiate between groups of employees assigned a task, from High Performing Teams
- Understand and identify ten(10) attributes of High Performing Teams
- Understand how to implement the four (4) critical stages of good team development, and understand the two(2) fundamental categories of team roles
- Understand how all four stages of good team development are required to prevent “groupthink”
- Understand how High Performing Teams, once established and operating, can be self-sustaining and even surpass their initial tasks
- Learn to use a diagnostic tool for selecting the best team members

CPE: About 1.0 hours **Field of Study:** Personal Development – Non-technical **Level:** Overview

2:20 – 2:30 PM Break

2:30 – 3:20 PM Session 4: Safeguarding Public Funds: Illinois Investment Strategies and Options

Speakers: Randi Van Wie, Deputy Director of Finance, *City of Edwardsville*

Lisa Nusko, VP, Investment Services, *PTMA*

Sofia Anastopoulos, Executive Director, *Illinois Metropolitan Investment Fund (IMET)*

Matt Hanigan, Institutional Sales and Relationship Manager, *PFM*

This comprehensive session is designed specifically for Illinois units of municipal government

seeking to strengthen their investment practices, enhance financial stewardship, and ensure full compliance with state statutes. Attendees will gain practical, actionable insights into managing public funds responsibly while navigating an evolving economic and regulatory landscape.

The panel styled session will provide an in-depth review of permitted investment instruments and current best practices for safeguarding taxpayer dollars. Participants will learn about effective investment policies, evaluate risk and liquidity needs, and work productively with financial institutions and investment advisors.

Ideal for finance directors, treasurers, administrators, board members, and other public officials responsible for managing or overseeing municipal investments, this session will blend expert instruction with real-world examples relevant to local government operations.

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

- Understanding current economic trends and their impact on public fund portfolios
- Learn practical strategies for optimizing returns within safety and liquidity priorities
- Evaluate their risk management principles, including credit, liquidity, and market risk

CPE: About 1.0 hours **Field of Study:** Finance – Technical **Level:** Intermediate

3:20 – 3:35 PM **Break**

3:35 – 4:25 PM **Session 5: TBD**

4:25 – 4:30 PM **Closing Remarks & Reminders**
Courtney Kouzmanoff, Director of Finance, Champaign Park District,
President, IGFOA Downstate Chapter

5:30 – 8:00 PM **Networking Dinner at Aspen Tap House**
2001 S Neil St, Champaign, IL 61820

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2026

8:00 – 9:00 AM **Breakfast**

9:00 – 10:00 AM **Session 6: IML Legislative Update**
Speaker: Brad Cole, Executive Director, Illinois Municipal League (IML)

This session will update 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 legislation.

CPE: About 1.0 hours **Field of Study:** Business Law – Technical **Level:** Update

10:00 – 10:50 AM

Session 7: GASB 103 – Understanding GASB’s Changes to the Financial Reporting Model

Speaker: Anthony Cervini, CPA, CFE, Principal, *Sikich*

This session will cover the changes resulting from GASB 103 – Management’s Discussion and Analysis, the presentation of the Proprietary Fund statement of revenues, expenses and changes in fund net position, and other key topics.

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

- Understand how to update your MD&A
- Learn the new format for the proprietary fund income statement and how to incorporate the changes into your financial statements
- Identify the other reporting changes required by the new standard

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

10:50 – 11:00 AM

Break

11:00 – 11:50 AM

Session 8: Old Fashioned Payroll Practices That Need to Go

Speaker: Tim Gavin, CPA, Principal, *Lauterbach & Amen, LLP*

Old and outdated payroll practices could cost your organization thousands of dollars in errors and inefficiencies. They can also make the workplace experience for your employees less enjoyable, making your organization more prone to turnover. This session will dive into a number of outdated and obsolete payroll practices that you should let go of and ways to modernize your payroll. .

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

- Determine whether their organization is using outdated or obsolete practices
- Evaluate modern alternatives
- Take better advantage of options available within their current resources

CPE: About 1.0 hours **Field of Study:** Finance – Technical **Level:** Overview

11:50 – 11:55 AM

Closing Remarks

Courtney Kouzmanoff, Director of Finance, *Champaign Park District*,
President, IGFOA Downstate Chapter