

## President Hannah Outgoing Remarks

IGFOA Members and Friends. It's been a privilege to serve as your IGFOA President over the past year. I would like to thank the Village of North Aurora, for providing me with the opportunity to dedicate my time and effort not only during the past year but my entire time on the Executive Board. I would also especially like to thank my wife Meredith and family for being so supportive during this time as well. I could not have done it without you.

This past year, most of us have had to deal with significant personal and professional challenges and changes due to the current pandemic, and this has also been the case for IGFOA. Despite these challenges and changes, I could not be more proud of how IGFOA staff, the Executive Board, our Committees, Chapters, volunteers and members have responded during this time.

In spite of the pandemic, IGFOA accomplished a lot over the past year, IGFOA updated and renewed its association management partnership agreement with CM Services, providing increased flexibility for IGFOA while maintaining IGFOA's excellent overall financial strength and position going forward. I would like to thank CM Services for working with IGFOA through the years to provide the staffing and support services necessary so IGFOA can keep fulfilling its mission. We also continued to make progress on our strategic plan, advancing numerous goals in the plan adopted in May of last year. In addition, the Executive Board also completed a multi-year effort led by John Harrington, to complete an update of IGFOA policies and procedures to ensure the organization has the most up-to-date guidelines going forward. In addition, Executive Board member Elizabeth Holleb led a separate group who have worked diligently on the redesign of IGFOA's website for the future.

During the first part of the year IGFOA's Professional Education Committee, chaired by Rachel Musiala, held numerous training events and institutes for the benefit of IGFOA members. Our Chapters: the Downstate Chapter, the South Metro Chapter and the Chicago Metro

Chapter, held many events as well, delivering excellent training and networking opportunities.

IGFOA also continued to provide its expert finance perspective on important topics. TARC, IGFOA's Technical Accounting Review Committee led by Christina Coyle, responded to numerous GASB Exposure Drafts, Preliminary Views statements and other documents, and issued timely and important guidance to IGFOA members via whitepapers and other formats.

Our Membership Committee chaired by Linda Dalton, strengthened our membership base despite the challenges over this past year, and our Legislative Committee, led by Bill McCarty continued to monitor and provide critical information and updates to our membership in what was a very challenging and busy legislative year. IGFOA also continued to collaborate with other associations and organizations throughout the year, ensuring that IGFOA's knowledge and expertise is heard as we fulfill our mission of promoting excellence in governmental finance.

After the Downstate Chapter held their conference at the end of February, news of coronavirus started to become more prominent. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, the State was reporting 19 total confirmed cases of COVID-19. As those numbers continued to grow, and steps to address it began, it became clear that our professional and personal lives were about to undergo an upheaval that few of us have ever experienced. Many of us had to figure out how to not only get ourselves and staff to work effectively from home, but how to get the camera at just the right height and angle for the next zoom call of the day while trying to help with e-learning and dealing with a barking dog in the background.

Although many of our traditional IGFOA in-person events had to be cancelled, I am incredibly proud of the things we as an Association did to respond to these challenges and changes during this time. Just a few examples of these things included hosting numerous virtual roundtables for our members to share ideas and talk through the issues; providing weekly and almost daily information updates and resource lists to assist during this time, and working with our Partner members to provide free

webinars on important issues. IGFOA's Conference Leadership team, spearheaded by Kevin Wachtel and Jennifer Johnson also worked to put together an outstanding conference webinar series, providing important information, training and CPE's. I also want to thank our Partners, who despite the upheaval we have all experienced, continued to recognize and value the strategic, long-term partnership that IGFOA provides. Thank you to all of our Partners for your continuing support for the Association, and our Partners Forum, who worked very hard over the last year. I would also like to thank Diane Lantz, who has worked tirelessly on behalf of IGFOA over this past year, always thinking of ways to better serve our members, and help navigate the Association through these times. Thank you Diane.

I would also like to take this moment to recognize and acknowledge Ruth Limpers. Ruth has served and been the face of IGFOA since 1998, providing unparalleled customer service and assistance to our members as IGFOA's Senior Association Manager. As most of you are aware, Ruth has now been undergoing treatment for ALS, and continues to work for IGFOA on a part-time basis. Ruth, we value everything you are doing as you continue to serve IGFOA, and I just want to thank you for all of your years of service, and I believe I speak for the entire IGFOA family by saying we will be always here for you.

While we have had our share of challenges and changes this year, I'm not only proud of how we have responded, but also confident that we have an outstanding group of Board members, Committee Chairs, Partners, volunteers and of course IGFOA staff to take us forward into the next year, and see beyond the challenges we face.

Once again, thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve as IGFOA President during the past year. Thank you.

Bill Hannah  
Finance Director/Treasurer  
Village of North Aurora