

IGFOA DOWNSTATE CHAPTER CONFERENCE

February 15 - 16, 2024 | Speaker Bios

Aaron Allen, Division Manager, Local Tax Allocation, Illinois Department of Revenue

Aaron Allen received a B.S. in Agribusiness, Farm, and Financial Management from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a MBA from the University of Illinois at Springfield. He has worked for the Department of Revenue for 15 years in the Motor Fuel Division, Audit Division, as the Section Manager of the Alcohol and Tobacco Processing Section, and now as the Division Manager of the Local Tax Allocation Division since April 2018.

Joana Ardelean, MSHRM, SHRM-CP, PHR, CC - Human Resources Executive, Coach, Speaker and Author

Joana Ardelean is a human resources executive, coach, speaker and writer, and a proud Romanian with rich traditions filled with faith. She strives for mastery in her field, is an award winner, is triple certified and has a graduate degree in human resources management. Joana spent almost two decades at industry giants such as PricewaterhouseCoopers, KPMG, RR Donnelley, and different local government agencies. But her passion shines through when she is helping with burnout from being overwhelmed at work and at home. Her coveted framework is now published in her book "Burnout 911: The Ultimate Guide to Work-Life Balance".

Joana has been a featured speaker at various HR annual conferences and seminars, webinars, podcasts, university classes and trade association events including IPELRA, IPMA-HR, Stateline SHRM, The Management Association, The Legacy Project, Roosevelt University, Oakton College, John Crane Co, The Chicago Lighthouse, Hacking HR series, No Woman Left Behind and others.

Anthony Cervini, CPA, CFE, Partner-in-Charge, Government Services, Sikich LLP

Anthony M. Cervini, CPA, CFE, is responsible for providing technical services to Sikich's governmental clients in all areas of governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, budget development, internal controls, revenue and expenditure forecasting, and cash and debt management. Anthony has participated in hundreds of audits of municipalities and other governmental entities since beginning his career with Sikich in 2005. He also has been responsible for serving as lead instructor for governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, cash management and internal control courses internally and throughout the Midwest.

Anthony serves as a member of the GFOA Special Review Committee and is the current Chair of the Illinois CPA Society Government Report Review Committee. Anthony previously served as a budget reviewer for the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

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.

Mike Doerr, VP Public Sector, Paymerang

Mike Doerr oversees Paymerang's Public Sector business. He has a background in fintech and insurance technology, and he enjoys helping organizations leverage technology to transform their business practices. He received his MBA from the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business.

John Fishbein, Senior Program Manager, GFOA

John Fishbein is a senior program manager in the Technical Services Center of the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) in Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Fishbein came to GFOA in 2002. He is responsible for the day-to-day operation of GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program. He is the author of GFOA's recent publication on Building a Better Budget Document. He previously authored Preparing High Quality Budget Documents for School District's and Preparing High Quality Budget Documents. He serves as staff to GFOA's standing Committee on Governmental Budgeting and Fiscal Policy. He has spoken at national and Internet training seminars and conferences on budgeting.

Bill Hannah, Director of Finance, City of St. Charles

Bill Hannah joined the City of St. Charles in 2022, coming from the Village of North Aurora, where he served as the Finance Director/Treasurer since 2005. He started his career as Assistant to the Director of Administrative Services for the Village of Barrington in 1997 and became the Budget/Finance Manager for the City of Wheaton in 2001. Bill holds a BA degree in business and economics from Illinois Benedictine College and a Master of Public Administration from NIU. He was awarded the GFOA Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) certificate in 2013. Bill is a Past President of IGFOA, a member of GFOA and former member of ILCMA, IAMMA and IPELRA.

Sierre Lindgren, Senior Fraud Analyst, Paymerang

Sierre Lindgren is a senior fraud analyst at Paymerang. Sierre helps create new fraud mitigation tools, policies and procedures, and analyzes recent fraud trends and schemes. She also educates business offices nationwide on how to protect themselves from fraud during thought leadership presentations. Before Paymerang, she spent 11 years in the banking industry, with the last five of those years focusing on fraud and investigating ACH, wire, and debit card fraud disputes from customers. Lindgren holds degrees in Psychology and Criminal Justice from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Michael Malatt, CPA, Partner, Baker Tilly US, LLP

Michael is a Partner with Baker Tilly and has been a member of the firm's Public Sector Practice Group since 2007. Michael has extensive experience providing financial and compliance audits, accounting services, and consulting services to state and local government organizations. Michael is also responsible for assisting in the implementation of GASB standards, including the development of practical implementation tools to providing in-depth training to firm staff and clients. Michael is a member of the Illinois CPA Society, AICPA, GFOA Special Review Committee, and IGFOA Professional Education Committee. Michael obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accountancy and Mathematics and a Master of Science in Accountancy from the University of Notre Dame. Michael received the 2008 Excel Award from the Illinois CPA Society for outstanding achievement on the Uniform CPA Examination in Illinois.

Jennifer McMahon, SPHR, Director of Human Resources, City of St. Charles

Jennifer McMahon became the Director of Human Resources for the City of St. Charles in 2016. She earned a BA in Urban Studies from DePaul University and a Master of Urban Planning & Policy from UIC. Her career includes positions as Human Resources Assistant in Elmhurst and Assistant City Administrator in Warrenville. Jennifer is a member of ICMA, ILCMA, NPELRA, IPELRA and The Legacy Project, having held committee or board positions in many of them. She also acts as a career mentor for DePaul University's Alumni Sharing Knowledge program.

Sarah Schillerstrom, Founder and President, SRSD Consulting, LLC

With a successful career spanning nearly two decades in local government, Sarah quickly rose through the ranks and held multiple positions across various departments, including Public Works, Administrative Services, Human Resources and the Village Manager's Office. During her tenure, she served as the Human Resources Director for almost a decade and concluded her service as the Deputy Village Manager. She started her career as an L.P. Cookingham-Noll Fellow and Budget Analyst with the City of Kansas City, MO. Sarah's true passion is to support the creation of positive and healthy work cultures in local government by helping leaders reach their full potential and attracting and retaining top talent. She has established SRSD Consulting, LLC, which partners with GovHR USA to promote coaching within local government. Sarah is also a professional certified coach, bringing her expertise to help build a leadership pipeline for the future.