
Footnotes

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Letter from the President...

Have you ever experienced a “Raclette” dinner? Recently I had the good fortune of experiencing a Raclette dinner party hosted by our Administrator, Kathy Velzen. It was an exceptional opportunity that was both enjoyable and satisfying. I had no idea what a “Raclette” was. So with a little research on Google I quickly discovered that the word “raclette” in French means “to scrape”. Raclette is a type of cheese from Switzerland that is cooked on a special raclette grill. The cheese is melted on the special Raclette grill machine, scraped on the plate and served with potatoes, sausages and other delectable treats. Typically the term “Raclette” is a meal that is served in a relaxed and sociable setting and may last several hours. I began to think about how our own CGFOA has a similar structure to the “raclette”.....providing a social and relaxing way to share information and accomplish our goals. Moving to the CGFOA business, I want to give you a summary of events that that are happening with CGFOA in 2018.

On January 19th, the Education Committee and CGFOA Board met in Westminster. We began the meeting with the Education Committee debriefing of the last year conference in Colorado Springs, which was another very successful conference. We reviewed attendees’ feedback on sessions at the conference and discussed what can be incorporated in the next year sessions to accommodate members’ requests if possible. Our next conference will be held November 13-16 in Breckenridge at Beaver Run resort. The Education Committee did an excellent job in planning annual classes as well as upcoming conference sessions. I would like to give my personal “thank you” to the Education Committee Co-Chairs Catrina Asher and Cheryl Pattelli. They made education planning look so easy! I appreciate and learned how much work was completed before the meeting. From the feedback I received from our members, CGFOA provides a lot of great educational opportunities. I would hope that we see a good attendance to our annual classes and a conference this year.

The first quarter CGFOA Board meeting was conducted after the Education Committee meeting and a networking lunch. The Board reviewed the Treasurer’s reports including CGFOA Financial Report, 2017 Conference Financial Report and 2018 CGFOA Budget. Updates from various committees were presented and discussed at the meeting. Thank you to all members of every committee for their service.

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Fun Facts about March!

Birthstone: Aquamarine

Flower: Daffodil

Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

Aries (March 21 - April 20)

American Dietetic Association National Nutrition Month

American Red Cross Month

Caffeine Awareness Month

National Craft Month

Epilepsy Awareness Month

Flour Month

Fresh Celery Month

Frozen Food Month

Irish-American Month

Music in our Schools Month

Noodle Month

National Nutrition Month

Flour Month

Nutrition Month

Peanut Month

Professional Social Work Month

Sauce Month

Women's History Month

Youth Art Month



CGFOA Facebook Page

Colorado Government Finance Officers Association is setting up a Facebook page! Not much there yet, but simply type Colorado Government Finance Officers Association in the search bar and you'll be taken to our new Facebook page. Suggestions for what to include are appreciated!

<https://www.facebook.com/ColoradoGFOA/>

The word 'March' comes from the Roman 'Martius'. This was originally the first month of the Roman calendar and was named after Mars, the god of war. March was the beginning of our calendar year. We changed to the 'New Style' or Gregorian calendar in 1752, and it is only since then that we begin the year on January 1st.

Martius remained the first month of the Roman calendar year perhaps as late as 153 BC, and several religious observances in the first half of the month were originally new year's celebrations. Even in late antiquity, Roman mosaics picturing the months sometimes still placed March first.

The Jewish Passover usually falls on the first full moon after the Northern Hemisphere vernal equinox, although occasionally (7 times every 19 years) it will occur on the second full moon.

The Christian churches calculate Easter as the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the March equinox. The official church definition for the equinox is March 21; however, as the Eastern Orthodox Churches use the older Julian calendar, while the Western Churches use the Gregorian calendar, both of which designate March 21 as the equinox, the actual date of Easter differs. The earliest possible Easter date in any year is therefore March 22 on each calendar. The latest possible Easter date in any year is April 25.

The March equinox occurs the moment the sun crosses the celestial equator (the imaginary line in the sky above the Earth's equator) from south to north. This happens either on March 19, 20 or 21 every year.

How Easter Is Decided In The Western Churches:

In 325 AD the Council of Nicaea established that Easter would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox. From that point forward, the Easter date depended on the ecclesiastical approximation of March 21 for the vernal equinox.

Easter is delayed by 1 week if the full moon is on Sunday, which decreases the chances of it falling on the same day as the Jewish Passover. The council's ruling is contrary to the Quartodecimans, a group of Christians who celebrated Easter on the day of the full moon, 14 days into the month.

President's Letter *(continued from page 1)*

There is nothing better in your professional lives than to know that what you do is appreciated. As I became involved more with the CGFOA, I really appreciate the dedication of all the Board and Committees members to this great association. Thank you to all the Board and committees' members for their service. Everything is done with the service to our members' in mind. A lot of opportunities are available to our members in the coming months, including Fiscal Health webinar, Introduction to Government Accounting in Arvada and in Grand Junction to name a few. The annual Golf Tournament is also scheduled for June 8th at Buffalo Run Golf Course in Commerce City. Please visit our website to find out more about upcoming events and training opportunities. The next CGFOA Board meeting will be on April 21st in Breckenridge.

It is my hope that with your input and support that I can best combine and prepare the best quality ingredients of education, networking opportunities, an Annual conference and much more for you in the coming year. May we mutually share the best ideas and resources to make 2018 a satisfying and rewarding year for CGFOA!

Olga Fajaros, 2018 CGFOA President
Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office

Upcoming CGFOA Events

Click on any title to register for that session or go to the Calendar of Events to learn more about the session: <http://www.cgfoa.org/Opportunities/Calendarofevents.aspx>

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>
2/28/2018 1:00 PM	Achieving Fiscal Health Webinar
3/22/2018 11:45 AM	Introduction to Governmental Accounting - Arvada
3/23/2018 11:45 AM	Introduction to Governmental Accounting - Grand Junction
4/17/2018 8:30 AM	Beginning Governmental Accounting - Arvada
4/25/2018 10:00 AM	Ethics - CR&R (Webinar)
4/27/2018 8:30 AM	Beginning Governmental Accounting - Grand Junction
5/3/2018 8:30 AM	CTAC 2nd Quarter Workshop
5/6/2018	National GFOA Conference
5/24/2018 8:30 AM	Intermediate Governmental Accounting - Arvada
5/25/2018 8:30 AM	Intermediate Governmental Accounting - Grand Junction
6/8/2018 8:00 AM	CGFOA Annual Golf Tournament
6/14/2018 8:30 AM	Financial Policies
6/19/2018	CML Conference
8/3/2018 8:30 AM	CTAC 3rd Quarter Workshop
10/15/2018 11:15 AM	National GFOA Training

GFOA Conference - Colorado Delegate Event
St. Louis, MO
Sunday, May 6, 2018

After a successful Denver event in 2017, CGFOA is returning to the Sunday Night Colorado Event for the National GFOA Conference in St. Louis, MO. As usual, the event will run from about 8:00 until 10:00 PM, after the GFOA Opening Reception. We are also returning to our regular sponsorship format. We are looking at a few venue options which range in price from \$7000 - \$10,000 for the event. We are once again asking for sponsorships. We have set up three sponsorship levels \$500, \$100, or \$1500 and total contributions will help determine the event venue. As always, sponsors will receive recognition at the event and in Footnotes. Thank you for your continuing support of CGFOA - you may make your contributions at the following link:

<http://www.cgfoa.org/Opportunities/2018NationalGFOAAnnualConference-StLouis,MO.aspx>

Stay tuned for information on the location and how to register - you know it will be a fabulous event, because it always is!

Eight body language no-no's

Debbie Mayo-Smith, SuccessIS; www.successis.co.nz

When you really don't want to talk with someone, you might think you're being polite and friendly. However, your body language can give you away. How often have you caught yourself doing one of the following no-no's?

1. Your arms folded, your body turned away from the person in preparation for moving on. Your whole is in preparation for moving on. Your whole body leans in the intended direction, which is away from the person you are speaking with.
2. Your head is tilted to the side and you have a deadpan facial expression (I'm bored!).
3. Sighing or heaving when breathing.
4. Fidgeting or tapping your fingers or feet.
5. Continuously looking at your watch.
6. If sitting, your hands are holding on to the armrests of the chair in readiness to get up and your legs are tensed, ready to lift the body and leave the room.
7. Gripping tightly on to things you are holding in your hands.
8. Your attention is everywhere except on the person you are speaking with. Your eyes may repeatedly flash toward the direction you want to move to, including looking over their shoulder, glancing to the side, acknowledging another person, watching the door or staring out a window. This may be as subtle as your foot stepping forward or as obvious as your whole body leaning towards the door.

1st Quarter 2018 CTAC Workshop Summary:

Opening Remarks – Mr. Brian Archer, Finance Director with Arvada, offered an overview of how Arvada came to be, what it is up to, and how important the tax compliance programs are to Colorado cities. Thank you, Brian, for your words of support and encouragement in the challenging work we do!



Introductions – Thank you all in attendance for providing us with a number of suggestions on tax issues. We plan to bring these forward during our Hot Topics sessions as well as during various trainings (Audit 101, 201, and Construction). Please forward anything additional along that you would like the group to discuss. Finally, please be prepared to offer your insight and expertise to the discussion as we can all benefit from your knowledge and experience!!!

Morning Session – Ms. Karen Main gave a very good presentation on individual accountability as it relates to teams. There were a couple of activities to get us out of our chairs and comfort zones. Overall, there were a lot of very positive interactions and the Lego challenge proved to be fun yet... challenging.

Lunch – for some this was the best part of the day! <<<that's supposed to be a joke, if it rings true however, please let us know what we can do to change that!!

e-Filing Solutions – We had a great group of presenters discuss their product offerings related to filing returns, licensing, tax determinations through matrices, and sourcing solutions. The information was very helpful as we may endeavor to move beyond in-house systems and investigate solutions that will work for businesses, practitioners, and jurisdictions. We anticipate there will be more discussions on this in the future.

Hot Topics – Although we didn't have a lot of time, the group was able to squeeze in a couple of items for the good of the order:

Restocking Fees – discussion included a general question of what jurisdictions tax these as well as basis. Example was a cosmetics retailer making sales and offering significantly more product as "free with purchase" and then basing restocking fee of returned goods upon the suggested retail price of all goods as opposed to the actual sales price. Consensus was, if Code taxed the fee, then the actual amount retained by the retailer from the original sale would be the taxable base. Also, comments were made related to this being a very Code-specific area of taxation.

Fees – Are fees subject to tax when DOR says you can't tax them? Consensus seemed to be these could not be taxed. Discussion related primarily to automobile rentals and 2% fee imposed on purchaser.

Equipment Declarations – we chatted about the process for advanced filing as well as giving credit for municipal taxes previously paid. It seems the majority indicated that they do have a declaration process if their code imposed a tax on this type of property, proration may be allowed if declared prior to the equipment landing in the jurisdiction, and that credit would be required to be given if it was properly imposed and previously paid.

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Footnotes is a publication of the Colorado Government
 Finance Officers Association

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CTAC Report (continued from Page 5)

SB17-112 – This legislation is related to notice requirements on sourcing errors, statute of limitations, and intercity claims requirements at hearings before the DOR. Discussion included overview of the bill and the idea of giving notice via audit determination letters or similar correspondence. There was a great idea presented by Mr. Jim Anderson to work collaboratively on standard language that could be incorporated into correspondence with taxpayers at some point in an audit. If someone would like to take the lead on this, please raise your hand! We have included the signed bill for your information as some were not familiar with the bill.

Memberships – professional organizations that include periodicals or similar types of TPP as well as gym memberships were brought up; not much discussion on this, however, might be a good topic for another time.

Listserv Update

CGFOA offers four Listservs: Finance Professionals, Tax Audit Professionals, Colorado Flood Resource Professionals, and CGFOA Bike Enthusiasts. If you want to be added to one or more of the listservs, please email your request to Kathy Velzen at administrator@cgfoa.org. Be sure to note which list(s) you want to join.

Finance Directors Listserv

Email your Finance Officers Listserv questions to: finoff@lists.cgfoa.org

CTAC Listserv

Email your CTAC Listserv questions to: taxaud@lists.cgfoa.org

Colorado Flood Resources Listserv

Email your Flood Resources Listserv questions to: coflood@lists.cgfoa.org

CGFOA Bike Enthusiast Listserv

Email your group outing or other information to cgfoarides@lists.cgfoa.org

Keep in mind, joining, leaving or updating an email address is NOT automatic with membership, you must send an email to request being added or making any change or deletion. Also important, make sure you work with your IT department to ensure that emails coming from a lists.cgfoa.org address are marked safe!