

Colorado Fiscal Managers' Association

## CFMA 2012-2013 Officers

Beth Dickinson - President

Trinka Mullin - Vice Pres.

Laura Speaker – Secretary

Linda Dailey - Treasurer

E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR OFFICERS  
AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS CAN BE  
FOUND ON THE CFMA WEBSITE:  
<http://www.colofma.com>

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## President's Corner

Greetings! It was great to see so many new faces at the February luncheon, with featured speaker Henry Sobanet, Director of OSPB. Additional information regarding LEAN training was sent out to attendees. If you would like the link to the free training site, please contact me by emailing [cofiscalmanagers@gmail.com](mailto:cofiscalmanagers@gmail.com).

Several inquiries have been made about registering for the Spring Conference to be held May 16<sup>th</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup> at Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs. The planning board is finalizing speakers and sponsors for the event. We expect to open registration by mid-March. An email will be sent when registration opens. Laura Speaker and her committee recently sent a flyer with details about the Silent Auction, proceeds to benefit the Tim Smith Memorial Scholarship fund. If you would like more information about this event, please contact Laura at [laura.speaker@cccs.edu](mailto:laura.speaker@cccs.edu) or call her at (720) 858-2745.

Recently I attended a local seminar on public sector accounting and OMB Circular A-133 developments were discussed.

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, guidance was issued recommending a number of changes to the Single Audit process. Although we hope to have a session at the Spring Conference concerning the changes, the comment period is currently through April 30, 2013. If you would like to read the full 244 page notice, the following link is provided:

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/financial/grant\\_reform/proposed-omb-uniform-guidance-for-federal-financial-assistance.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/financial/grant_reform/proposed-omb-uniform-guidance-for-federal-financial-assistance.pdf)

Finally, I was reminded that nominations for next year's Board are due by May 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in serving on the Board please let one of the current Board members know; contact information can be found at

[http://colofma.com/index.php?p=1\\_17\\_Board-Committees](http://colofma.com/index.php?p=1_17_Board-Committees)

All positions are open for nominations. We are all working with challenges that did not exist when CFMA was founded. We are working with fewer resources and must work smarter, faster, better. CFMA is not just an organization that provides training opportunities but is also about sharing ideas, whether it

## President's Corner ...continued

is a procedural form or a strategy to handle a new state wide policy. CFMA can continue to be a great resource in the years to come. Many people have spoken to me about the amount of work it takes to run CFMA. What I learned this year was that together great work is accomplished. I met fiscal managers from across the state and was amazed at how many times people responded "YES!" "Yes" to publishing the newsletter and making it look a lot simpler than it is (Debbie Allen). "Yes" to writing an article despite a never ending work list and long hours (Erick Scheminske). "Yes" to building contact lists despite a state wide switch to Google and a new on-line registration form (Daniel Saint). "Yes" to finding new ways to raise money for the scholarship fund as a new CFMA member (Terrie Craven). I had a vision for CFMA; so many volunteers this year made that vision a reality, many of whom I have not mentioned. Consider becoming a Board member or volunteer. I highly recommend it.

Regards,

Elisabeth Dickinson

President

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## Top Ten

**Bill Schlaufman**

Top ten sessions you won't want to miss at the CFMA Spring Seminar:

10. Controllers Roundtable: What is your favorite year end exhibit and why?
9. COFRS Modernization: A scam designed to employ former State Controllers?
8. New GASB statements explained using interpretive dance.



7. A detailed explanation of GASB Statement 53 on derivatives. Last person awake wins conference grand prize. Grand prize is Carnival Cruise with destination of Mobile, Alabama.
  6. Special celebrity guest appearance by the tubby guy in Go Daddy Super bowl ad. He will "come out" revealing he's an accountant in real life.
  5. Number crunching enhancement drugs: An epidemic in the accounting industry?
  4. Which town is colder, Alamosa or Gunnison? The shocking truth is revealed by the Controllers of Adams State University and Western State Colorado University.
  3. We're from the State Auditor's Office and We're Here to Help. Note: Anyone not attending this session will receive an audit finding.
  2. Demonstration of the technology in the new COFRS system that allows you to visualize a journal entry and have it appear in the general ledger.
  1. Gangnam Style Accounting: Here for the long term or a fad?
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## Controller's Corner



### What's Happening?

*By the Field Accounting Services Team, State Controller's Office*

#### **Fiscal Procedures Manual**

Throughout February, the staff at the Office of the State Controller will be updating the Fiscal Procedures Manual. Please feel free to contact your FAST member with suggestions for changes or items that you would like to see more information on. It is anticipated that the manual will be available near the end of March.

#### **Accounts Receivable Collections**

##### **Administrative Rule**

In the last Controller's Corner we announced that the State Personnel Director was to hold a public hearing on December 7, to consider adoption of permanent rules on the Accounts Receivable Collections Administrative Rule. The date has been changed for that and will now be held Monday, **March 18, 2013**. It will commence at 9:00 a.m. at **633 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 7D**, Denver, Colorado 80202. All interested persons are urged to attend this public hearing and to submit written comments regarding the hearing for consideration concerning the proposed rules. Both the current rule and new rule draft are available on the Central Collections website at [www.colorado.gov/dpa/dfp/ccs](http://www.colorado.gov/dpa/dfp/ccs) under the Rules and Regulations tab.

#### **1099-Central Accounting Operations Section**

The vendor 1099's for calendar year 2012 were mailed on January 24, 2013 from the Office of the State Controller (OSC). If you receive phone calls from your vendors requesting duplicate 1099's, please have them call the 1099 Helpline at 303-866-4090. Please verify with your vendors prior to giving them the Helpline phone number, that your agency has the correct address in COFRS for them. If you need to update their mailing information, please get a new W-9, and submit it to Central Accounting at the Office of the State

#### **Open/Close Training**

Save the dates for Open/Close training. Details will be coming soon. General Open/Close will be held at Fort Logan Auditorium on Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup>. New Employee Open/Close will be held on Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Changes at the OSC**

We said goodbye and good luck to Nghi Huynh from Central Payroll, she is moving to CDOT and Melissa Moynham from FAST, she is going to be the new Controller at the Department of Law.



## OSPB Update

**Erick Scheminske**

As we find ourselves in the throes of the legislative session and all the special surprises that go with it, I'm guessing that the words I'm about to type will not fall on welcoming ears:

It's time to start working on FY 2014-15.

If this sends a little shiver down your spine, you're not alone. If I had to choose one word to summarize the condition of budget and finance people throughout the state, I'd pick "fatigued." Between the lingering effects of the General Fund shortfall, upcoming COFRS modernization, new projects being driven by executive directors, and the ongoing nuisance our regular jobs, the prospect of beginning another budget cycle seems dramatically unappealing.

So, in the spirit of trying to find the switch that will turn on the optimism machine, I'd like to take moment to share a little bit about what OSPB is thinking for the FY15 budget cycle, particularly when it comes to decision items and organizational planning. We hope that people around the State will find the slight changes we make sufficiently invigorating to help chase away these midwinter doldrums.

To begin, we will borrow an important axiom from the world of retail sales: *the customer is king*. As we contemplate the operations of State government, we will ask departments to focus intently on solving the problems

that our customers and constituents face. This marks a subtle departure from our processes in the recent past, but an important one.

Slowly, we have learned that efficiency for the simple sake of efficiency does not necessarily lead to better-served customers. In fact, when we build efficiencies that fail to serve our customers, our own morale will inevitably deteriorate. My favorite thing about this customer-centric concept, though, is that we will not settle for defining the customer as the generic taxpayer, or motorist, or small business person, or student.

I think we can all agree that the ultimate goal of the departments in which we work is to serve constituents in some form. But for those of us in financial services, we rarely interface with those constituents, and the ethereal concept of serving them is almost more foreign than Portuguese.

In the coming months, we will challenge Colorado's state employees to honestly and earnestly examine whom they serve, how they serve them, what they can do to serve them better, and how they can measure that improvement. For many of us, this will mean embracing the idea that our customers are not the needy, the disabled, the unemployed, the victims of crime, the motorists, the tourists, or the farmers. Rather, we may serve the program manager, the caseworker, the accountant, the legislature, the federal auditor, or even the local government bureaucrat.

This does not mean that we

should lose sight of our broader organizational goals. To the contrary, for those of us in support roles, it means recognizing that our best contribution to those organizational goals lies in the unrelenting focus on helping our customers help *their* customers.

As I try break through my own fatigue with the unending circle of madness that is State budgeting, this series of questions most energizes me and gives me hope. Instead of remaining victim to the same agonizing cycle, we're trying to shift the paradigm just a little bit. From decision items to operational planning, these will be the basis of OSPB's questions in the next year.

With this new customer focus, we hope to help reenergize a rightfully-weary population of state workers and galvanize all of us around the idea that we actually can make changes that matter to the people we serve every day.

And, at the end of the day, that's a pretty nice thing.



## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Anyone interested in Colorado State government fiscal management and accounting is invited to join the Colorado Fiscal Managers' Association.

### Membership Benefits

- \* Newsletter - Free subscription to the CFMA Newsletter . Each newsletter features a President's Letter as well as other topics of interest.
- \* Lunch - Special luncheons are held at the National Western Complex: Beef Palace. Luncheons provide the opportunity to meet State employees from other departments/institutions who are interested in fiscal management. You can trade stories and strategies, and learn from the experiences of other agencies who are facing common challenges in fiscal management. Most luncheons feature speakers drawn from within State government or related agencies such as PERA, CSECU or C-SEAP. Speakers discuss current issues in financial management or accounting, proposed legislation, or other topics of interest. In addition, there are bi-monthly give-a-ways. You must be a member to qualify for the drawings.
- \* Educational Assistance - CFMA provides financial assistance to members in furthering their education in the field of accounting and financial management.
- \* Registration Discounts - Receive discounts on attendance fees to CFMA-sponsored events such as the Fall and Spring Conferences and other training seminars.
- \* Volunteer Opportunities - There are challenging opportunities for volunteers to participate on CFMA committees or serve as a committee chair. By volunteering for either the Fall Seminar or Spring Conference, you can learn conference organizing, help schedule seminars, and develop marketing material.

Application is available at <http://www.colofma.com/>



*Everything we hear is an opinion, not a fact.  
Everything we see is a perspective, not the truth*

*~Marcus Aurelius*



## Tim Smith Memorial Scholarship Fundraising Update

Every year the CFMA raises money for the Tim Smith Memorial Scholarship Fund. Money raised for the scholarship fund goes to college students in their Sophomore, Junior, or Senior year pursuing a degree in accounting or financial management that plan to work in state government after graduation. Last year, the scholarship helped to support three students by awarding \$2,250 in scholarships.

It is our goal this year to raise \$2,500. This year the committee is stepping out of the comfort zone to offer members some different ways to help with fundraising.

### *Silent Auction at the CFMA/CSMA Spring Conference*

We are holding a silent auction at the upcoming Spring Conference May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort. Please consider donating an item or service for the auction. The Fundraising Committee is accepting quality items between now and May 13<sup>th</sup>. Contact a committee member for more information (see below).

What is a quality item? Examples include (but are not limited to) framed prints, paintings, drawings, gift baskets, tickets to sporting events, classes/lessons, restaurant gift cards, crafts, services, clothing, retail store gift cards, artwork, hotel accommodations, a guided hike, fly-fishing lessons. Anything you would bid on is probably something that one of your colleagues would also bid on. It all adds up to raising money for the scholarship fund.

Since almost everybody loves a challenge, we are challenging all departments and agencies to put together a gift basket from your organization filled with goodies that members can bid on during the Silent Auction. The group donating the gift basket receiving the highest bid will win bragging rights and a gift certificate to Lamar's Donuts.

If you cannot donate but are planning to attend the conference, consider bidding on an item(s) or volunteering to help the Fundraising Committee. You will be supporting a worthy cause and paying it forward to help a college student to accomplish an important goal.

### *Casino bus trip to Lady Luck Casino in Blackhawk*

The fundraising committee is hosting a bus trip to Blackhawk on April 6<sup>th</sup> (Saturday). The cost is \$20 per person. This includes your transportation to and from the casino, free food, and opportunities for extra cash as you earn points playing at the casino. Lady Luck offers over 500 slots, 9 different tables games and a poker lounge.

This is a great way for us to socialize and have some fun while we raise funds for scholarships.

We will leave the Colorado Community College System Office (9101 East Lowry Blvd., Denver, Colorado) at 1:00 pm and return at 7 pm.

Sign up now on the CFMA website at the link below:

[http://www.colofma.com/index.php?p=1\\_34\\_Casino-Trip-Fundraiser](http://www.colofma.com/index.php?p=1_34_Casino-Trip-Fundraiser)

You do not have to be a member to attend, so gather up your family and friends. What better way to raise money than having a good time. Contact a committee member for more information (see below).

Mary Ball [mary.ball@state.co.us](mailto:mary.ball@state.co.us)  
Terrie Craven [terrie.craven@state.co.us](mailto:terrie.craven@state.co.us)  
Laura Speaker [laura.speaker@state.co.us](mailto:laura.speaker@state.co.us)



## CFMA/CSMA Spring Conference

Cheyenne Mountain Resort  
May 16-17, 2013

Cheyenne Mountain Resort address: 3225  
Broadmoor Valley Road, Colorado Springs,  
CO 80906

Several groups will be holding a conference on the same dates. To ensure that attendees will be able to reserve a room during the conference, the Spring Conference committee recommends that you make reservations now, if you plan on attending. The Conference committee is currently working on securing speakers and an agenda should be finalized late March.

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Rate: \$83 per night\*

Reserve under CFMA/CSMA block directly with  
Cheyenne Mountain Resort

*\*Guaranteed until 5:00 pm, April 23, 2013*

Check in time: after 4:00 p.m. on date of arrival

Check out time: before 12:00 p.m. on date of  
departure

Room rate will be honored for dates directly  
before or after the conference based on  
availability

Website – view rooms:

<http://www.cheyennemountain.com/Accommodations/accommodations.asp>

To make reservations: 1-800-588-0250

Cancellation policy: Within 7 days prior to arrival are subject to a charge equal to one night room plus tax.

Questions? Contact Rick Brough,  
Richard.brough@state.co.us  
(303) 866-3203 or Elisabeth Dickinson,  
elisabethdickinson@coloradochildrep.org, (303) 860-1517  
ext. 101

### CFMA Address Change

At the February 1, 2013 CFMA Board Meeting, the Board decided to discontinue the UPS Store mail box service. This decision will save the CFMA over \$250 per year. The State Controller's Office has graciously accepted our request to send CFMA mail to their attention. Effective immediately please send all United States Postal correspondence and packages to the address below:

CFMA c/o Office of the State Controller  
633 17<sup>th</sup> Street 1500  
Denver, CO 80203



## Spotlight on CFMA Volunteers

**Fundraising committee** – Laura Speaker, Chief Accountant at the Colorado Community College System, and her team are working on several fundraising projects this year. The Board wanted to explore different avenues for fundraising for the Tim Smith Memorial Scholarship and Laura volunteered to lead the effort. Mary Ball, Accountant with DOR; and Terrie Craven, Division Fiscal Manager, Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Prevention and Control, are members of the committee.

In addition to putting together a Silent Auction at the Spring Conference, the committee is working on a fundraising trip to Lady Luck Casino on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. If you see Laura, Mary or Terrie, please thank them for the work they do for the benefit of CFMA.



# CFMA LUNCHEON DATES/LOCALE

Five times throughout the fiscal year, CFMA holds a luncheon. This provides CFMA members an opportunity to network with fiscal managers and employees from other State agencies.

Lunches are held the third Thursday of select months and are held at the National Western Complex: Beef Palace 4655 Humboldt St, Denver.

The cost of lunch for a member is \$11 and for a non-member the cost is \$13. We are no longer offering separate stations for buffet and salad bar.

Lunch check-in begins at 11:30 am with lunch served at approximately 12:00 pm. An evite will be sent to all members about one week prior to the luncheon. Form

of payment will be announced on that email.

## CFMA LUNCHEON



### Upcoming Luncheons:

- April 18 Speaker TBD
- June 20 Scholarships

\*There will be no luncheon in March due to the casino trip on April 6

The luncheon will be at the Beef Palace and will cost \$11 for members and \$13 for non-members. Please make sure to be on time as the presentation will begin around 12:10.

## About Our Organization

CFMA is run by state employees elected by the membership. The Executive Board consists of the following four elected executive officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Per CFMA's by-laws, all the officers are

elected for a one-year term. The President and Vice-President can not succeed themselves in the same office. The Secretary and Treasurer can succeed themselves in office, but can serve no more than two consecutive terms.

At the discretion of the Executive Board, committees can be formed to assist in carrying out CFMA's goals and objectives. Participation on these committees comes from active CFMA members.



### We're on the Web!

See us at: <http://www.colofma.com/>

