

Colorado Fiscal Managers' Association

CFMA 2013-2014 Officers

Trinka Mullin - President
Jerrod Cotosman - Vice Pres.
Daniel Saint - Secretary
Paul Kaufhold - 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

Welcome to a new state fiscal year with CFMA. Jerrod, Paul, Daniel and I have been meeting, discussing and planning for a couple of months. Registration has started for CFMA membership. We have many folks out there who have not yet registered. Don't miss this opportunity! Get out there and sign up.

We are diligently working on the Fall Conference and will need a few volunteers to man the registration table. If you don't already know, the conference will be on Friday November 8, 2013 at History Colorado. We have secured some great speakers already and trying to finalize others as well. Would you believe we had our first meeting for the Spring conference yesterday? You can never start too early!

Thank you to the volunteers who have stepped up once again to assist CFMA. Melissa Moynham will continue as our webmaster. Jing Ye will continue as the CPE chair. Gini Powers is chairing the membership committee and already doing a fine job. Debbie Allen is once again serving as our newsletter editor. We are lucky to have Erick Schminske, Bill Schlaufman, Fiftwo Baldwin and Brent Voge contributing to the newsletter content. We still have opportunities if you would like to help. Check out our website for the open positions. We especially need help in the fundraising area. We would like to continue the Silent Auction at the Spring Conference - It was a great success. The Casino Bus trip went well also. All we need is a chair person. It could be you or someone you know that will help us raise even more money for scholarships.

I would like to thank the CFMA Board - Jerrod, Paul and Daniel - for being so great to work with. All three of these gentlemen are putting a lot of time into our wonderful organization. They are making my job easy.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of CFMA. I appreciate your confidence in selecting me as your president. Here's to the best year ever. ~Trinka



Top Ten

Bill Schlaufman

Top Ten Rejected Acronyms for the new COFRS system:

10. CIA - COFRS it ain't.
9. ITCTIR - If they convert to this I'll retire.
8. TUOCTPFT - They'll use our COLA to pay for this.
7. ACA2 - The Affordable Care Act 2 (You'll see how it works after its implemented).
6. THWHE - To hell with Higher Ed.
5. ATFYIHTLSN - After Twenty five Years I have to Learn Something New.
4. PITWIWON - Push it through whether it works or not.
3. WSFTRSRTDWT - We'll secede from the state rather than deal with this.
2. NNSOPOS - New name, same old piece of software.
1. WYSIWDW - What you see is what David wants.



CFMA Fall Conference 2013

November 8th

History Colorado Center

~

The 2013 CFMA Fall Conference will be held on

Friday, November 8, 2013
at the

History Colorado Center
located at

1200 Broadway, Denver, CO
80203

For more information go to:

http://colofma.com/index.php?ph=1_32_Fall-Conference-2013

~

Attendee Registration

<http://www.rsvpbook.com/CFMAFall2013>



OSPB Update

Erick Scheminske

It is a well-known fact that mothers give great advice. I've always believed, though, that most mothers gently leave off the preface to their most sage guidance they offer. Be it "never touch a hot stove" or "don't run with scissors," the kindness in mothers prevents them from beginning their urgings with, "STOP, YOU IDIOT!!"

As adults, we might all be a little better off by adding this critical preamble as we recall mother's admonitions. For instance, at this very moment, I ought to be thinking, "STOP, YOU IDIOT!! If you can't write something nice, don't write it at all." A wise man listens to his mother. My friends rarely call me wise.

For those of us who do budgeting in Colorado State Government, we know writing, speaking, doing, or even thinking nice things in September and October is virtually impossible. (I'm sure the accountants among you feel much the same way, though demoralization likely strikes more in June and July.) We have exposed our warts for microscopic examination, done the best work we can only to have it criticized and ridiculed by friends and colleagues. We have both angered and been angered by people we deeply respect. We are not a happy bunch.

And I just gave myself a massive paper cut. For goodness sake, *what else can go wrong??*

In despair, we need hope. So let me offer some.

At this moment in time, Colorado Government rests on the surest fiscal footing that we've seen since the beginning of this millennium. As we prepare to submit our FY 2014-15 budget, Governor Hickenlooper is faced with the highly enviable task of deciding how much to spend vs. how much to save (rather than where and how to cut). We have the luxury of thinking creatively to advance the station of the people we serve, but also of planning for how we can help our successors weather the next inevitable economic decline.

Right now, financial managers across the State are engaged in a historic effort to replace and upgrade our accounting system. In spite of the challenges, we have the unique chance through CORE to influence the work a generation of accountants and budgeteers, and spare them from so much of the madness we've endured through the last years. We have an amazing chance right now to actually make better processes for ourselves, our colleagues, and those sparkling young faces who will someday replace us.

But, even bigger than our jobs as fiscal managers, we've seen in the last few weeks the greatest that our citizens have to offer. In the midst and aftermath of a generational catastrophe, of the worst flooding we will likely see in our lifetimes, we've seen what Coloradans are made of. Neighbors helping neighbors, communities rallying to dig themselves and each other out of the muck of despair. So many

hundreds and thousands of State employees have selflessly given extra time, extra effort, extra money, extra support to help our flood victims, one can't help but feel uplifted.

I can hear Mom in the back of my head right now saying, "CUT IT OUT, YOU IDIOT!! Don't borrow trouble." She's right. Sure, these jobs are tough right now. Sure, I'm probably pretty annoyed with some of you reading this right now (and some of you are most assuredly annoyed with me). These things will pass, though. And it never hurts to remember some of the phenomenal efforts occurring all around us right now.

So, for all of you toiling hard, staying late, striving to make things better for Colorado, *thank you*. Though we don't often say it enough, it is a privilege to be one of you.

Now, get back to work. You have deadlines.



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

Membership Benefits

- * Free Quarterly Newsletter - Each newsletter features a President's Letter, the Controller's Corner from the Office of the State Controller, OSPB updates, current events, as well as other topics of interest.
- * Discounted Lunch - Special luncheons are held at the National Western Complex. Luncheons provide the opportunity to network with 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 that conquered similar challenges. 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, accounting, proposed legislation, or other topics of interest. Members are eligible to win prizes.
- * Educational Assistance - CFMA provides financial assistance to members in furthering their education in the field of accounting and financial management.
- * Conferences - CFMA sponsors two conferences each year. This provides members with networking and educational opportunities, and affordable CPE. CFMA members are eligible for discounted registration.
- * Volunteer Opportunities - There are challenging opportunities for volunteers to participate on CFMA committees or serve as a committee chair. By volunteering for the fundraising committee, you can help CFMA fund scholarships for deserving undergraduate students interested in State fiscal management.

The membership application and more information is available at <http://www.colofma.com/>

*"If 'pro' is the opposite of 'con' what is the opposite of 'progress'?"
~ Paul Harvey*



Controller's Corner



What's Happening?

On the Move

The Office of the State Controller will be moving to the State Services Building at 1525 Sherman St, Denver, CO 80203 on November 1 - 4. Our current office will be closed at 3:00 PM on November 1. We will report to our new offices on November 4. Our offices will be located on the 5th floor, with the exception of the Central Contract Unit, which will be located on the 3rd floor.

CORE Update

The COFRS modernization project, renamed Colorado Operations Resource Engine (CORE), is well underway and will go live on July 1, 2014. Work is progressing at a rapid pace, with staff from throughout State government contributing to this progress. This project cannot be completed without contributions of your time, knowledge and active participation. We very much appreciate and recognize the significant effort and support you are providing, and for that, we express our sincere thanks, to those directly involved and to those keeping the day to day operations going to allow others to participate.

CORE will provide State government with a much more integrated system bringing accounting, procurement and budget together in ways not before possible for Colorado State Government. Functional teams are made up of employees from many State agencies. Together with our vendor, CGI, we have completed system prototyping, fit/gap analysis and system configuration. Work is continuing on business process re-engineering, reports, forms, system security, workflow, interfaces, data conversion, training, and policies and procedures. In the coming weeks, Integrated System Testing (IST) will begin with User Acceptance Testing (UAT) to follow thereafter. User training is expected to run from April through June 2014.

By Brent Voge

We plan to meet with each department's executive team during November and December to discuss the results of business process re-engineering. We will resume department outreach meetings in January after the Holidays.

As you can see, we have much work to complete. After July 1, 2014, the way you accomplish your work may change, but we will have a very modern and robust system to move the financial operations of State Government forward in ways we can only imagine now.

OSC Staff Changes

Marie Schneider resigned from her position as the Central Payroll Manager effective August 23, 2013. Marie's dedication and hard work will be missed! We hope to have the position filled sometime in October.

Dorianne Blunt has joined Central Accounting Services and will be handling warrant distribution and the cancel and reissue of warrants. Dorianne can be reached at dorianne.blunt@state.co.us or 303-866-2126.

Tessa Strasser has joined the Central Payroll Unit and will be handling batch oversight, CPPS security and resets, and payroll mail. Tessa can be reached at tessa.strasser@state.co.us or 303-866-6227.

Welcome Dorianne and Tessa!



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 with the exception of June, are held at the National Western Complex: Beef Palace 4655 Humboldt St, Denver. The cost of lunch for a

member is \$10 and for a non-member the cost is \$15. 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

October 17th – Robert Jaros – State Controllers Office Update

The luncheon will be at the Beef Palace and will cost \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members.

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/>





Colorado Fiscal Managers' Association

Fiscal Flyer

Period Ending June 30, 2013

Statement of Activities	July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013		
	Revenues	Expenses	Net
Membership Dues	\$ 4,560	108	\$ 4,452
Fall conference	12,155	7,057	5,098
Spring Conference (CFMA Half)	25,075	22,968	2,107
Luncheons	2,209	2,689	(480)
Donations and Scholarship Fund Raisers	2,279	1,795	484
Subtotal	\$ 46,278	34,617	11,661
PROGRAM EXPENSES			
Tuition Assistance			(936)
Open/Close Training			(319)
General expenses			(80)
Depreciation			(530)
Interest income			85
Total Program Expenses			(1,780)
Change in Net Assets			\$ 9,881
Net Assets, beginning			37,244
Net Assets, ending			\$ 47,125

Balance Sheet/Financial Position	As of June 30, 2013	
ASSETS		
Cash	\$	43,584
Other		3,316
Total Current Assets		46,900
Fixed Assets (net of depreciation)		265
Total Assets	\$	47,165
LIABILITIES		
Unearned Income	\$	40
NET ASSETS		
Restricted by Bylaws		34,858
Tim Smith Scholarship Restricted Fund		
Balance		484
Unrestricted		11,783
Total Net Assets		47,125
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$	47,165