



FGFOA Member Spotlight: John McKinney

With more than 30 years of experience in municipal government finance, John currently serves as Finance Director for the City of Deltona. An active member of the Florida Government Finance Officers Association (FGFOA) since 2004, John has served on numerous committees, the Board of Directors, and as FGFOA President during 2022–2023. John is also a founding member of the Volusia/Flagler Chapter of FGFOA.

John earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Central Florida and a master's degree from Stetson University. In 2007, John obtained the Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO) designation, followed by the Certified Redevelopment Professional (FRA-RP) designation in 2014.

A Reflection on My FGFOA Journey

John's FGFOA journey has been defined by service, professional growth, meaningful friendships, and a series of well-timed opportunities. Throughout a career spanning more than three decades in municipal government, mentors and colleagues frequently recognized potential and encouraged new challenges. One of the earliest influences came from Joyce Steburg, who encouraged John to interview for a position with Brevard County Finance, where Mark Peterson and Fazie Kahn helped foster a passion for government finance.

Later, the late Robert Erickson encouraged involvement with FGFOA's Technical Resources Committee during the implementation of GASB 34 and promoted participation in the Space

Coast Chapter. Rob Garner subsequently encouraged service on the Certification Committee, beginning a path that led to chairing multiple committees and eventually serving on the FGFOA Board of Directors.

Those opportunities continued throughout John's career. In 2011, the Honorable Jeff Smith, Indian River County Clerk of Court and FGFOA Past President, encouraged efforts to address a local chapter need, leading to John's role as a founding member of the Volusia/Flagler Chapter. Years later, the Honorable Ken Burke, Pinellas County Clerk of Court, encouraged John to run for Secretary/Treasurer, beginning a leadership journey that culminated in serving as FGFOA President during 2022–2023.

Reflecting on that journey, John credits FGFOA with providing far more than professional education. The organization has offered mentorship, leadership opportunities, professional relationships, lifelong friendships, and a network of dedicated professionals committed to advancing government finance throughout Florida.

How FGFOA Has Shaped My Career

FGFOA has influenced virtually every stage of John's professional development. Through committee service, local chapter involvement, certification activities, conferences, educational programs, and Board service, John has continually expanded technical expertise while developing as a leader, communicator, mentor, and public servant.

Just as importantly, FGFOA reinforced the understanding that government finance is about far more than numbers. It is about stewardship, transparency, accountability, ethics, and the responsible management of public resources on behalf of the communities served.

The organization also demonstrated the importance of involvement and service. The encouragement received from mentors and colleagues created both an opportunity and a responsibility to support others in the same way. As experienced public finance professionals, there is a responsibility to develop future leaders, share knowledge, and encourage emerging professionals to engage with the profession. Often, a simple invitation or "nudge" can become a career-changing opportunity.

What I Am Most Passionate About in FGFOA

Among the many FGFOA experiences, committee service and local chapter involvement have been especially meaningful. Participation on the Technical Resources Committee during the implementation of GASB 34 provided firsthand experience of professionals working together to address significant changes in governmental accounting and financial reporting. Service on the Certification Committee further strengthened a passion for professional education and laid the foundation for future leadership opportunities within the Association.

Equally important has been involvement with FGFOA's local chapters. Helping establish the Volusia/Flagler Chapter in 2011 highlighted the value of providing local opportunities for government finance professionals to connect, learn, and build lasting professional relationships. Local chapters serve as an important gateway for members seeking greater involvement within FGFOA and offer accessible opportunities for professional growth and networking.

Service Above Self

A central theme throughout John's FGFOA service has been "Service Above Self," a message shared during the 2022 Presidential acceptance speech. FGFOA's strength is built upon members who volunteer their time, expertise, and experience for the benefit of others. The Association's educational programs, conferences, certification opportunities, technical resources, local chapters, and professional relationships exist because members are willing to serve.

John remains deeply grateful to the mentors, colleagues, family members, City Managers, coworkers, and staff who have supported a longstanding commitment to FGFOA. Their encouragement and support have made meaningful service to the profession possible.

Looking Ahead

After more than two decades of involvement with FGFOA, John believes one of the profession's greatest responsibilities is preparing the next generation of government finance leaders. Emerging professionals are encouraged to become involved, seek mentors, serve as mentors, volunteer, and remain open to new opportunities. What may seem like a small encouragement or invitation today may ultimately shape an entire career.

FGFOA has played an extraordinary role in John's professional journey. Through service and leadership, the goal has always been to give back a portion of what the Association has provided. Ultimately, FGFOA's future depends on members who are willing to serve, educate, mentor, and lead, ensuring the organization remains strong for future generations of government finance professionals.