

Fiscal Flyer

CFMA-Issue 10

October 2005

MAKING YOUR LUNCH RESERVATIONS

Your **lunch reservations** should be made using the Internet. Visit the CFMA luncheons web page (see link below) and click on the "Place Setting." You can register each month or sign up for all the lunches in one visit. Please register by 12 PM on the Wednesday before the lunch. If you need to cancel after you register, please email Dottie Relaford before noon on the Wednesday before the lunch. dottie.relaford@state.co.us. <http://www.state.co.us/cfma/Luncheons/lunch.htm>



October Luncheon

Place: Beef Palace – Serving Steak & Chicken Fajitas

Time: October 6, 2005 11:45am -1:30pm

Speaker: Senator Joan Fitz-Gerald

President's Corner By *Mindy Densmore*

The new fiscal year is in full swing and just about every fiscal discussion contains the phrase, "we will know more after the vote on Referendums C and D." I encourage you to take a look at the analysis of these issues that is published by the Legislative Council and be sure to vote on November 1.

Our October luncheon speaker, Senator Joan Fitzgerald, will also be providing her perspective on this important issue, so be sure to attend the lunch next week!

The CFMA Fall Conference is scheduled for Thursday, November 3, at the Arvada Center. The Fiscal Accounting Services Team (FAST) has been working hard to schedule a great agenda for this training. Our keynote speaker will be Tucker Hart Adams, Chief Economist, U.S. Bank. The tentative agenda is now available on the CFMA website – look for more information in the body of this newsletter.

Also, this is a final reminder to complete your membership application and get it in by October 15 to qualify for discounted membership! Membership in CFMA allows you to attend the Fall conference for free as well as discounts on lunches and other training events.

We are introducing a new feature to the Fiscal Flyer. Mike Willihnganz will be a new regular contributor to the newsletter, with his column, "Opinions Optional". Mike brings a fresh perspective to just about anything he discusses, so we hope you enjoy his comments.

We also want to start including a section in the newsletter for members' comments, concerns and opinions. The new "Members Forum" will start in November, so feel free to email myself or any CFMA Board member to have your voice heard. Look for more information in this issue. Enjoy this great Fall weather and we will see you at the October 6 luncheon!



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The Bean Counter's Underground Press

By Alan Boisvert

It is important that one remembers their humble beginnings so as not to let the grandeur of the current moment go to their egos. I don't want to forget all the minions that I have left behind, especially the ones that I have offended, or made light of, or just said something that just went right over their head. I don't want to forget those people who said I would never become anybody, like Mom and Dad. I don't want to forget those people, who tried to fire me, because I was inept. Being inept is just like any other handicap; you have to accommodate it. These are things I want to remember.

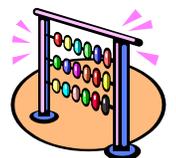
Fortunately, my daughters gave me Cube Man. They were even so generous as to come to my new office and set him up for his photo op. This so I would not forget.



As I sit at my polished mahogany desk and view Lookout Mountain to the left of my computer screen, Cube Man reminds me of my days at the State. The days before I had a person named Sheri whose sole reason for being Monday through Thursday is to do my bidding (we have flex days). Before I had HR people who were shocked that I would attend the new employee orientation. They wanted to come to my office and help me fill out the forms one on one. Before I could call IT and someone appeared in my office in less than 30 seconds.

Before the days that Open Space sent a car for me to take me to Pine Valley Ranch and show me the Observatory, and let me play with the telescope. Before the days I had free covered parking, and a free gym in my building to work out in. Before the days that I could have a massage therapist come to my office (not for free).

Yes, I've changed. I've gone from Cube Man to the New, Smart Guy from the State. But I won't forget who I truly am. Who I was down deep inside and who I will always be. Yes, I'm the New, Smart Guy from the State. Cube Man, never knew the guy.



"The opinions expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Colorado Fiscal Managers Association, its Board, or its members."

Opinions Optional

Opinions Optional

By Mike Willihnganz

In preparation of Alan's "potential" final birdsong in a future CFMA Newsletter, I would like to make a small contribution to fill his eventual vacancy. I may not maintain the level of wit, cynicism, and sarcasm that Alan shares with us each month but I'd like to share an opinion or two through this newsletter. If I get your dander up, it was meant to. If you want to ignore me, that's okay. I'm used to it; I'm married and have two (small, bright, beautiful) girls.

In October, we will have State Senator Joan Fitz-Gerald as our guest speaker. She is an intelligent, out-spoken, individual who should light up our luncheon meeting. She is also a strong supporter of Referendum C (and D) that we will be voting on in early November. I am anxious to hear her take on this topic that has been brewing in the media and with the various strategies by the foes and supporters within the state.

As you (should) know, Governor Owens had a meeting of the minds with the Democratic majority this past legislative session to come up with this referendum. A small, confident group of Republicans joined the cause. Of course, there are the naysayer(s), even a flip-flopper or two, who oppose the referendum. There are also the outsiders who feel that their opinions should be more newsworthy than the rest. In this corner, stand the tag team of former-Senator John Andrews and media guy Jon Caldara from the Independence Institute.

Well, I'm not going to stand in your way and tell you how to vote or how I am going to vote. I would like for you to consider what the referendum will do for the state constituents and how you, as state CFMA employees, really view our budgetary condition.

If this referendum does not pass: Do you foresee a doomsday scenario if the General Fund budget gets cut even deeper; major programs such as Higher Ed are jeopardized; large capital projects in Transportation, Education and other State facilities are further delayed? Do you recognize the inefficiencies and ineffectiveness within our bureaucracies and know that the Republican-led governmental management absolutely knows how to run our State on a shrinking budget? Are you confident that management will get us through this situation with only minor consequences? Will the individual tax rebates really energize our economy, stimulate increased tax revenues and partially remedy Colorado's recession? Do we want TABOR to continue to keep government spending on track?

If the referendum does pass: Will Referendum D really do the work that the politicians say it will and Colorado will be a better State with this cash influx? Will the Dems (and

some Republicans) lead us to the promised State that these referendums are supposed to and not continue Referendum C indefinitely? Are we to trust our governor (for one more year) who, over the past five years, has claimed: (1) Colorado was basically immune to the national recession, (2) victorious, permanent tax cuts were instituted just one year before the recession hit, (3) Colorado was not in a budget "crisis" but merely a "challenge" and (4) there would be no tax increase on his watch?

As you can see, I have more questions than answers.

If these referendums do pass in November, I do know one thing. It'll be interesting to see the colors change in late fall on some of our 2006 gubernatorial candidates' faces like aspen, oak and maple leaves! Enjoy.

See you on October 6th.

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2005 CFMA Fall Educational Seminar

NOVEMBER 3, 2005

Arvada Center for the Performing Arts

The Fall Educational Seminar is on Thursday, **November 3**. Registration and continental breakfast begins at 7:15 and the sessions run from 8:00 until 4:30.

Our keynote speaker is Tucker Hart Adams, Chief Economist for US Bank. We will have 4 breakout sessions on various topics including: sales taxes, fiscal rules, internal controls, trust in the workplace, capital construction, contracts, an election commentary by Alan Boisvert, and a discussion on the budgetary cycle from a lobbyist's viewpoint. Meredith Williams will drop in at lunchtime to give us an update on PERA. We will close with a panel discussion with Les Schenefelt, Mark Hillman, Joanne Hill, John, Ziegler, and Henry Sobanet on Issues Facing State Government.

The seminar is completely free to CFMA members and costs \$25 for nonmembers. Membership is \$15 until **October 15**; then it goes up to \$20. The deadline for registration is **October 26**. For more information visit the CFMA homepage at <http://www.state.co.us/cfma/home.htm>



2005 - 2006

OFFICERS

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Vice President	Mary Pearce
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E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR THE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS CAN BE FOUND ON THE CFMA WEBSITE:

[HTTP://WWW.STATE.CO.US/CFMA/HOME.HTM](http://www.state.co.us/cfma/home.htm)



“Attend three CFMA luncheons this year and get the 4th lunch free!” – CFMA Board

CFMA’s very popular buy three get one free lunch program is in place for the upcoming year. If you attend all eight lunches this year, CFMA will pay for two of them. To assist in the record Keeping process, please register each month using the Web site registration and be sure to use the same name. For example, Roger Cusworth and Roger A Cusworth are treated as two people in the database used to track free lunches. You also need to be sure you check in each time you attend a luncheon.

In case you are wondering, your attendance from last year does not carry over to this year.

Membership

It is easy to become a member of CFMA! Just click on the following link for an application. Membership is only \$20 per year – save \$5 by joining before October 15.

<http://www.state.co.us/cfma/Membership/join%20cfma.htm>

Membership benefits include discounts on training and monthly lunch meetings, educational assistance and networking opportunities. Contact JoAnn Vondracek, Membership Chair, or a CFMA Board member if you have questions.

MEMBER BENEFIT

CFMA will gladly email any fiscal job announcements to the CFMA membership. The announcements are limited to fiscal vacancies within the Colorado State agencies. Send your job announcement to any CFMA Board member. Please do not send any campaign announcements for board positions or notices of non-fiscal vacancies.

Membership Forum

NEW!!

Have a question, concern, comment or opinion on issues that affect fiscal professionals?

Introducing the “Members Forum”, a place to have your voice heard. Members’ comments will be posted in each issue of the Fiscal Flyer starting in November. Feel free to email any CFMA board member – (comments may be edited due to space requirements.) We look forward to hearing from you!



“It is a terrible thing to see and have no vision.”

~ Helen Keller