

Fiscal Flyer

CFMA-Issue 20

December 2006

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>



December Luncheon

Place: Beef Palace – Serving Flank Steak & Chicken

Time: December 7, 2006 11:45am -1:30pm

Speaker: Richard Curry, Colorado Correctional Industries

ATTENTION

If you signed up in advance for the December luncheon you will need to register again.

We experienced problems with our data base and apologize for any inconvenience.

Thanks!

President's Corner By *Mike Willihnganz*

First off, I want to congratulate Lavynia Washington, the FASTeam, the additional volunteers and our guest speakers for their fine efforts at the Fall Conference. And to thank all 200+ of you who attended. We have reviewed your evaluations and we will try to institute some of those ideas or concerns. Please don't be shy in regard to volunteering your ideas and efforts to make it a better event in years to come.

Please sign up for the next luncheon, being held at the Beef Palace on December 7th. We also have on the calendar our "field trip" luncheon to the Colorado Historical Museum for Thursday, January 11th. The costs are the same and the "fourth one free" is applicable to members.

Getting back to the Fall Conference for just a bit; the CFMA audience showed its displeasure to Henry Sabonet's comment that the State budget cannot afford to reverse the smoke-and-mirrors cash flow fiscal moves of yesteryears, particularly the end-of-year payroll "accrual." Understandably, the State is still in a world of financial hurt with TABOR and the recession effects, even with the financial windfall of Referendum C. I just want to thank all of you who voiced your discontentment. Keep the ethical financial voice alive. The ghost of Art Barnhart is proud. Speaking of ethics, your evaluation of the Ethics class was phenomenal. We should peg Mr. Chenoweth to come back every year. It'll be interesting to see who our expert panelists will be at next year's fall conference, after the new regime kicks in.

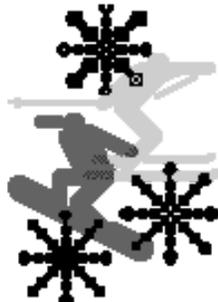
I want to thank Governor Owens for some serious support that I, politically speaking, didn't expect over the past year. I'll only mention two – I'm sure many of you can contribute more. First of all, Referendum C: Most of us in CFMA know what kind of yearly budget battles ensue with squeezing blood from a rock, especially over the past five years. Without Governor Owens' support, many of us in budget and financial jobs would be covered in red ink. Referendum C saved the State from selling its assets and leasing them back, shutting down colleges, stealing more cash funds, selling the futuristic tobacco settlement and cutting potentially thousands of jobs. The "Guv" knew the seriousness of the situation; he stepped up to the plate and hit a 5-year RBI to win this home stand. Second, Governor Owens is working very diligently to protect Colorado's (national) forests. I won't admit to knowing all of the details, but he is bucking his Party on this one, too, to defend our colorful Colorado. Thank you, sir, for two (potentially, politically damaging) acts for the betterment of the State of Colorado. May you ride off to greener pastures – just don't head NE; your water rights issues didn't make the people very happy up there and it's not exactly green during the current drought conditions.

I also want to commend the Governor's executive staff and cabinet who will stick it out until early January '07. Maybe it's because they have no where else to go but I'd like to think of them as loyalists to the State of Colorado and to Governor Owens. Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen. Good luck in your next endeavors. I want to thank a number of them that we have tapped as guest speakers at our monthly luncheons over the years. The "we-be's" (we be here when you got here; we be here when you're gone) have mixed emotions to transitioning the next generation of political appointees rolling in with governor-elect Bill Ritter, our October guest speaker. At minimal, we'll have a new list to pick from for years to come.

Have a terrific holiday season and stay safe throughout your travels!

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The Controller's Corner

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



What's Happening?

New Staff at SCO

The Controller's Office is pleased to announce its newest staff member. Jessie Gooch joins the office from the Department of Education. Welcome Jessie!

The Benchmarking Project

A detailed presentation of the findings was given by Bryan DeGraw from the Hackett Group to the participating agencies on October 30, and Les also gave a brief report on this final draft at the Fall CFMA Conference. We are now waiting for the final report from the Hackett Group.

Senate Bill 06-173 – Mileage Reimbursement Rate Changes

Be looking for new rate changes for mileage reimbursements in our next *Alert* that should be out in the very near future. The new rates will be effective January 1, 2007.

2006 Reporting for the Financial Responsibility and Accountability Act

This topic will also be addressed in our next *Alert*. In the near future we will be sending a letter to all departments and higher education institutions requesting the statement of compliance as required by the State's Department Financial Responsibility and Accountability Act. The statement is due December 31, 2006. Any questions regarding the act should be directed to your field accounting specialist.

Housekeeping Calendar Items

- We would like to thank all the agencies/ institutions that submitted their Travel Reports, way to go!!
- If you still need a six-month rule waiver, based on what we know the next date that the CDC will be meeting to possibly discuss these is December 15, 2006.
- When your agency/institution receives their copy of the management representation letter for their 2006 audit, if you could please forward a copy to your FAST member, this would be greatly appreciated.



From the "Brain Teaser"

Category

The week after Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to do a little shopping, read a book, clean the gutters, put up some sheetrock in the basement, or better yet test your Thanksgiving knowledge, and what better way to test that vast knowledge than with our...

(The Week After) Thanksgiving Trivia Challenge

Please use a No. 2 pencil. You have one hour ... starting ... now!

1. In what year did the Pilgrims come to Plymouth? a) 1492, b) 1776, c) 33 BC, d) 1620.
2. Originally, the Pilgrims started out in two ships, though one had to turn back because it was not seaworthy. What were the names of the two ships? a) the *Nina*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria*, b) the *Titanic* and the *Andrea Doria*, c) the *Mayflower* and the *Mayflower II*, d) the *Mayflower* and the *Speedwell*.
3. How long did it take the Pilgrims to come across the Atlantic? a) 3 years, b) 33 1/3 weeks, c) 5 days, 10 hours, and 25 minutes, d) 9 weeks.
4. Before arriving at Plymouth, where did the Pilgrims first land? a) Atlantic City, b) San Francisco, c) Moline, Illinois, d) Provincetown.
5. First Encounter Beach in Eastham was so-named because this is where the Pilgrims first encountered: a) Big Foot, b) the Loch Ness Monster, c) saucer-shaped UFO's, d) Native Americans.
6. When they first arrived at Plymouth Harbor via shallop (*or, small boat ... Well, why didn't you just say "via small boat" instead of trying to impress everyone with the term "shallop"? Oh, shut up! Hey, don't tell me to shut up! Okay, okay, let's just get on with the question, shall we?*), tradition tells us that when they landed at Plymouth the Pilgrims first stepped on: a) a beached pilot whale, b) the mother ship of the saucer-shaped UFO's they had earlier seen at First Encounter Beach, c) a guy named Fred who was sunbathing on the beach there, d) Plymouth Rock.
7. Upon selecting Plymouth as their new home, what was the first thing the Pilgrims built?



Continued...

- a) Sagamore Bridge, b) a casino, c) the *Mayflower II*, d) shelter.
8. And now for the math portion of our test: If 102 people came over on the *Mayflower*, and roughly half their numbers died during the first winter, then about how many Pilgrims were left alive come the Spring of 1621? a) none, b) just two - Adam and Eve, c) a baker's dozen, d) about 50 or so.
9. William Bradford was the second Governor of Plymouth Colony. Who was the first Governor? a) Michael Dukakis, b) Christopher Columbus, c) John Quincy Adams, d) John Carver.
10. And the final question: In September 1621, where was the first Thanksgiving held? a) at the Black Rose in Boston, b) at Plymouth, England in a tavern owned by a Mr. Wiggins, c) at the Lee rest area along the Mass Turnpike, d) at Plymouth Plantation.

To make things easier on the test administrator, all the correct answers are "D." So let's see where you stand:

- If you got 10 correct: you are an honorary *Mayflower* Descendant.
- Between 8 and 9 correct: you are a worthy Massachusetts resident.
- Between 5 and 7 correct: you need to reread William Bradford's journal *Of Plymouth Plantation* (available at the Dennis Public Library).
- Between 1 and 4 correct: please report to Plimoth Plantation when it reopens in 2007 for extensive Pilgrim training.
- Zero correct: I'm afraid you'll have to move out of state ... busses are standing by at the Route 134 Patriot's Square parking lot for evacuation (or are those the busses to Foxwoods?).

(Source: Jack Sheedy - Reference Services, Dennis Plantation)

The answers for last month's Brain Teasers are:

- 1) Rock Band Q- Answer "Mt. Rushmore"
- 2) Alphabet Q- Answer "2"
- 3) Duck Q- Answer "3 ducks"
- 4) Spy Q- Answer "Attack Wed. Dawn" (Attack Wednesday at dawn), the secret message uses the first letter from each word.
- 5) Gourmet Club Q- Answer "68"



The Bean Counter's Underground Press

By Alan Boisvert

What an incredible election? This was one time that you didn't want to be on the ballot with an R behind your name. I know that the State was almost swept by the democrats with the exception of the AG and the Secretary of State but did you know how many Coroners were booted out of office because they were republicans?

Having been through only two administration changes in my 28 years with the State (Lamm to Romer, Romer to Owens) I can give you only limited advice. It is limited but it could be important. First, don't panic. Yes, the top will change, and yes your ED will change, and yes the culture comes from the top, but remember there is still work to do and that's where you come in.

The new people will make it quite clear that you are the state's most important asset. Don't let this go to your head and start behaving like you are really, really that important. You're not. By the most important asset they mean that they can only function through you but they know that you can be replaced by a newer, better model. It's usually not worth the effort though unless you are really incompetent. So, be competent and respectful. Don't be like me, irreverent and annoying.

Next, don't believe that they will undo the mess that the last guys made. Yes, I know you were perfectly happy in the State Services building, and they moved you into expensive rental space downtown, but don't expect that they will renege on the lease and put you back into your old office with the view of the entire Front Range. They will assume that you are where you are for a good reason. However, you might propose that they build a new building nearer the Capitol and give you a southwest corner office as a huge cost savings measure. Always, always stress the cost savings.

Next, remember the age-old wisdom "This too shall pass. You are the entrenched bureaucracy and they are term-limited. The whole point of a civil service is to protect the government from the politicians. You are the government, it is your job to shovel coal into the boiler and it is the Governor's job to steer the ship of state. By steering he is wrapped up in big picture policy stuff. For this the voters will hold him accountable. You just need to make sure the boilers don't get too hot and explode, and that there is enough coal available to get the ship where it is going. Do this and you have performed good service.

One thing I would like to point out though that you might not be aware of as a state employee that I am as a county employee, the new Gov is POST certified and may be armed. I don't know what kind of aim he has but I wouldn't push this entrenched bureaucrat thing too far given that he could be packing heat.

Change is about to happen but there is no reason to panic. Perhaps your new ED will be someone whom you've had before in that it was only eight years ago when the Dem's were in charge. Perhaps it will be someone great, or less than near great, but whoever, they are trying to do the best they can just like you are. Change is inevitable but regardless of that have a happy holidays.



"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."

The **F**ourth Branch

HAPPENINGS IN HIGHER ED

Higher Education Enterprise Status

Effective July 1, 2005 all institutions of Higher Education were approved as TABOR designated enterprises with the exception of CU, which received enterprise status July 1, 2004. Because enterprise status is dependent on the percentage of state support received by each institution, final treatment was not finalized until the end of fiscal year 2006. Based on a review by the Office of State Auditor, all institutions met the requirements of TABOR enterprises for 2006 and are expected to meet such requirements again in 2007.

Other TABOR enterprises within the Department of Higher Education include College Access Network and CollegenInvest. There are also designated enterprises within the Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC funds 320-325), including the Auraria Book Center, Auraria Parking, Student Auxiliary Services (Tivoli Student Union and Conference Center) and Auraria Reprographics (Click's). Agencies that are not enterprises should consider revenues received from these enterprises and the institutions as nonexempt revenue.

There are some agencies within the Department of Higher Education that are **not** TABOR designated enterprises including part of AHEC (funds other than 320-325), the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE), and the Colorado Historical Society. In general, revenue received from these agencies by other non-enterprise agencies is exempt revenue. Higher Education institutions transferring funds to AHEC nonexempt funds or CCHE must use a COFRS nonexempt expense transfer code.

Higher Education Governance Structure

The Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) has approved a new Governance Structure to replace the old Higher Education Standards Committee By-laws. The update was required due to several organizational changes within Higher Education during the last few years. The new structure outlines how Higher Education Accounting Standards, Accounting Models, COFRS Chart of Accounts and other policies are developed and approved.

Details regarding the new structure may be found under the link for Higher Education Accounting Standards on the FAC website at:

<http://www.colorado.gov/dpa/dfp/sco/fac/index.htm>.

Higher Education Accounting Model Update

The Higher Education Policy Setting Group approved a new model for schools recording Economic Development Revenue received from CCHE as part of their Fee for Service Contracts. This activity should be recorded as non-operating revenue and feed to COFRS Revenue Code 7607. The model is listed on the FAC website under General Accounting Models as ECON for non-enterprises and ECONX for enterprises.

The Policy Setting Group also updated the year-end model for recording assets net of related debt, YE3(X). It includes the new COFRS Balance Sheet Code 2813, for the unspent proceeds of Certificates of Participation.

The FAC is currently working on the annual update for the Higher Education Chart of Accounts. This update will include these new codes for Fiscal Year 2007.

If you have any questions, please contact Vicki Nichol at Vicki.Nichol@cudenver.edu.



2006 - 2007

OFFICERS

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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.



Love is, above all else, the gift of oneself.

~ Jean Anouilh

French dramatist (1910 - 1987)