

New England States Government Finance Officers' Association

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Date: April 8, 2026

Time: 4:30 P. M.

Meeting called to order by: President Randy Rossi
A roll call for attendance was done. A quorum was present.

IN ATTENDANCE

Kimi Cheng, Kim Lord, Rob Buden, Ellen Sanborn, Cheryl Fournier, Carol Pratt, Sarah Wood, Melissa Morrissey, Mark Fleischer, Justin Campo, Tammy St. Gelais, Caitlyn Choiniere, Randy Rossi, Abbie Sherman, Angela Aldieri, Sarah Macy

Regrets: Michelle Harrison, Megan Brackett, Juli Millett, Sarah Hassell

Also Attending: Executive Director David Delano

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from January 15, 2026

Motion will be made in the next Board meeting on 6/11/2026.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Cheryl Fournier reported that the organization's cash balance had decreased mainly because several future conference payments were made related to hotel deposits. The year-to-date revenue is \$5,545 against expenses of \$17,898, resulting in a net expense of \$12,352. They are waiting for Connecticut GFOA's scholarship payments to close out the Vermont account. We received Massachusetts GFOA's payment this week.

The Rhode Island conference is starting with a balance of \$21,013 from sponsorships that have been collected, so far. The Rhode Island conference shows \$21,000 in revenue and \$10,000 in expenses, which represents money owed to the operating account for the hotel deposits paid to date. Cheryl noted we are starting to receive a lot of money electronically, which makes the deposit process easier.

A question was asked about which fiscal year the dues invoices pertain to, which was confirmed as the current fiscal year (Fiscal Year 26). It was believed that Rhode Island had paid their 2026 dues and whether the dues receivable from Rhode Island GFOA was for prior years. Rhode Island didn't have a organization for 2 years and was unable to pay dues, so maybe the current years payment was credited against the prior receivable. The Board may need to vote to forgive the prior receivable and bring Rhode Island's balance up to date.

The Treasurer's report was approved by motion.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Nothing to report?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Spring seminar wrap-up - David Delano thanked everyone for their participation and stressed the need to grow the conference in the future and improve the numbers. A discussion was initiated about whether the timing of the spring seminar should be adjusted, as the current timing, which was moved up by about a week, conflicts with budget development for many members. Total attendance for the seminar was 75 paid attendees, including 12 who attended online, which was less than the typical 80 attendees in prior years. The Board discussed potentially subsidizing registration to reduce barriers for attendees, possibly focusing on newer people in the industry, and looking into having someone sponsor lunch or other items. The idea of a survey for those who did not attend was suggested to understand reasons for non-attendance, such as budget, topics, or travel constraints, to be addressed by a committee at the June meeting.

The seminar collected \$23,000 from 75 attendees, with the conference center costing slightly over \$22,000, and additional payments for Suzanne Dudley Schon's stipend and Verbal Judo's fee. They discussed charging online attendees the same rate (\$300) as in-person attendees to avoid incentivizing people not to attend in person, while noting that both groups receive Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits.

David informed the Board that Jim Finch retired, and they would add a proposal for making them an honorary member to the June meeting agenda, following the bylaw requirement of a written request.

David noted that he followed up on whether NESGFOA needed to promote the GFOA CPFO program and learned that the GFOA coordinator felt sufficient efforts were already underway in New England.

CONTINUE CONVERSATION ON QUINN, HARRY & GELLAR PROPOSAL

Pete Hary introduced himself as the President of Quinn Harry and Geller, the company that built and maintains the organization's website. Pete explained they offer additional services beyond website maintenance, including PR and communications, social media management, newsletters, and targeted digital campaigns, which could be used for promoting the spring seminar, speakers, and sponsors. It was suggested outsourcing sponsorship targeting as a potentially beneficial service. Pete Hary explained that their firm is a fully owned subsidiary of Rean Communications, which has offices across several states, including regions within the organization's umbrella. They agreed that David Delano and a small committee should discuss the proposal. Pete might be able to attend the June meeting in Southern Massachusetts to discuss it further. The plan is to have a Zoom call with past presidents to review the package once it is received, focusing on areas where conference shortfalls exist.

NEWSLETTER DISCUSSION

Abbie discussed content for the April newsletter, including a fall update, the GFOA Outstanding Public Service Award, and potentially adding information about scholarships, especially the GFOA scholarship money available for CPFO attendees.

REVIEW OF POLICIES

Nominations Policy- This policy was last reviewed in June 2025 and approved with no changes.

Attendance Policy- The Attendance policy was amended to remove specific references to obsolete technology like 'Skype' and to allow notification of absence to be directed to either the president or the Executive Director.

Budget Policy- The Budget policy was amended to remove a sentence requiring the Board to establish procedures for authorizing expenditures not included in the budget, as those procedures did not exist. Another amendment removed a clause in Section 2B noting the Treasurer position was formed in September 2009.

Ethics Policy- review was postponed to the June meeting.

CONFERENCE UPDATES

RI 2026 (Providence Omni Hotel)- The Rhode Island conference is scheduled for September 27th to 30th at the Providence hotel, where certain space arrangements are being worked out. They reported that they are about 80% funded for sponsorship already. Subcommittees for the conference will be sent out, and they can start booking rooms, though they need to determine if different codes should be used for vendors and attendees.

MA 2027 (Seacrest Beach Resort-Falmouth, MA)- The Massachusetts conference is still scheduled for October 12th through 15th at Crest, and the deposit check appears to have cleared.

NH 2028 (Mount Washington Hotel)- The New Hampshire conference is progressing, with a minor critique regarding the lack of shrimp cocktail sauce at the previous resort.

ME 2029 (Samoset)- David has talked to the Samoset and will connect with them in the fall about a contract.

CT 2030: Contact has been made with Foxwoods regarding the 2028 conference, and a proposal is being worked up that aims for room rates similar to those in Mystic.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

A motion to adjourn was made by Sanborn and seconded by St. Gelais Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:35 P.M.

Respectfully,

Michelle Harrison

Michelle Harrison, Secretary