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FLORIDA WOMEN IN PUBLIC FINANCE - FALL 2016
NEWSLETTER

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WOMEN IN PUBLIC FINANCE
FLORIDA CHAPTER

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Misty Taylor, Bryant Miller Olive

A Word from the President . . .

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Less than one year ago a group of us got together and took advantage of the opportunity to found a Florida Chapter of Women in Public Finance ("WPF"). Since then we have had events in Tampa, Miami, Orlando and Jacksonville. Some of us attended the National Conference in Chicago at the end of September, and we are planning a new series of regional events to promote member engagement.

Two years ago the national group of WPF decided to reorganize from a Chicago-based organization with affiliate members to a national organization with local chapters, including a Chicago chapter. This organizational change took some heavy lifting on the part of the WPF officers and Board, and I thank them for making WPF more accessible to us. You can now join the National WPF and the Florida Chapter in one action for one fee.

I began working in the public finance arena when my husband and I moved to Florida in 1982. I had recently graduated from business school and was working for a New York City bank while we lived in Philadelphia. Rick was recruited by the (then) St. Petersburg Times to edit Florida Trend magazine, and he made my finding appropriate employment in public finance a condition of accepting that position. In a whirlwind two days I talked with Bill Hough (William R. Hough & Co.), Tom James (Raymond James) David Fischer (Fischer, Johnson) and several commercial bankers. I accepted a job at Hough (since acquired by RBC), and Rick and I became the first two career couple to move to St. Petersburg with better jobs for each of us. (I made this last thing up; please let me know if you have evidence that I am wrong).

The business world has changed a lot in the last 34 years. I'm no longer one of just two or three business women on a flight from Tampa to Miami. My male colleagues no longer go to lunch at the Yacht Club but leave me behind because I can't enter the dining room at lunch. The most egregious

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Our mission here in Florida is to join with the national WPF to support and advance the careers of women in public finance by fostering relationships and networking, and providing educational activities and forums.

I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to work in an area that touches public policy, politics, finance, law, and even a bit of public good. My professional colleagues are friends, even if we don't talk for months or even years at a time because our professional paths don't cross.

We want to develop programming that will work for busy women (and any men who choose to join us in this mission) located throughout Florida. Send us your ideas (info@floridawpf.com or directly to me at medmonds@pragadvisors.com) and go the website at www.floridawpf.com and register as a member.



NATIONAL WPF CONFERENCE

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Pictured (left to right) are Julie Santamaria, Lourdes Reyes Abadin, Marianne Edmonds, Molly Clark, and Natalie Sidor.

The 2016 Annual National Women In Public Finance Conference was held September 29-30 in Chicago. Over 500 women (and a handful of men) in Public Finance attended the conference from across the country. Florida Chapter attendees included: Lourdes Reyes Abadin, Estrada Hinojosa; Molly Clark, Wells Fargo Securities; Marianne Edmonds, Public Resources Advisory Group; Margaret Lezcano, Stifel; Julie Santamaria, RBC Capital Markets; and Natalie Sidor, Raymond James.

The conference opened with a celebratory reception at the Art Institute of Chicago, where attendees had the opportunity to network with amazing women from a variety of geographies and specialties. The conference sessions began on Friday morning with a distinguished panel of accomplished professionals discussing their greatest challenges, solutions and tools for success. The panel was moderated by Natalie Cohen, Head of Municipal Research, Wells Fargo Securities with Vanessa Burke, Managing Director at Grant Thornton LLP, Former Chief Financial Officer of Stockton, California; Karol Denniston, Partner at Squire Patton Boggs; Honorable Darlene Green, Comptroller, City of St. Louis; Carol O'Clairacain, Deputy Mayor for Economic Policy, Planning and Strategy, City of Detroit and Nancy Winkler, Former Treasurer and Deputy Finance Director, City of Philadelphia as panelists.

That afternoon, Ann Compton, an American former news reporter and White House correspondent for ABC News Radio, shared her comments on the current political landscape in addition to her most personal experiences aboard Air Force One on September 11, 2001 while the plane flew from Florida to other various parts of the country after President George W. Bush was advised not to return to Washington. On a lighter note, we enjoyed a laugh or two with Yvonne Conte, CEO of the Humor Advantage, who taught us the power of humor in both our personal and professional lives.

The 21st Annual National Conference will be held Friday, October 27, 2017 in Los Angeles, California. Check out www.wpfc.com for more news and event information.

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2016 WPF SCHOLARSHIP

Women in Public Finance operates a scholarship program that provides, annually, up to fourteen recipients with an Award and Scholarship in a minimum amount of \$1,000. The purpose of the Women in Public Finance scholarship program is to:

1. Recognize college-bound, female high school seniors who have exhibited scholastic achievement (preferably with an established aptitude in mathematics) and demonstrated leadership skills;
2. Encourage the consideration of careers in finance and, more specifically, public finance; and
3. Provide an opportunity for award recipients to meet women established in the public finance industry and learn about various career options and opportunities available to them.

The Florida Chapter of WPF was allocated \$1,000 from National WPF to award and such scholarship was awarded to Rafina Sarai Cebak, a senior at Ponte Vedre High School in Ponte Vedra Beach.

NEWS AND NOTES

[NEW Florida WPF Website](#): Check out our chapter's new website at www.floridawpf.com.

[Become an Official Member of Florida Women in Public Finance Today!!!](#): The Membership Committee of Florida WPF is encouraging female public finance professionals throughout the state to register as an official member by visiting the website link above and then clicking on the "MEMBERSHIP" tab. Members will receive members-only benefits both at the national and local levels. The process is quick and easy and it is inexpensive to join. Membership dues will be automatically renewed each June 1, regardless of when initially paid. Please spread the word to your colleagues, clients and fellow women in the industry! If you know someone that may be interested in joining the Florida Chapter of WPF or may have questions about our group in general, please message us via the "CONTACT US" tab on our website.

[Future Events!!!](#): Stay tuned for news from the Event Planning Committee about regional holiday social events. These events will be planned before year end or early January. "Save the Date" of January 12 for the Tampa Bay-West Central Florida regional event.

OUR WOMEN IN PUBLIC FINANCE

The Florida Chapter of WPF would like to congratulate the women below for their outstanding accomplishments. If you have news of promotions, retirements, movers or shakers that you would like to share with us, please use the "CONTACT US" tab on our website or email Misty Taylor directly at mtaylor@bمولaw.com to share your news. We would love to recognize those individuals in an upcoming newsletter.

Lourdes Reyes Abadin (Estrada Hinojosa) applied for and was accepted to the Women in Public Finance Board Class of 2019.

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Lawyers (NABL) for 2016-2017.

Jennifer LaRocco, Chair of the Sponsorship Committee for Women in Public Finance Florida Chapter, has been named a shareholder at GrayRobinson (Tampa).

Camille Evans has been named a shareholder at Greenberg Traurig (Orlando).

Kathleen Sharman has been named as the Chief Financial Officer for the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority.

Katrina Laudeman has been promoted to Treasurer for the City of Orlando.

Teri Butler has been named the Finance Director for the City of Cocoa.

Alison Williams has been named the Chief Financial Officer for the City of Miami Beach.

Anne Bert has been named the Chief Operating Officer for the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund.

Linda Howard has been named the Finance Bureau Chief for the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Martha Haynie has retired as the Comptroller of Orange County and **Rebecca Sutton** has retired as the Chief Financial Officer for the City of Orlando, both after dedicated and distinguished careers in public finance.

Colleen Scott has been named the Finance Director for the City of Eustis.

Bryant Miller Olive P.A. has hired two new female public finance associates, **Vera Gurova** (Tampa) and **Jalecia Coley** (Miami).

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