

Colleagues and friends,

Although it is a surprise to many, myself included, that the succession plan didn't go as originally intended, is my pleasure and honor to be able to serve as TGFOA President in 2024. As an organization we have experienced a lot of change, and we are looking forward to being able to continue our mission of advancing excellence in government finance in the state of Tennessee.

Benjamin Franklin said, "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn." I encourage you to get involved in the organization. My time with TGFOA has been incredible, and it all began simply by answering a call for volunteers; ever since I sent that email, it has been filled with opportunities and growth. When I first joined, I was in awe of the membership; the depth and breadth of its knowledge, and especially everyone's' willingness to share themselves and their experiences. Many of the connections I've made began as mere acquaintances; now, I am blessed to be able to call many my friends.

With your continued support, we will work to promote strong leadership, provide educational opportunities, offer professional development, and create network-building experiences for all those who work in government finance in our great state.

Kindly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kari Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kari Bates