

NYS GFOA PRESIDENT MICHELE MARK LEVINE
ACCEPTANCE SPEECH
APRIL 2, 2009

I am deeply honored to have been elected as President of the New York State Government Finance Officers' Association. This is a truly amazing organization, a professional association in which those entrusted with the taxpayers' scarce and hard-earned dollars (not always happily contributed at that) band together to help each other to fulfill that sacred trust – where the ideals of public service flourish even in today's cynical world.

I first learned of NYS GFOA when I was a Masters student at the Maxwell School at Syracuse University (please don't ask how many years ago), and the Dean of the program – Bernard (“Bunny”) Jump, who was active in the Association - suggested that I apply for a scholarship offered by the Association.

I was fortunate to be selected as one of two winners that year. While the money from that scholarship was G-d-sent at a time, my husband and I were really strapped, it was the introduction to the Association - at an annual conference like this one -that has made a really lasting impact on my life. I've made many friends and found exceptional mentors among the members here, including (just to name a few), my boss of nearly 14 years and a past NYS GFOA president **Bud Larson; David Schoen** (whom I almost worked for right out of grad school), **Dwight Hadley** whose long-term service and dedication we'll be honoring tonight, and many others.

I don't want to take-up too much of your time, but I do want to take this opportunity to thank the founders and past leaders of NYS GFOA for their vision and tenacity; they have gifted us with a legacy both practical and inspirational.

I keep a copy of the Athenian Oath in my office, and as the new President of your Association, I'd like to make a pledge adapted from that timeless standard of public service:

I promise that as President I will work to the best of my ability to transmit this Association, not only not less, but greater and stronger than it was transmitted to me.

Thank you.