Reflections on the Activities of the Kansas Public Finance Center, 1994-2009

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Midwest Regional Public Finance Conference

Goals:
1. To have nationally recognized keynote speakers
2. To focus on public budgeting and finance topics that would address common issues facing state, city, county, and school district finance professionals
3. To avoid Kansas-specific topics in order to attract broader regional attendance

Held in cooperation with Government Finance Officers of Eastern Kansas

The final brochure showed that the Friday morning session was renamed the “George Van Riper Endowed Public Finance Colloquium” (moderator was Jack Ranson)
George Van Riper

- Republican political leader who died in an 1985 airplane crash while working at Ranson and taking MPA courses
- Awarded MPA degree posthumously in 1986
- Friends endowed George Van Riper Distinguished Lecture Series at WSU
- Speakers included Jack Kemp, Newt Gringrich, Gov. Bill Graves
- In 1997, converted to George Van Riper Endowed Fellowship in Public Finance
- We labeled the yearly bond finance panel at the conference in honor of George Van Riper

Other Invited Speakers

- GFOA leaders: Eric Johnson; Sheryl Bailey; John Gross; John Gunyou; Virginia Rutledge; Allen Proctor
- City manager: Camille Cates Barnett
- Regulators: Mark Scott (IRS); Paul Maco (SEC)
- Scholars: Fred Giertz; Alfred Ho; Robert Denhardt; Jack Vogt; Diane Lim Rogers
- Market experts: Jefferson County investor relations person; bond portfolio managers; every other year representatives of the three major bond rating agencies

The 1999 conference included:
(1) a ‘debate’ between Gloria Timmer and Karl Peterjohn on taxpayer willingness to pay;
(2) a session to discuss organizing a South Central Kansas Chapter of GFOA

On Friday, the first business meeting of the KGFOA held with Paul Maco of SEC as luncheon speaker
THOSE WERE GREAT YEARS. IT WAS A REAL JOY TO WORK HERE.