



MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

January 2009

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President

By Larry Jacobson

It is once again the start of another year. I know that this will be a year filled with great challenges, (I recently received my unallotment letter from the governor), great expectations and another year where the members of the Minnesota GFOA will shine once again.

2009 brings a new year, with new challenges and opportunities. Jessie Hart becomes our new Treasurer; Ron Hedberg takes over as our Secretary; Cathy Shuman becomes President-Elect and Robin Roland provides one more year of valuable insight and guidance as Past President. Thanks Robin for your many years of service and being our president in 2008.

New appointments in 2009 are Jim Knutson as State Representative, Daryl Sulander and Jennifer Vucinovich as At Large members. The 2009 committee chairs will be Dan Jordet (conference), Joel Merry (education), Mark Beer (technology), Tina Lannes (social), and Tammy Wilson (program).

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of those that served on the executive board during 2008. Greg Sticha concludes his service to the executive board by serving as the Past President in 2008. He leaves behind many memorable moments through the years and sets a high bar for leadership and accomplishments. Bruce DeJong ends two years of service to the organization by serving as our State Representative and Charlie Hanson and Shelly Eldridge served as our At-Large members during 2008. Outgoing committee chairs who did an outstanding job in 2008 are Julie Vogel (conference), Sue Iverson (education), Darin Nelson (program), and Judy Moll (social).

We once again have a strong group of people and along with our committee chairs and all who serve on those committees, 2009 looks to be another successful year.

I encourage all members to consider participation on a committee in 2009. The education committee can use a few new members, along with the student conference committee, and the technology committee needs someone to step forward as a vice-chair.

At our monthly meeting in December, Speaker of the House, Margaret Anderson Kelliher was able to get away from the capital to address our group. She spoke of the State of Minnesota Budget challenges that will lie ahead, from the structural problems with the current budget, to the strengths of our Minnesota values and our highly trained and educated workforce as being elements to the states future. We will need to look deep into the budget, look deep into the process and we will all feel the impact as the State works to balance its biannual budget. I encourage us all to be willing to share our thoughts and ideas with one another as we weather this next perfect budget storm and move onward.

2009 Important Dates

MONTHLY MEETINGS/EVENTS:

- January 21, 2009 – Quarterly Training: “Fiscal Strategies for Implementing Comprehensive Plans”, Sheraton Four Points (more information inside)
- February 13, 2009 (Friday) – Monthly Luncheon and Curling Event, St Paul Curling Club
- March 18, 2009 – Monthly Luncheon and CAFR Review, Sheraton Four Points
- April 15, 2009 – Monthly Luncheon, Sheraton Four Points

- May 20, 2009 – Monthly Luncheon, Sheraton Four Points
- June, 2009 – Quarterly Training: “Generating Non-Tax Revenues” (date and place TBD)
- June 28-July 1, 2009 – National GFOA Conference, Seattle WA
- July 15, 2009 – Monthly Luncheon, Sheraton Four Points
- August 19, 2009 – Monthly Luncheon (TBD)
- September 23-25, 2009 – Annual Conference, Alexandria MN
- October 21, 2009 – Beginning Governmental Accounting, St Cloud MN and Monthly Luncheon (tentative)
- October 22, 2009 – Advanced Governmental Accounting, Metro Area
- November 18, 2009 – Quarterly Training (topic TBD), Sheraton Four Points
- December 9, 2009 – Monthly Luncheon, Sheraton Four Points

Quarterly Training - January 21, 2009

The MN GFOA Education Committee is pleased to offer a training seminar on “Fiscal Strategies for Implementing Comprehensive Plans.” This seminar will be held at the Sheraton Four Points in Minneapolis (1330 Industrial Blvd) on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 from 9am to 3pm. Cost is \$80 per participant. The training is open to all, including Finance Officers, City Administrators, Community Development, Planners, etc.

Program Summary:

Thanks to the Metropolitan Land Planning Act, every city in the seven-county metropolitan area has, or will soon have, an updated comprehensive plan. Now, the real work begins - taking the steps needed to realize the vision and address the issues contained in your new comprehensive plan. Implementing a comprehensive plan involves more than updating your zoning ordinance. Every comprehensive plan creates the need for capital improvements and development initiatives. These actions often place new demands on your financial resources. “Fiscal Strategies for Implementing Comprehensive Plans” is a fresh look into the toolbox for Minnesota cities. This seminar provides an in-depth examination of some common tools you may have overlooked and an explanation of some less-used tools with interesting applications. The presentation will include a combination of instruction and case study. The seminar is designed so that every participant will learn something they can use in the financial challenges facing their community.

Register NOW by going to www.mngts.org. There is an online brochure with registration and seminar details. If you wish to attend the luncheon only, you can register on the same website at a cost of \$20. If you need further information, please call Sue Iverson, at 651-792-7816 or sue.iverson@ci.arden-hills.mn.us.

2009 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

<u>President</u> Larry Jacobson City of Robbinsdale 763.531.1215	<u>Past President</u> Robin Roland City of Farmington 651.463.1880
<u>President Elect</u> Cathy Shuman City of Monticello 763.271.3204	<u>At-Large</u> Daryl Sulander LOGIS 763.543.2607
<u>Secretary</u> Ron Hedberg City of Cottage Grove 651.458.2832	<u>At-Large</u> Jennifer Vucinovich US Bank 651.466.8750
<u>Treasurer</u> Jessie Hart Township of White Bear 651.747.2760	<u>State Rep</u> Jim Knutson City of Maple Grove 763.494.6321

2009 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<u>Conference</u>	Dan Jordet, Brooklyn Center 763.569.3345
<u>Education</u>	Joel Merry, Blaine 763.785.6142
<u>Program</u>	Tammy Wilson, Eden Prairie 952.949.8376
<u>Social</u>	Tina Lannes, Albertville 763.497.3384
<u>Technology</u>	Mark Beer, Mounds View 763.717.4011
<u>Selection</u>	Tom Pepper, Eagan 651.675.5017

If you wish to know more about or help out on any of these committees, please contact the person listed above.

Committee

Executive Committee Update

r The Executive Committee met on December 10th
n and took the following actions:

- e** • Approved meeting minutes for October 15
- r** • Approved check registers and Treasurer's reports for October and November
- Heard reports from the MnGFOA committees
- Finalized plans for the curling event to be held in February
- Discussed concerns with new website
- Reviewed proposed budget for 2009

December Toys for Tots Collection

The Social Committee would like to thank everyone who brought toys for the 11th Annual Toys for Tots program. Many children had a happier, brighter Christmas from your generous donations. We had many contributions to the toy drive and two vehicles were used to deliver the toys to different collection and distribution sites. In addition, checks totaling \$25 were donated to the Toys for Tots program of Minneapolis.

Membership Renewals

You should be receiving your MnGFOA renewal notice in the mail anytime now. You can also download an application form from the MnGFOA website. Applications and payments are due by January 31, 2009. **MAIL TO: Jessie Hart, White Bear Township, 1281 Hammond Road, White Bear Township, MN 55110.** Please note that you can help save on postage and printing by requesting your newsletter by email. Mark your membership renewal form in the appropriate spot.

NEW!!! February Curling Event and Monthly Meeting

You are invited to a brand new event – curling at the St Paul Curling Club on Friday, February 13, 2009, with room for up to 100 people. This will also be the site for our monthly meeting for February. The speaker starts at 11am and, after that, we will enjoy a Classic Irish lunch of:

Leek and Potato Soup
Fresh Tossed Salad
12oz Jameson Whiskey Steak
Connemara Chicken with Wild Mushrooms & Shrimp
tossed in Irish Mist cream sauce
Irish Mashed Potatoes
Oven Roasted Potatoes
Pan Seared Vegetable Medley
Fresh Baked Bread Rolls
Beverages

Curling instruction begins promptly at 12:30 and then we are free to enjoy the adventure of curling from 1-3 pm. This is an all inclusive event for \$20 (meal, speaker and curling) sponsored by the MN GFOA and the Social Committee. Note: we must leave the St. Paul Curling Club by 3:30pm.

Important Notes: Please bring and carry in clean shoes to wear on the ice (recommendation: tennis shoes wrapped in duct tape to make them smooth on the bottom). Dress for 40 degrees - including gloves or mittens

You must register by January 23, 2009. Please check for more information and register on the website at: www.mngfoa.org. You can contact Tina Lannes for more information or questions at tlannes@ci.albertville.mn.us or call 763-497-3384 ext 102. The St Paul Curling Club is located at 470 Selby Avenue, St Paul MN 55102. For directions, go to the "About" tab on their website at www.stpaulcurlingclub.org or call 651-224-7408.

Membership Directory Ads

Mailings should be going out to associate members of the MnGFOA to solicit advertising for the 2009 membership directory. You can select the size of your ad and provide a camera ready copy for publishing. Don't miss this great opportunity to promote your business and support MnGFOA at the same time!

Ad Rates:	¼ page	\$300
	½ page	\$450
	Full page	\$600

Please email your ad file (PDF preferred) directly to Jessie Hart at: jessie.hart@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us. Payments can be mailed to Jessie at White Bear Township, 1281 Hammond Road, White Bear Township MN 55110. For more information, contact Jessie by email or call 651.747.2760.

Congratulations to...

Ken Merrill for 31 years of service to the City of Hutchinson. Ken started as the City of Hutchinson's Finance Director on July 27, 1977. Over his 31 years, he assisted in many city expansion projects including: Recreation Center, Event Center, Ice Arena, Liquor Hutch, new City Hall, Shopko redevelopment, expansion of the library, and water treatment plant. He assisted in the privatization of the Hutchinson Hospital from 2006-2008. Ken led his finance team in receiving the "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting" since 1995 through now. He served on the board of directors for LOGIS and was a member of a number of local boards and organizations.

Best wishes to Ken as he retires as of the end of this year. His years of service are much appreciated.

John Schmisek, Director of Finance and Administrative Services in Grand Forks, announces his retirement after 37 years of service. John represented the City of Grand Forks through his involvement in the ND League of Cities, MN GFOA, American Institute of CPAs, ND Society of CPAs, and International Institute of Municipal Clerks. He served as a Tri-chair during flood recovery and has worked extensively with state and federal legislators, Grand Forks county and Grand Forks school district on issues affecting the City of Grand Forks. John has also shown his commitment to the community through involvement in civic organizations including: American Heart Assn, Rotary International, American Red Cross, Sioux Boosters, past School Board member and now a newly-elected County Commissioner. Congratulations, John – enjoy your retirement!



Cathy Shuman
City of Monticello
505 Walnut Street
Monticello, MN 55362

HAPPY NEW YEAR

JOB POSTINGS

City of Arden Hills

The City of Arden Hills is seeking applicants for the position of finance intern. This position will be exposed to municipal finance operations by assisting the department staff with daily processes such as preparing deposits and account payables, utility billing operations, and general accounting responsibilities. The position will also assist with the 2008 audit process, financial statement preparations, and coordinate a record retention system. Desired qualifications include a high school graduate plus two to three years college level studies in finance or accounting. A working knowledge of Excel is preferred. Employment will be from January through June, with an hourly wage of \$10.00/hour. Application deadline is January 16, 2009. Send resume and application to Sue Iverson, Finance Director, 1245 W. Highway 96, Arden Hills, MN 55112. Job descriptions and applications are available at City Hall, on the City's website at www.arden-hills.mn.us or by calling City Hall at (651) 792-7800.



Message from the Editor

Hello to all members of the Minnesota GFOA. I am serving as the Editor of the newsletter for the 2009 year. Please send me any news for our newsletter: job openings, ads related to government finance, career moves, committee updates, or other noteworthy items. The cutoff date is the 20th of each month, and the newsletter will be emailed or mailed about the first day of the upcoming month. Thanks.

Cathy Shuman, City of Monticello
Cathy.shuman@ci.monticello.mn.us

505 Walnut Street, Suite 1
Monticello MN 55362
Phone: 763-271-3204
Fax: 763-295-4404