

MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE  
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
**MnGFOA NEWSLETTER**

**April 2003**

*Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance*

[www.mngfoa.org](http://www.mngfoa.org)

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**By: Tom Kelly**

Hello every one. Once again we need to thank the Education Committee for arranging the CAFR Update Session and we need to thank Peggy Moeller and Mark Gibbs from HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd. for presenting the CAFR update. A lot of work goes into preparing the document for the presentation as well as the presentation. This is one of those sessions that have been so valuable over the years and with GASB 34 on the horizon for many of us, it will take on a whole new meaning in the future. It is not only a great opportunity to see what we can all do better, but also equally gratifying to see how minor the majority of the mistakes are that we make.

I wish to personally extend my congratulations to all 108+ cities, counties, schools and other agencies that are 2001 CAFR award winners. You not only add to the credibility and uniqueness of MnGFOA but you contribute enormously to elevating Minnesota local government to a higher level. Once again Minnesota ranks in the top ten states in submissions and awards.

Minnesota also ranks in the top ten states for Special Review Committee Members. I would like to thank all the individuals who volunteer their valuable time to review CAFR's to make the Certificate Program a valuable tool. I truly appreciate your efforts and would encourage more MnGFOA members to become reviewers in the future.

Holding the CAFR update session also means the arrival of spring. This spring should be a little different than past springs in that not only will our next budget cycle will begin, but also we will be dealing with possible current budget adjustments. Whenever there are budget problems there is always news stories of inefficiencies or waste. One tool to help avoid budget problems is GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

A couple of the award criteria requires applicants to include both short and long-term organizational goals, with activity goals that tie back to the organizational goals, performance measurements that tie to the goals and summaries of financial policies. The inclusion of both these criteria help local officials explain to citizens how budget decisions were and are made. The award also gives creditability to the local budget process.

It still amazes me that 108+ entities receive the CAFR award in Minnesota, but only 23 receive the budget award. In this time of revenue short falls, aid cuts and tax freezes isn't it important to explain to our citizens and local officials what we plan to have happen in the future and that budget decisions are based on something other than inflationary increases, or that a program was dropped because the State cut our aid, or that we're pulling numbers out of a hat to balance the budget? I encourage all of you to consider formatting your documents in a manner to be able to apply and receive the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. If you need more detail on the award please feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail. Hope to see you all at the April meeting.

## **APRIL MEETING NOTICE**

Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2003  
Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points  
Topic: Legislative Update  
Speaker: Gary Carlson, LMC  
Meal: Lasagna– Meat or Cheese Lasagna  
Time: 11:30AM – Welcome and Program  
12:20PM - Lunch & Business Mtg.  
1:00PM - Executive Comm. Mtg.  
Cost: \$ 15.00

**Reservation:** Please leave your reservation with Chris Miller at the City of Roseville at 651-490-2210 or on our website at [www.mngfoa.org](http://www.mngfoa.org) by THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2003. (Vegetarian meal choice is available).

Gary will present an overall update of the legislative session what new bills have been proposed – and how they are fairing in the House and Senate.

## **SPEAKER BIO – GARY CARLSON** **LEAGUE OF MN CITIES**

Gary Carlson has been involved with the Minnesota local government finance and taxation issues, including local taxation and local aids for the past 18 years.

Currently, Gary is the director of Intergovernmental Relations for the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC). The League is a membership organization representing over 800 cities across the state. For more than 85 years, LMC has provided research, communication, advocacy and insurance services to its members. As director, Gary works with the Intergovernmental Relations Department to represent the League and its member cities before the state Legislature and other levels of government.

Prior to his employment with LMC, Gary worked for over five years with the St. Paul law firm of Briggs and Morgan concentrating on state legislative affairs, public finance and litigation support. He also worked from 1984 to 1986 for the city of Minneapolis in the Legislative Liaison Office.

## **2003 MnGFOA DATES**

### **Monthly Meeting Dates:**

June 18	October 15
July 16	November 19
August 20	December 17

### **Conference/Training:**

2003 National GFOA Conference	New York, NY	May 18 – 21
2003 Fall MnGFOA Conference	Alexandria MN	Sept. 16 – 19

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## **NATIONAL GFOA CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK**

The National GFOA Conference will be held in New York City, May 18 – 21. Lori Webster is compiling a list of those who will be attending the conference, where they are staying and arrival dates. Those on the list will receive a copy at the end of April. See contact information for Lori at the end of the newsletter.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The committee approved of the minutes for the February 19, 2003 meeting. A summary of the minutes is as follows:

- Approval of the Check Register for January in the amount of \$12,839.24 and the Treasurer's report as of January 31, 2002.
- Scholarship criteria for the undergraduate scholarships was discussed. It was also agreed to slightly revise the application form.
- Due to the lack of available sites, the National Conference Hospitality event will be changed this year to a brunch on Sunday morning at a hotel or restaurant as a gathering means for attendees. Those attending would pay their own way.
- The Committee approved the expenditure of \$620 for the Student Accounting and Auditing Conference. This represents MnGFOA's share of shortfall, which was split between the six sponsors.

### **SOCIAL COMMITTEE** **MAY DAY OUTING AT THE MALL OF AMERICA!**

Winter weather got you down? Well, the social committee has organized a fun and exciting outing to the Mall of America on May Day, Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. We have reserved bowling lanes at Jillian's Hi Life Lanes from 6-7:30 pm so you can strut your bowling stuff in a cosmic bowling atmosphere. We are then going to head over to Knuckleheads Comedy Club at 7:45 for an 8:00 pm comedy show. Cost of this event depends on the amount of people attending. Bowling will be approximately \$10-15 per person and the Comedy show will be \$8-9 per person. If you are not in the bowling mood but could use some laughs feel free to come to just the comedy show or vice versa. Please RSVP to Roxanne Matson at 651-490-2215 or by email to [roxanne.matson@ci.roseville.mn.us](mailto:roxanne.matson@ci.roseville.mn.us) with the number of people and events attending by **APRIL 9th**. Remember to invite your friends and family. See you there!

### **2003 MEMBERSHIP BOOKS**

Watch your mail for the new 2003 Membership books. Please note that the new member database will be in affect. Note - If you did not recheck the email request for your newsletters on the membership form, they will arrive by mail. As always, feel free to contact Chris Miller should you want to receive the newsletters electronically.

### **ADVANCED INSTITUTE SCHOLARSHIP**

Is your budget for training being cut? Do you know an ambitious and up-and-coming finance person? Or maybe is it time for you to move to the next level? Now is the time for you to apply for the Advanced Government Finance Institute Scholarship. The application form is available on the MnGFOA web site or you can contact Tom Pepper at 651-675-5017. This scholarship covers the complete cost of the Institute except for your travel to Madison, WI. Application deadline is April 30, 2003.

### **UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP**

The John B. Lilja Scholarship of \$1,000 is awarded to undergraduate students majoring in accounting or governmental finance at a college or university. John Lilja was an associate member of the MnGFOA, active at state and national levels, enhancing governmental reporting and development. For 2003, the Executive Board has decided to expand this outreach program by offering two scholarships. If you know of anyone who may want to be a candidate, contact Tom Pepper at 651-675-5017. The deadline for applications is April 30, 2003.

## **STUDENT ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING CONFERENCE**

Last October, the MNGFOA participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Accounting & Auditing Student Conference at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Nearly 400 students stopped by the MnGFOA's exhibit booth to talk with members about careers in governmental accounting and finance. The Conference provides an excellent opportunity to visit with prospective employees, and play a role in shaping future finance officers.

Planning efforts for this year's Student Conference begin in April 2003. The MNGFOA is looking for individuals who are willing to help plan the Conference, and to participate on the day of the event. If you would like to help, please contact Chris Miller at 651-490-2210, or by email at [chris.miller@ci.roseville.mn.us](mailto:chris.miller@ci.roseville.mn.us).

## **INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY NEEDED**

A student in accounting is looking for an internship opportunity for this summer and/or fall. If you would like more information or have an interest, please contact Lori Webster at:  
LWebster @ci.hastings.mn.us

## **2003 EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

The 2003 MnGFOA Executive Board is as follows:

President	Tom Kelly	651-429-5827
	White Bear Township	
President-Elect	Lori Webster	651-480-2352
	City of Hastings	
Secretary	Tom Pepper	651-675-5017
	City of Eagan	
Treasurer	Chris Miller	651-490-2210
	City of Roseville	
Past President	Sharon Legg	763-767-6433
	City of Coon Rapids	
At-Large	Cathy Shuman	763-271-3204
	City of Monticello	
At-Large	Rosemary Masloski	651-697-8530
	Ehlers & Associates	
State Rep.	Ron Hedberg	651-458-2832
	City of Cottage Grove	

## **COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2003:**

Conference	Michelle Pietrick	612-673-5122
Education	Julie Vogel	952-448-2851
Program	Joe Huss	952-563-4930
Social	Jim Eichten	952-545-0424
Selection	Lori Johnson	763-441-7420

If you have any questions, want to help out, or have suggestions for the Executive Board or for the committees for 2003, please feel free to give them a call.

## **NOMINEES WANTED FOR 2003 AICPA OUTSTANDING CPA IN GOVERNMENT AWARD**

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) is now accepting nominations for the

2003 AICPA Outstanding CPA in government award. The deadline for nominations to be considered for the 2003 award is April 30, 2003. The award will be presented at the AICPA's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual National Governmental Accounting and Auditing Update Conference, August 2003, in Washington, DC.

To ensure recognition among the three levels of government, the award will be rotated among CPAs working in on of the three levels of government. For the award year 2003, only CPA's working in and contributing to local government will be eligible for the award.

For more information, please contact Pam Green at 212-596-6034 or email at [pgreen@aicpa.org](mailto:pgreen@aicpa.org)

### **GFOA INTERNET TRAINING**

The response to GFOA's Internet training on "Using the GFOA Checklist to Implement the New Model" has been so successful that it will be repeated one more time on June 16, 2003, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. EST. This live, interactive training features Stephen Gauthier, GFOA's director of technical services. The material covers:

- Putting the new checklist to work—preparer perspective
- Avoiding common deficiencies and properly interpreting frequently misunderstood requirements
- Profiting from special transition provisions available to Certificate Program participants.

Internet Training: Using the GFOA Checklist to Implement the New Model – June 16 (1pm – 3pm EST)

All you need is a speakerphone and a separate Internet connection. For more information, contact GFOA at 312/977-9700 or check their website at [www.gfoa.org](http://www.gfoa.org).

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Congratulations to Doug Johanson – Deputy Auditor/Accountant, who will be retiring from Crow Wing County after twenty years of service on May 23, 2003.

### **MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR**

As always, we are looking for information to put in the newsletter of interest to the group. Please contact me with any retirements, job changes, promotions, certifications received or any other items you are willing to share with the group. Please give me a call or e-mail me by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to guarantee publication.

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