
MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

April 2004

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President

By Lori Webster

Thank you to the Education Committee for arranging the CAFR update session and, once again, thank you to Mark Gibbs and Peggy Moeller for their excellent CAFR update presentation. Thank you, HLB Tautges Redpath, for allowing these individuals to keep us up to date and informed. I know a lot of work goes into the preparation of these sessions, and it is greatly appreciated!

I also want to personally extend my congratulations to the 114+ Minnesota cities, counties, schools and other agencies that are the 2002 CAFR award winners. Special congratulations go out to those local governments and agencies that are new recipients in 2002 (when compared to 2001): the cities of Andover, Cambridge and Mounds View, and the Dakota County Community Development Agency. Congratulations!

The GFOA is always in need of more certificate reviewers. You do not need to be a Finance Director to qualify—current reviewers are government officials, independent CPAs, academicians, and others with relevant expertise. If you have participated in preparing or auditing a CAFR that has won the GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, or you have equivalent experience and the recommendation of a past or current Special Review Committee member, you qualify to become a reviewer. For further information, contact the Certificate Program staff by email at cafrprogram@gfoa.org, or by phone at (312) 977-9700.

Minnesota continues to rank in the top ten nationally for total CAFR submittals and awards, and for Special Review Committee membership.

As we finish up the 2003 audit and CAFRs, we begin the 2005 budget cycle. Therefore, I wouldn't be doing justice to those budget reviewers and budget award winners if I didn't put a plug in for the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation award. This also is a valuable process for an agency and/or local government to go through. And, as I am sure Tom Kelly will attest to, they also are looking for more reviewers. For more information on the Distinguished Budget Program, please contact BudgetAwards@gfoa.org.

April Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points

Topic: PERA Update: Plan Financial Status and Potential Contribution Increases

Speakers: Mary Most Vanek

Meal: Grilled Chicken Breast

Time: 11:30 a.m. – Welcome and Program
12:00 noon – Lunch & Business Mtg.
1:00 p.m. – Executive Committee Mtg.

Cost: \$15.00

Reservations: Please leave your reservation with Liz Berger at the City of Minnetonka at 952-939-8252 or on our website at www.mngfoa.org by Thursday, April 15. (Vegetarian meal choice is available.)

About Our Speaker ...

Mary Most Vanek is the Executive Director of the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA). She has been a member of the PERA staff since 1975 and has held her current position for the past seven years. PERA administers plans that provide retirement, survivor and disability benefits to over 159,000 local government employees working for cities, counties and school districts, and pays benefits to more than 60,000 former members and their beneficiaries.

Mary will be discussing the financial status of the PERA plans and potential contribution increases needed. She will also discuss the status of the Post Fund and the future of post-retirement increases.

2004 MnGFOA DATES

Monthly Meetings:

| | | |
|------------|-------------|---------------|
| April 21 | May 19 | [no June mtg] |
| July 14 | August 18 | [no Sept mtg] |
| October 20 | November 17 | December 15 |

Conference/Training:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| GFOA Annual Conference | |
| Milwaukee, WI | June 13-16, 2004 |
| MnGFOA Annual Conference | |
| Alexandria, MN | Sept 21-24, 2004 |

Retirees/Past Presidents Reunion

MnGFOA retirees, both active and associate, past presidents, and current officers and committee chairs are invited to attend a reunion on Thursday, April 22, at Jax Café in northeast Minneapolis. A social hour with a cash bar begins at 4:00 p.m.; dinner will be served at 6:00. A short program will follow. Menu choices are Chicken Kiev, Batter-fried Shrimp, or Grilled Pork Chop. Price is \$25. Advance reservations must be received on or before April 19.

If you have not yet received an invitation, please call Lyle Haney at 763-421-5657 to arrange your reservation.

Committee

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Executive Committee Update

At its March 17th meeting, the Executive Committee approved the minutes of the February 18 meeting. Highlights include the following:

- Plans were made to join the Wisconsin and Illinois chapters of GFOA in a joint hospitality room at the national conference in Milwaukee in June.
- Renting a bus for transportation to the Milwaukee conference was discussed. A survey will be conducted to see if there is sufficient interest among the membership to pursue it. The estimated cost for the round trip would be \$100 per person.
- A ListServ policy for MnGFOA's website was reviewed and changes were recommended. The ListServ is a tool at www.mngfoa.org to mass communicate with the entire membership or sub-groups thereof via email.



Play Ball!

When the snow gets good for snowballs, baseball must be just around the corner. Set aside July 29 for the annual St. Paul Saints game/tailgating outing organized by the Social Committee. Details will follow in an upcoming newsletter.

2004 Membership Books

Watch your mail for the new 2004 Membership books. Please note that the new member database is now in effect. As always, feel free to contact Greg Sticha should you need to make a change in your membership information.

2004 Executive Board and Committee Chairs

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| President | Lori Webster City of Hastings | 651-480-2352 |
| President-Elect | Tom Pepper City of Eagan | 651-675-5017 |
| Secretary | Chris Miller City of Roseville | 651-490-2210 |
| Treasurer | Greg Sticha City of Minnetonka | 952-939-8254 |
| Past President | Tom Kelly White Bear Township | 651-429-5827 |
| At-Large | Dan Maiers City of New Brighton | 651-638-2102 |
| At-Large | Terri Heaton Springsted, Inc. | 651-223-3022 |
| State Rep. | Ron Hedberg City of Cottage Grove | 651-458-2832 |
| Conference | Robin Roland | 651-463-1880 |
| Education | Bonnie Burton | 952-474-3236 |
| Program Co-chairs | Michelle Pietrick Joe Huss | 715-381-4304 763-717-2677 |
| Social | Lynn Cornwell | 612-667-9874 |
| Selection | Steve Hauer | 763-494-6334 |

If you have questions, want to help out, or have suggestions for the Executive Board or for any of the committees for 2004, please feel free to give them a call.



JOB POSTING

Finance Director – City of Minnetonka

This position reports to the city manager, and plans, organizes and directs the activities of the finance department; provides financial planning and budgeting services; manages and accounts for all city funds; coordinates the annual audit and financial report; manages investment and borrowing activities; assists policy officials and leadership team with management responsibilities.

Application deadline is April 24. For more details, visit www.eminnetonka.com or contact the City's Personnel Services at 952-939-8214.

Investment and Debt Management Officer – Hennepin County

Hennepin County's Office of Budget and Finance has a current opening for an Investment and Debt Management Officer to invest county monies, establish banking arrangements, finance capital projects and manage debt structured to maintain a strong credit rating. The successful candidate will also be involved in budgets and financial analysis. Ideal candidates will have related degree plus at least five years of professional experience in fixed income securities investments and financial analysis. Salary to \$97,848 plus competitive benefits package.

Application deadline is April 23. For details, go to www.hennepin.us and click on 'Employment Opportunities' on the right-hand side of the screen. Call Pat Lewis at 612-348-6821 for additional information.

Accounting Supervisor – Anoka County

This position is in Human Services accounting and financial reporting. Position will perform hands on daily complex accounting tasks and supervise, maintain general ledger, month-end and year-end closing and monitor budgets. The position is currently listed as "available until filled." Application and additional information is available at www.co.anoka.mn.us or by phone at 763-323-5525.

As always, visit the www.mngfoa.org website for a complete list of current openings.

Message from the Editor

Well, it's been quite a month for us here at MnGFOA. First, after an argument erupted over the wording of the minutes at the last Executive Committee meeting and fisticuffs nearly ensued, the entire Committee—except for the at-large member under investigation for embezzlement—resigned. With this turn of events, the at-large member decided to close out the MnGFOA checking account and has cancelled the Fall conference, the remaining luncheon meetings, and all other educational opportunities for 2004 for lack of funds.

But the Saints game and the golf outing are still scheduled for this summer ...and last time I checked, April Fools Day is still scheduled for today. Hope you're enjoying it!

Tom Pepper
City of Eagan
3830 Pilot Knob Road
Eagan, MN 55122



