
MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

April 2005

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President

By Tom Pepper

It's been awhile since we've updated you on the Executive Committee's follow-up to the MNGFOA membership survey results presented last September at Arrowwood.

In December, the Committee commissioned a task force to study the survey results and identify areas where we should "stay the course" and areas where we should consider changing course. The task force reported back to the Committee in March. Among their primary recommendations were a few creative ideas:

- In lieu of lunch meetings, in an effort to enhance and integrate educational and networking opportunities, on a trial basis hold Friday evening finance seminars followed by a sleepover at one of the members' homes.
- Consider producing a series of government finance instructional videos that could be submitted to each city's local access cable programming station so members can receive training within the comforts of their own home (assuming they have cable).
- To attract more people to our monthly luncheons, instead of always serving rainbow sherbet, consider alternating sherbet with tiramisu and/or crème brulee, for example.

OK ... April Fools! (Did I even need to say it?) The truth is that the task force really did come back with some recommendations in March and the Executive Committee will be contemplating a course of action in the months ahead.

My sincerest thanks and highest praise ... and that's no joke! ...to the entire task force! Serving with Chair Lori Johnson were Jylan Johnson, Jean McGann, Joel Merry, Ken Merrill, Cindy Rollins, and Beth Widstrom-Anderson.

They accomplished a mammoth task in a concentrated time frame—and made many solid recommendations. In addition, they have graciously offered to continue to assist us in implementation or whatever capacity our Executive Committee desires.

Two recommendations made by the task force were accepted right away: (1) Enlist the help of Government Training Services to survey our membership to identify the most important educational and training needs they have—including specific topics to be covered. (2) Wait until 2006 to implement any significant changes the Executive Committee may wish to explore in format or frequency of existing training/education. That will give the Executive Committee adequate time to plan, promote, and market such changes.

Throughout the rest of the 2005, we'll continue to review and prioritize the task force recommendations, making every effort to enhance the value of your MNGFOA membership now and into the future ...no foolin'!



April Meeting



Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2005
Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points
Speaker: Gary Carlson
League of Minnesota Cities
Topic: Legislative Update
Meal: Smoked Turkey Croissant
Time: 11:30 a.m. – Welcome & Program
12:15 p.m. – Lunch & Business Meeting
1:00 p.m. – Executive Committee Mtg.
Cost: \$15.00

Reservations: You may leave your reservation with Robin Roland at the City of Farmington at 651-463-1880 or on our website at www.mngfoa.org by Thursday, April 14, 2005. (Vegetarian meal choice is available.)

Committee

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Executive Committee Update

At the March 16th meeting, the minutes of the February 16th meeting were approved. Highlights of those minutes include:

- Approval of the check registers and Treasurer's Report for February. Robin reported that revenues and expenditures for the year have continued as expected
- The Executive Committee held discussions on expanding the role of the MNGFOA's secretarial service. Possible changes include greater administrative assistance towards the Annual Conference as well as other education and training events
- The Executive Committee also continued discussions to expand outreach efforts with higher education institutions to inquire about avenues of promoting scholarship opportunities and careers in governmental accounting and finance. The Committee members agreed to contact area colleges and universities over the next few months
- As done in the past, the Executive Committee agreed to hold a Minnesota reception at the National GFOA Conference in San Antonio. This year's reception will be held at the Casa Rio restaurant located on the Riverwalk, on Sunday, June 26th from 4-6pm.

Speaker Bio ...

Gary Carlson has been involved with Minnesota local government finance and taxation issues for over 20 years. Gary serves as the Director of Intergovernmental Relations for the League of Minnesota Cities. The League is a membership organization that serves over 800 cities across the state. As director, Gary's role is to coordinate efforts among League Staff to represent the interests of member cities before the State Legislature and other levels of government.

Prior to his employment with the League, Gary worked for five years with the law firm of Briggs & 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.

2005 Meeting Dates

Monthly Meetings:

April 20 May 18 [no June mtg]

Dates for the second half of 2005 have not been established as yet.

Annual Conferences:

GFOA	San Antonio, TX	June 26-29
MnGFOA	Alexandria, MN	Sept 21-23

Advanced Government Finance Institute Scholarship

The MNGFOA offers a scholarship to attend the GFOA Advanced Government Finance Institute held each year in Madison, Wisconsin. Scholarship information is on the MNGFOA website at www.mngfoa.org. Applications are due by April 30, 2005, and should be sent to:

Greg Sticha
City of Chanhassen
7700 Market Boulevard
P.O. Box 147
Chanhassen, MN 55317

The Scholarship will be awarded by the Executive Committee in May.



Upcoming Social Event Dates

Cinco de Mayo - May 5th at Ol' Mexico Restaurant
Saints Game - August 11th at Midway Stadium
Golf Outing - August 14th at Baker National

Cinco de Mayo Social Outing

The Social Committee is hosting a Cinco de Mayo (translation: *The 5th of May*) gathering at the Ol' Mexico restaurant located at 1754 Lexington Avenue in Roseville, one mile south of Highway 36. The event takes place May 5th (but you already knew that) and starts at 5:00 p.m. Everyone goes Dutch on this one, but you'll get to enjoy great food (free appetizers), drinks, and best of all great conversation and networking with your colleagues. Dress is casual or come as you are – sombreros optional (but not those cheesehead ones,

that would be just plain wrong). For more information, call Larry Jacobsen at the City of Plymouth at 763-509-5320.

For you history buffs, Cinco de Mayo commemorates the victory of the Mexican people over the French army at The Battle of Puebla in 1862. It is not, as many people think, Mexico's Independence Day, which is actually September 16th.

JOB POSTINGS

City of Coon Rapids

The City of Coon Rapids is accepting applications for a FT Accountant to carry out accounting functions. Duties include but are not limited to, assisting in the preparation of the annual financial report and budget, reconciliation's, fixed assets, miscellaneous reports and special projects as assigned. Bachelor's degree in Accounting or closely related field plus two years of accounting or auditing experience, preferably in local government, required. Knowledge and experience in the use of computerized financial applications essential. Beg. Salary: \$53,268 to \$59,550. DOQ. Apply: call (763) 767-6447 or visit www.ci.coon-rapids.mn.us. City application materials must be completed and on file no later than 4:30 p.m., Fri, April 8, 2005. EOE/AA/ADA

City of Mahtomedi

Mahtomedi, Minnesota (pop. 8,000) is seeking applicants for the position of Finance Director. This position is responsible for all City accounting and fund management functions of the City. Major responsibilities include preparation of financial records for all funds, assist City Administrator in the preparation of the annual city budget and capital improvement plan, coordinating annual audit, and managing debt service funds and investments. The successful candidate will possess a Bachelor's degree in accounting or equivalent; and a minimum of three years related experience in a responsible public financial management position or equivalent combination of education and experience. Municipal accounting, CPA, and supervisory experience preferred. Knowledge of municipal and state legal requirements concerning financial operations, governmental accounting and budgeting, and ability to effectively communicate with city officials, outside agencies, and the general public. This is a full-time position. Salary range \$49,848 - \$65,589 plus benefits. Application deadline is April 21, 2005 at 4:30 p.m. Send resume and City of Mahtomedi application to Scott Neilson, City Administrator, City of Mahtomedi, 600 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi, MN 55115.

Job description and applications are available at www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us or by calling City Hall at 651-426-3344.

City of Chanhassen

The City of Chanhassen 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 a conversion to new accounting software 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 June 6 through August 26, with an hourly wage of \$10.00/hour. Application deadline is April 15, 2005. Send resume and application to Greg Sticha, Finance Director, P.O. Box 147, Chanhassen, MN, 55317. Job descriptions and applications are available at City Hall, on the City's website at www.ci.chanhassen.mn.us or by calling City Hall at (952) 227-1100.

LarsonAllen

LarsonAllen is a public accounting, business consulting firm. Our Public Service Group which services government and not-for-profit clients is growing and will add several experienced Government Auditors to the team. Excellent advancement opportunities are available in Minneapolis, Brainerd, Austin, and Monticello, MN. You will be providing audit, accounting (emphasis on GASB 34 reporting) and consulting services to government agency clients including counties, cities, special state government, and school districts. We can design a position that matches the interests and skills you possess. Being totally paperless allows us to offer you tremendous flexibility in when and where you do your work. If you are feeling that the upward potential is not there for you in your current situation, or if you'd considered returning to public accounting, please contact us. Qualified candidates will have an Accounting degree with 1-7 years of audit experience. Governmental experience preferred. Please send your resume to:

LarsonAllen
Attn: Recruiting Manager
220 S. 6th St., Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55402
jobs@larsonallen.com
Fax: 612-376-4850
www.larsonallen.com

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PERA Board Appointment

Congratulations to Don Rambow, City of White Bear Lake, who was appointed by Governor Pawlenty to a 4-year term on the PERA Board. Don takes over as the City Representative, a position previously held by Terri Heaton. As the City Rep, Don will work with other Board Members to oversee four public pension plans that cover over 200,000 active and retired city, county, and school district employees.

Don noted that he is honored to serve as the Cities' Representative and is looking forward to his role. Thanks for looking out for us Don!

Speaking Engagement at St. Cloud State University

Greg Sticha, City of Chanhassen will be speaking to the SCSU Accounting Club on April 13, 2005. This gives our organization an excellent opportunity to connect with students who might be considering careers in governmental accounting and finance. Perhaps many of you are also thinking about your alma mater, and the difference you can make in shaping tomorrow's government professionals. Thanks for your effort in promoting the MNGFOA and governmental accounting Greg!

Chris Miller
City of Roseville
2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, MN 55113

Message from the Editor

As always, if you have any job openings, career moves, or any items of note, please forward them to me by the 20th of this month so I can put it in the next newsletter.

Thanks

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