
MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

April 2006

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President

By Chris Miller

The month of April brings us “Tax Day” on the 15th, and “Tax Freedom Day”, which to some signifies the hypothetical day in the calendar year for which you now get to retain your earnings instead of paying it to Uncle Sam. Despite arguments to the contrary, finance officers understand that taxes are necessary. Many of you can recall the quote by former Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes who stated . . . “Taxes are the price we pay for a civilized society”. When it comes to finance officers and city officials in general, Justice Holmes was preaching to the choir. The ever-present challenge of course, is to demonstrate to taxpayers that they are receiving value in exchange for their taxes.

Like many municipalities, the City of Roseville has struggled in recent years to balance its budget. We’ve struggled with making difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions. And there are times when we are less than successful at convincing taxpayers that with their taxes, they receive an equal or greater amount of value in return. Here in Roseville we’re about to embark on a new approach to our budgeting process that we hope will not only take the sting out of some difficult decisions, but will also better demonstrate the value of those programs and services that remain. I wish all of you the best of luck as you begin your budget process.

At our March training event, we were once again pleased to have Mark Gibbs and Peggy Moeller from HLB Tautges, to present the annual CAFR review program. They did an excellent job as always. A special thanks to all of you that sent your CAFR comments to Mark and Peggy. Your examples help the rest of us improve our CAFR.

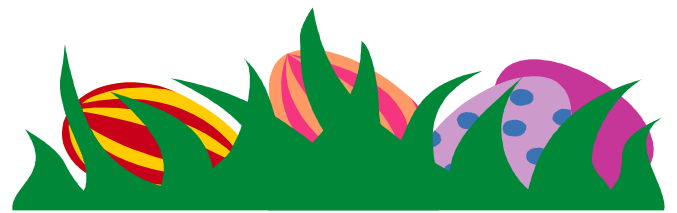
April Half Day Training Seminar



There is no monthly Lunch meeting for the month of April, instead please take advantage of the half-day training seminar we are having with the information as follows:

- Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2006
- Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points
- Topic: Financial Policy Design
- Speaker: David MacGillivray, Springsted Inc. and Steven Apfelbacher and Bruce DeJong, Ehlers & Assoc.
- Time: 10:00 – 3:00
- Cost: \$60.00
- Meal: Roast Beef and Cheddar Sandwich on Kaiser Roll, Coleslaw, "Fruits of the Forest" Pie, Assorted Beverages
- Lunch Only: Those interested in joining for lunch only may come to network for a cost of \$15.00. Please register through GTS for this option.

PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A LINK TO THE GTS WEBSITE TO SIGN UP FOR THIS TREMENDOUS TRAINING EVENT!!!



2006 Meeting Dates

Monthly Meetings:


April 19(Quarterly Training)	No May Mtg.
June 21	July 19
August 16	October 18
Nov. 15(Quarterly Training)	December 13

Annual Conferences:

GFOA – Montreal, Canada	May 7-10
MnGFOA – Alexandria, MN	Sept. 20-22

Social Committee Events


The Social Committee is excited to announce the following events:

- Golf Outing June 1st at Noon - Oak Marsh Golf Course, Oakdale, MN
-  Saints Game July 20th - Tailgating at 5:00 pm - Game at 7:00 pm
- Three Hour River Cruise - Monthly Meeting August 16th – Leaving Stillwater at Noon with Lunch & Speaker

Annual Conference Entertainment:

- Tuesday Evening Night Golf
- Wednesday Evening Johnny Holmes Band
- Thursday Evening A Variety Act
A Comedian & Minnow
Races

***The theme for fun is “Gilligan’s Island” so start working on those costumes!!!

- Annual Food Drive – November’s Monthly Meeting
- Toys for Tots – December’s Monthly Meeting 

Details will be announced as the events get closer, but please mark the dates on your calendars!

Congratulations

Congratulations goes out to Jean McGann, who is now the Administrative Services Director for the City of Plymouth. Her Last day in St. Louis Park will be April 5th and starts with Plymouth on April 10th.

Congratulations also goes out to Kathleen McBride, who is the new Finance Director for the City of Northfield. Her last day at Savage will be on April 14th and starts with Northfield on April 17th. Good Luck and Best wishes to you both!!

Committee

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At the March meeting, the following highlights took place:

- Approved minutes from February 18th meeting
- Approved check register and treasurer’s report for February.
- Updated from each of the individual committee’s on progress thru first quarter of year.
- Update on welcome reception at conference in Montreal.
- Update from Conference Venue Task Force.

A “Sneak Peek” at the Annual Conference

Make plans “*now*” to attend the 43rd Annual Conference in Alexandria on September 20 – 22, 2006. The theme for this year’s conference is:

***“THE TIMES, THEY ARE A CHANGIN’
The changing face of government finance”***

The conference committee has been working hard to bring you a great conference filled with information. To give you a flavor of what’s to come, here are some sneak previews of some of the speakers and events.

Mark Mayfield is the keynote speaker and has a corporate background as a lobbyist and a comedy background as a nightclub performer. His philosophy is simple, “say it with humor and people will take the message home!” Professional development speaker, Kit Welchlin is back by popular demand and has some great sessions lined up. Another addition to the professional development sessions is “Color Your Personality” by Tracy Bowe; this is an excellent session, which will give you tools to use in building effective teams. On the Finance side, Paul Glick will be there on both Wednesday and Thursday to do sessions on various issues concerning finance. To wrap up the conference, we have Walter Bond. Walter is a former NBA player, broadcaster, and former Minnesota Gopher. He does a tremendous talk on how he never let adversity stop him and the challenges he faced on the road to success, “No One Can Stop you, but YOU!”

Of course the conference will also be packed with plenty of networking opportunities as the social committee has lined up the “Johnny Holmes Band” for Wednesday night. Thursday night’s theme will be “Gilligan’s Island”. Dress up as your favorite cast-a-way or one of the “natives” and join us on our deserted island for dinner, comedians, and “minnow races”. There will be a costume contest with prizes! There will also be other activities throughout the conference. Watch for more information to come in the coming months and the conference schedule as it gets finalized. “Stow Away” with us on September 20 – 22, 2006 at Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria.

It Was Swell!!

A Special Message from Retiring Past President Jim Carufel

I am driving home in April of 1970 from a job interview with Carlson Companies in Plymouth. My “short cut” takes me past Golden Valley City Hall – a building I always admired. My 1965 Mustang convertible sort of automatically hangs a left into the parking lot. Up the half flight of steps to the receptionist. “Does the City need an accountant?” I ask. She says that there just happens to be an opening and I receive an instant interview with John Murphy, the Director of Administrative Services. I have other higher-paying job offers on the table but figure that city government would be more interesting. I started work the next week as the “city accountant”.

John took me to a MGFOA (then “MMFOA”) meeting the next month. Tom Moran sought out the new guy and introduced himself. He became my MGFOA mentor and got me super-involved in our organization. Tom was one of the most open and warmest people I have ever met. Both being single, we “double-dated” a few times and he drove down to Iowa in 1978 to attend my wedding. Tom represented well the kind of quality person that chooses a career in city finance.

I had a learning three years at Golden Valley and then joined the City of Shoreview as Finance Director. A few years later at the ripe old age of 29, I was elected President of MGFOA – absolutely one of the highlights of my career. The other was becoming the first published poet in the MGFOA newsletter (I was the editor so inclusion was not a problem).

I was lured away from Shoreview in 1978 [via head hunter] to the fame and fortune of public television. Over my 16 years at KTCA/TPT, I did everything from legal to marketing to shoveling the sidewalk. Then back to city government in 1994. When I returned, the greatest satisfaction was becoming networked, once again, with the terrific professionals in MGFOA. I had forgotten the sharing and caring nature of you folks.

I will be retiring from full-time employment at South St. Paul around May 1st but will keep my hand-in the business world with a little consulting. As City finance officers, we support services that are at the center of everyone’s life. It is important work. I have had a wonderful career and hope to regularly attend the Annual Conference to spend some time with people I very much respect and admire.

JOB POSTINGS

Finance Director City of Orono

Orono, one of only five U.S. cities to have a AAA bond rating with fewer than 10,000 residents, is seeking a team-oriented self-starter to manage the City’s financial operations and serve as a key member of the management team. The ideal candidate will be fiscally conservative, but innovative in improving service to the public and to the operating departments. Supervises the Assistant Finance Director/.I.T. Coordinator and the Utility Billing/Payroll Specialist. Responsibilities include, budget development and monitoring, providing information and assistance to the operating departments. preparation of the Annual Financial Report, investment of idle funds, accounting and financial management, and management of the city’s property/liability/worker compensation insurance programs, and capital assets records. Requires bachelor’s degree in finance or accounting, 5 years of progressively responsible experience in accounting--at least 3 years municipal-related, and 1 year of supervisory experience,. Pay range: \$70,500 - \$83,000, plus excellent benefits. To apply, please submit an application to the City of Orono, P.O. Box 66, Orono, MN 55323, by Monday, April 17, 2006. Call (952) 249-4600 to obtain an application form, or access the form from the city’s website: www.ci.orono.mn.us.

JOB POSTINGS

ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR CITY OF NEW BRIGHTON

The City of New Brighton is recruiting for the Assistant Finance Director position. Responsibilities include preparation of the CAFR, managing the City's investment portfolio, managing the day-to-day operations of the department, and assisting the Finance Director in managing the City's Tax Increment Districts. Minimum qualifications include: bachelors degree in accounting or closely related field, five years experience in accounting, including three years progressive experience in local governmental accounting, and working knowledge of GAAP and GASB. Salary: \$60,888 - \$76,104 per year DOQ w/excellent benefits. More info. is available on the City's website (www.newbrightonmn.gov) or by calling 651-638-2066. Application deadline is Friday, April 14, 2006, by 4:30 p.m.

Finance Supervisor Three Rivers Park District Hennepin County

Three Rivers Park District, a regional government entity responsible for operating parks in suburban Hennepin and surrounding counties, is looking for an individual to serve in the position of Finance Supervisor. This position is responsible for daily oversight of the accounting function including accounts payable, payroll, general ledger and interpretation and reporting of operating results. In addition, this position provides input into policy and procedure development and implementation.

The ideal candidate will be able to work independently and establish and maintain working relationships with all levels of the organization. Minimum qualifications include a Bachelor's degree in accounting and five years progressively responsible experience in accounting or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Experience with governmental accounting is preferred.

Annual starting salary for this position is up to \$67,000, depending on qualifications. A Park District Application and Supplemental Application, must be fully completed and received by the Human Resources office, 3000 Xenium Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55441. A detailed job description along with the Application and Supplemental Application are available at www.threeriversparkdistrict.org. This position is open until filled so it is recommended that interested applicants submit their materials as soon as possible to receive consideration.

Greg Sticha
City of Chanhassen
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HAPPY SPRING

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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