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# MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

# MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

August 2006

*Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance*

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

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## Message from the President

By Chris Miller

As most of you already know, this year's theme to the Annual Conference is "The Times They Are a Changin'!" This theme recognizes that our role as finance and accounting officers has changed dramatically over the years, requiring new skill sets and expertise. Our professional and personal development 'needs' have changed as well. Over the past few years, the Executive Committee has held an on-going dialogue about our changing needs including the venue where we hold our Annual Conference.

Earlier this year, the Executive Committee established a task force to evaluate potential venues for our annual conference. While most people would probably agree that Arrowwood has done a fine job in hosting our conference, we think it's important to periodically evaluate this and other venues to make sure that our ever-changing needs are being met.

Over the last few months, the Task Force has been evaluating proposals from a number of venues across the State. And they recently made a presentation before the Executive Committee. While we haven't made any decisions yet, we were pleased to learn that there are other venues that could serve us well. We'll continue evaluating these proposals over the next couple of months.

At the July MnGFOA meeting, we heard from Mr. Bob Moore, President of Institutional Capital Management. Mr. Moore shared his insights on the various economic theories that have dominated our financial landscape over the past century. He talked about the limitations that these theories have and whether they've been proven true or not.

Mr. Moore also identified the on-going threats to our nation's economy, and how all levels of government will need to continually produce new ideas and innovations to respond to a rapidly changing global economy. And there you have it . . . both Bob Moore and Bob Dylan agree: the times they are a changin'!

## August Meeting



Date: Wednesday, August 16, 2006  
Location: Stillwater, Cruise Boat Anastasia  
Topic: Team Building  
Speaker: Nancy Zielke  
Time: 11:30 a.m. Boat Boards, Leaves at Noon  
Cost: \$15.00  
Meal: Buffet

*Reservations:* You may leave your reservation with Larry Jacobson, City of Plymouth at 763-509-5320 or on our website at [www.mngfoa.org](http://www.mngfoa.org) by Thursday, August 10, 2006. (Vegetarian meal choice is available.) **Look for the directions in a listserve and posted on the website in upcoming weeks.**

## Speaker Bio

Nancy L. Zielke is the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Finance, at the University of Missouri - Kansas City. She oversees the operation of all fiscal related functions at the University. Prior to joining UMKC, Nancy spent 14 years in state and local government in Kansas.

Ms. Zielke has been a member of GFOA for more than 18 years. She has served on the Executive Board since 1999 and was the 2004-2005 President of the board. She has also served on the Committee on Governmental Debt and Fiscal Policy, the Committee on Governmental Budgeting and Management, the Women's Public Finance Network, the Technology Group, served as an Instructor for various GFOA training seminars, contributed articles to *Government Finance Review*, served as a reviewer for the Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards program, reviewer for the Awards for Excellence in Financial Management, a FOCAL team member, and is a graduate of the Advanced Government Finance Institute (1995).

Ms. Zielke received her graduate degree in public administration from the University of Kansas - Lawrence, and her undergraduate degree in business administration with an emphasis in economics and marketing from Adrian College, Adrian, Michigan.

## 2006 Meeting Dates

### Monthly Meetings:

October 18

November 15 (Quarterly Training)      December 13

### Annual Conference:

MnGFOA – Alexandria, MN      Sept 20-22

## Treasurer Applications

The MNGFOA Selection Committee is now seeking nominations or applications for the 2007 Treasurer. The Committee encourages all members to consider making a nomination. Members may also apply themselves.

Officers of the MNGFOA provide direction and ongoing support for the organization. They are key to keeping the MNGFOA a well-regarded and valuable association to its membership. Please help maintain the high quality of officers by nominating someone who is committed to the government finance profession and can provide leadership to the organization. Treasurer candidates must be an active member in the association for at least three years. Nominations/applications are due by August 19, 2006. Please send nominations/applications to:

Jeanne Haapla  
City of Shoreview  
4600 North Victoria Street  
Shoreview, MN 55126

## Thomas J. Moran Award

The Thomas J. Moran Award is given by the MNGFOA in recognition of extraordinary service rendered by an individual to advance the quality of public financial administration, promote the development and education of governmental accounting and accounting personnel, and promote high standards in the field of government finance in Minnesota.



This honor is awarded annually when, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, an individual has clearly demonstrated by outstanding effort that he or she is dedicated to the improvement of public financial administration as best exemplified by our past member and president, Thomas J. Moran. Any member of the MNGFOA may nominate a candidate for the award. Any person engaged in governmental finance or accounting in the State of Minnesota, whether an active or associate member of the MNGFOA, is eligible for the award.

Information and nomination forms for the award are available at the MNGFOA's website at: [www.mngfoa.org](http://www.mngfoa.org), or in the MNGFOA Membership Directory. Nominations should be submitted by August 19, 2006, to Chris Miller by email at: [chris.miller@ci.roseville.mn.us](mailto:chris.miller@ci.roseville.mn.us) or mail to: 2660 Civic Centre Drive, Roseville, MN 55113.

# Committee

## Executive Committee Update

At the July meeting, the following highlights took place:

- Approved June Meeting Minutes.
- Approved June treasurers report and check registers.
- Awarded John B. Lilja Scholarships.
- Committee updates including update from Conference Venue Task Force.

## Annual Conference

Make plans now to attend the 2006 Annual Conference "The Times, They Are A Changin! The Changing Face of Government Finance", to be held at Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center in Alexandria from September 20 – 22. The registration forms and hotel reservation forms are available on the web site. New this year, will be a summary of the conference sessions which will be available on the website in early August to help you plan your conference sessions. We hope that this will assist you in making the most of your conference! NEW LODGING available at Arrowwood – they have recently opened new townhome units which are 3 or 4 bedroom units. Each "bedroom" will carry the suite rate of \$145.00 per night. A flyer, floor plan, and registration form is available with the other forms for your convenience on our website. (Note that you must send in a special reservation room for these units, which differs from the standard reservation form.)

Please make sure to send the proper forms and payments to the following: Conference registration form along with payment should be mailed to Cory Kampf at the address indicated on the form; Hotel reservation form should be mailed or faxed to Arrowwood Resort at the address or fax number indicated on the form. The conference agenda and speakers for the conference will be posted on the website. From Wednesday's opening session to Friday's closing session – this year's conference offers a wealth of information on a variety of topics. In addition, the Social Committee has planned evening activities that are sure to provide fun and great networking opportunities for everyone. The conference committee and the social committee look forward to seeing you there.

If you have any questions about the conference, please contact Sue Iverson at: [siverson@ci.mahtomedi.mn.us](mailto:siverson@ci.mahtomedi.mn.us) or 651-426-3344 or Cory Kampf at: [ckampf@ci.robbeddale.mn.us](mailto:ckampf@ci.robbeddale.mn.us) or 763-531-1215.

## Annual Conference Advertising

The 2006 Annual Conference will be at Arrowwood again this year, September 20 – 22, 2006. The theme this year is “The times, they are a changin!” Associate members are invited to achieve maximum results by placing an advertisement in the annual conference book. Your ad will be seen by hundreds of finance officers and other finance professionals and will help to defray the costs of the conference for all members. The advertising opportunities and related costs are as follows:

|           |                         |       |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
| 1/4 Page  | (3 1/4 " W X 4 1/2 " L) | \$225 |
| 1/2 Page  | (7 " W X 4 1/2 " L)     | \$350 |
| Full Page | (7 " W X 9 " L)         | \$475 |

Please adhere to these sizes and orientations when submitting your ads. Email a “clean” copy of your ad to George Eilertson at [geilertson@northlandsecurities.com](mailto:geilertson@northlandsecurities.com) by **August 7, 2006**. If you placed an ad in the 2005 program, we have your ad on file. If you would like to re-run the same ad please indicate. The quality of your program ad will only be as good as what you send us. Acceptable ads will be the appropriate size and acceptable in Adobe (.pdf); MS Word (.doc); MS Publisher or MS PowerPoint (.ppt).

Make your check **payable to “MnGFOA”** and forward to:

George Eilertson, Sr. Vice President  
Northland Securities, Inc.  
45 South Seventh Street - #2500  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

This is a great way to keep your name in front of the general membership and support the Association at the same time. Thanks to all of you who purchased ads last year. We are looking forward to a great conference and hope to see you at Arrowwood this fall.

### The MNGFOA is Working to Attract Tomorrow’s Financial Leaders

Over the past eight years, the MNGFOA has remained a sponsoring organization and exhibitor at the annual Accounting & Auditing Student Conference. In this role, the MNGFOA has an opportunity to visit with over 500 students from area colleges and universities who are interested in learning about careers in governmental finance and accounting. We need your help in getting the message out! The MNGFOA is looking for members from governmental organizations that are willing to spend some time helping out during the event as a conference ambassador, or in the exhibit booth.

This year’s conference is Thursday, September 28, 2006, and runs from 9:00 – 3:00pm. We could use your help especially in the morning hours, but if you can stay the whole day, there will be a free lunch plus a motivational speaker during the break!

----- Also -----

Has your organization recently hired employees that have recently completed a degree program? At the annual Accounting & Auditing Student Conference, a forum is provided where students interested in careers in governmental finance and accounting can visit with employees that have recently completed a four-year or two-year degree program, and have gone on to work for governmental agencies. This has proven to be extremely popular as the sessions are held ‘behind closed doors’ which gives the students a chance to find out what it’s like to work in government, and how rewarding it can be.

We need your help in introducing students to careers in governmental finance and accounting. If you are a recent grad or your organization has hired a recent grad in the past five years, we would like to extend an invitation to the conference so that they can share their success stories with our future hiring prospects.

If you are willing to help us out on these important efforts, please contact Chris Miller at 651-792-7031, or by email at [chris.miller@ci.roseville.mn.us](mailto:chris.miller@ci.roseville.mn.us).

## Congratulations!!

Congratulations goes out to Andrew Overby a junior at St. Cloud State University and Phuong B Nguyen a junior at Inver Hills Community College who are the 2006 John B. Lilja scholarship winners.

Congratulations also goes to Ron Olson who was promoted to Finance Director at the City of Orono. Good luck in your new position!



Greg Sticha  
City of Chanhassen  
7700 Market Blvd, PO Box 147  
Chanhassen, MN 55317



## 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 20<sup>th</sup> of this month so I can put it in the next newsletter. Thanks,

Greg Sticha, City of Chanhassen  
7700 Market Blvd, PO Box 147  
Chanhassen, MN 55317  
952-227-1149  
[gsticha@ci.chanhassen.mn.us](mailto:gsticha@ci.chanhassen.mn.us)



Minnesota Government Finance Officers Association  
**2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**"The Times, They Are A Changin!"**  
"The Changing Face of Government Finance"

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b><u>WHEN:</u></b>  | <b>September 20 – 22, 2006</b>                    |
| <b><u>WHERE:</u></b> | <b>Arrowwood Resort<br/>Alexandria, Minnesota</b> |

|                                |                         |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>CONFERENCE [9/20-22/06]</b> | <b>BY</b>               | <b>AFTER</b>            |
| <b><u>REGISTRATION FEE</u></b> | <b><u>August 25</u></b> | <b><u>August 25</u></b> |
| <b>Member</b>                  | <b>\$ 200.00</b>        | <b>\$ 225.00</b>        |
| <b>Non-Member</b>              | <b>\$ 260.00</b>        | <b>\$ 285.00</b>        |

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:** Minnesota GFOA

**MAIL OR FAX REGISTRATION/PAYMENT TO:** Cory Kampf, Finance Director  
City of Robbinsdale  
4100 Lakeview Ave. N.  
Robbinsdale, MN 55422  
Fax (763) 537-7344

**Note:** Faxed registrations require payment by credit card (MC / Visa only). Please fill out credit card information on bottom of registration form.

**NEW MEMBER POLICY:** You may join MGFOA at the time you register. Rates are \$40 for regular members and \$60 for associate members. New members may remit membership dues with the conference registration fee. Please note that membership dues paid are for a 2006 membership.

**LODGING:** YOU MUST make separate arrangements by completing the attached lodging registration form for Arrowwood Resort by August 21, 2006. YOU MUST MAIL OR FAX YOUR RESERVATION FORM. Reservations are on a first-come first-served basis and overflow lodging reservations WILL BE made for you by Arrowwood. You are encouraged to make arrangements to share a room.

**REFUND POLICY:** The registration fee (less expenses) will be refunded if written notice of cancellation is received anytime through September 14, 2006. Written notice of cancellation received on or after September 15, 2006 will be refunded after deducting expenses including meals. Requests for refunds will only be considered up to October 2, 2006

***THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE INVITES ALL PARTICIPANTS TO DRESS  
CASUALLY AND ENJOY THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE***

**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**[PLEASE RETURN WITH PAYMENT]**  
**MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**  
**2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**“The Times, They Are A Changin!”**  
**"The Changing Face of Government Finance"**

**YOUR NAME WILL APPEAR ON YOUR NAME TAG AS SUBMITTED BELOW!!!**

LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP FEE (2005 MEMBERSHIP):** REGULAR [\$40] \_\_\_\_\_

ASSOCIATE [\$60] \_\_\_\_\_

CONFERENCE [9/20-22/06]

| <u>REGISTRATION FEE</u> | <u>Member</u> | <u>Non-Member</u> | _____ |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------|
| By August 25            | \$ 200.00     | \$ 260.00         | _____ |
| After August 25         | \$ 225.00     | \$ 285.00         | _____ |

TOTAL PAID REGISTRATION \_\_\_\_\_

**IS THIS YOUR FIRST MGFOA CONFERENCE?** YES NO

**IDENTIFY SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS:** \_\_\_\_\_

[SOMEONE WILL CONTACT YOU BY PHONE OR EMAIL REGARDING YOUR NEEDS]

FAXED REGISTRATIONS REQUIRE PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD

MC / VISA CREDIT CARD NUMBER : \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CVVS NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

(3 digit number on back of card)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**MN Government Finance Officers Conference**  
**Conference Lodging Reservation Form**  
**September 19-22, 2006**  
**Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center**

**PREFERRED LODGING HELD UNTIL**  
**August 21, 2006**

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Mr./Mrs./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Requests:** (i.e. Room accessibility, dietary, etc.)  
Explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**All of our lodging is non-smoking.**

Method of Payment:

\_\_\_\_\_ Check-Send with form

\_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card - Card Charged Upon Receipt of Form  
Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover accepted.

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Cardholder's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**CANCELLATION POLICY**

**LABOR DAY - MEMORIAL DAY**

Our cancellation policy is 72 hours. We will charge your credit card one night's lodging for any cancellations made within 72 hours of your arrival. If payment is made by check, we will refund your money if cancellation is made before 72 hours of your arrival. We will keep deposit if cancelled within 72 hours of your arrival.

**MGFOA requests that all cancellations be made as soon as possible to make rooms available for other conference attendees.**



**Arrowwood**  
RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER  
by CLUBHOUSE\*

**SPECIAL GROUP RATES**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$102.00 Standard accommodations/ Per night + tax

\_\_\_\_\_ \$145.00 Suites Per night + tax (Suites are limited)

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Room Nights: \_\_\_\_\_

**ROOMMATES:**

If you are sharing a room, each person must complete a separate reservation form.

List name of the roommate you've selected:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you are selecting roommates, reservation forms must be mailed or faxed together. If not received together, specific roommate requests cannot be guaranteed.

Overflow lodging is being held at the Country Inn & Suites. Once Arrowwood Resort is full, attendees will be notified that their reservation has been made at the Country Inn & Suites.

The Country Inn & Suites cancellation policy is as follows: Individual reservations cancelled within 72 hours of scheduled arrival will be charged one night's lodging on the date of cancellation. **Once the reservation has been made at Country Inn & Suites, YOU are responsible for any changes that would need to be made. Country Inn & Suites phone number is 320-763-9900.**

**MAIL OR FAX ENTIRE FORM TO:**

**Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center**

**2100 Arrowwood Lane NW**

**Alexandria, MN 56308**

**FAX: 320-762-0133**

**Phone: 320-762-1124**

**\*\*NO RESERVATIONS TAKEN  
WITHOUT FORM.\*\***

***HOTEL CHECK-IN TIME IS 4 P.M.  
HOTEL CHECK-OUT TIME IS 12 NOON***