

MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

December 2003

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: Tom Kelly



Ho Ho Ho Every One! Happy Holidays to every one. This year has just flown by. This is my last President's Message. I hope you all found the messages worth your time reading and that I didn't ramble too much. If I did I apologize.

First I would like to thank all of you for entrusting me to be the President this past year. It is truly a great honor and is one of the top highlights of my career. I hope I was able to provide the type of leadership you expected and demand. I feel this past year has been a success and I hope you feel the same. It was a success in my opinion because MnGFOA's mission to educate, share knowledge and uphold high professional standards was accomplished. As President I receive too much of the credit for this success, but the success is due to a lot of hard work by a lot of individuals.

I want to thank all of those who have served on the various MnGFOA committees this past year. Your hard work and dedication to MnGFOA is greatly appreciated by the Executive Board and myself. I extend my gratefulness to the Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs for leading the committees. Without the committee members' dedication and support, our year would not have been successful. Again thank you for every thing you did this year.

Next, I would like to thank the Executive Board who has served the organization well. Their wise counsel and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. They have been a great group to work with and have made this past year every enjoyable. The future of the organization is in great hands and I consider all of you good friends.

Lori Webster, will be your President for the year of 2004 and I know she will continue the service you have come to expect from your officers. I wish her all the luck in the world and she can count on my support in the upcoming months.

I would also extend congratulations and good luck to Greg Sticha as he begins his term on the Executive Board. Again thank you for letting me lead our organization this past year and I look forward to see all of you at future MnGFOA luncheons, conferences and events.

Thank you all and I hope you have a happy holiday season.

DECEMBER MEETING
(JOINT MEETING WITH AGA)

Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2003
Special Event: ****Please bring an unwrapped toy
For the annual Toys-for-Tots
drive !!****
Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points
Topic: Joint Meeting with AGA
Speaker: TBA at a Later Date
Meal: Hot Roast Beef Sandwich
Time: 11:30AM – Welcome and Program
12:20PM - Lunch & Business Mtg
1:00PM - Executive Committee 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 by THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2003. (Vegetarian meal choice is available).

-

SPEAKER BIO

To be announced through an email to all members when the information is available.

GASB SOLICITATION OF
MUNICIPAL CONTRIBUTIONS
A NOTE FROM STATE REP – RON HEDBERG

You may have recently received a letter from the Financial Accounting Foundation (FAF) that appears as a statement for a contribution to support GASB.

I recently spoke with Stephen Gauthier of the national GFOA about the contribution request that we all received. He told me that the GASB has indicated that their funding needs have changed because of changes in the way that the FAF allocates expenses to both the GASB and FASB. He indicated that the FAF has reduced the subsidy from the FASB to the GASB based on further analysis of administrative costs by both boards.

The national GFOA does not endorse the GASB seeking contributions directly from individual municipalities nor do they support the GASB's request for contributions without providing a public forum for the FAF to make a case for the additional funding. The national GFOA is a large supporter of the GASB, providing approximately \$6million over the past 19 years and Mr. Gauthier indicated that these amounts should be adequate given that the

GASB has not made a case for the increased funding.

The MnGFOA contributes annually to GFOA for support of the GASB. These amounts are combined with other state organizations which are then forwarded on to the GASB. At this time the GFOA does not encourage individual municipalities to contribute based on the letter received but rather encourages Minnesota Municipalities to continue supporting the GASB through the GFOA.

The GFOA has issued a position statement that is available on their website at www.gfoa.org that addresses this contribution request.

o
r
n
e
r

Committee

-
-
-
-

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The committee approved of the minutes for the October 15, 2003 meeting. A summary of the minutes is as follows:

- Approval of the Check Register for September in the amount of \$16,110.54. Also the Treasurer's report as of September 30, 2003 was approved.
- There was discussion on the MnGFOA website regarding various concerns the committee has had lately. The committee concluded that Ron Hedberg would contact TimeSaver and have them purchase Adobe software to solve some of the website formatting problems. The Executive Board agreed to continue with the ad hoc "Technology" committee and to recruit a few more members for this committee to continue to monitor the website. There was also discussion to work with TimeSaver to redesign the website for luncheon sign up to avoid having to login.
- GASB has been sending out letters to cities seeking contributions as support of the organization. Apparently, GASB has been sending out similar letters to larger cities across the country and has just recently expanded their mailing list to smaller cities. It was noted that MnGFOA contributes \$1,500 annually to GASB through the national

GFOA. The consensus of the committee was that we would not increase the contribution at this time.

- The committee unanimously approved, with Tom K. abstaining, to award this years' Internship Grant to the City of Falcon Heights. This grant is up to \$3,000 with a 50/50 match.



**CLIENTS' SOUGHT TO WORK
WITH STUDENTS**

The Humphrey Institute will be offering a Capstone Workshop Class this Spring - "Ethical Practice In Public Affairs" . The course is a workshop focused on the application of ethical principles to organizational practice. Students will engage with clients in exploring the creation of a statement of core values for client organizations. Students will explore how to assist an organization that chooses to reflect on an intentional moral course of action and establish a means for evaluating its organizational values and conduct. This is where **YOU** can come in !! They are looking for potential "clients" to work with the students.

Early in the course, students will prepare a case study about their client's organization that describes and analyzes some or all of the following aspects of their work: the public policy objectives chosen, the analysis used, the tactics employed, the resources managed and leveraged from internal and external sources, the internal decision-making process, and the over-all strategy used by the organization.

If you are interested, please contact, Gary DeCramer, Director - Master of Public Affairs Program - Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs 612-625-3458 or at the following email address: GDeCramer@hhh.umn.edu

INTRODUCING THE 2004 EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

The 2004 MnGFOA Executive Board is as follows:

President	Lori Webster	651-480-2352	
	City of Hastings		
President-Elect	Tom Pepper	651-675-5017	
	City of Eagan		
Secretary	Chris Miller	651-490-2210	
	City of Roseville		
Treasurer	Greg Sticha	952-939-8254	
	City of Minnetonka		
Past President	Tom Kelly	651-429-5827	White Bear Township
At-Large	Dan Maiers	651-638-2102	
	City of New Brighton		
At-Large	Terri Heaton	651-223-3022	

Springsted, Inc.
State Rep. Ron Hedberg 651-458-2832
City of Cottage Grove

INTRODUCING THE NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2004:

Conference Robin Roland 651-463-1880
Education Bonnie Burton 952-474-3236
Program
Co-chairs Michelle Pietrick 715-381-4304
and Joe Huss 763-717-2677
Social Lynn Cornwell 612-667-9874
Selection Steve Hauer 763-494-6334

If you have any 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.

MEMEBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership applications forms will be sent out in December as a separate mailing so be sure you watch for them. To be included in the 2004 membership directory, fill out the application form and mail with your payment by January 31, 2004 to Greg Sticha, City of Minnetonka, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, MN 55345 or call him at 952-939-8254 if you do not receive an application. Please note that additional forms may be obtained from our website at www.mngfoa.org.

MnGFOA DATES

Monthly Meeting Dates:

December 17 April 21 October 20
January 21 May 19 November 17
February 18 July 14 December 15
March 17 August 18

Conference/Training:

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



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Happy Holidays to all of you. I hope to see you at the holiday gathering after the December luncheon. I would like to express my thanks to Tom Kelly for his leadership this past year (and for getting his articles to me on time!) Having set such a great example, Tom will be a tough act to follow. I would also like to thank everyone who submitted articles this past year, your contributions helped tremendously with the publication of this newsletter! Beginning with the January newsletter, Tom Pepper will be taking over as editor. As always, we are looking for information to put in the newsletter of interest to the group. Please contact him with any retirements, job changes, promotions, certifications received, rate increases, or any other items you are willing to share with the group. Please give him a call or e-mail Tom by the 20th of the month to guarantee publication.

Lori Webster
City of Hastings
101 Fourth Street East
Hastings, MN 55033



Contact: Tom Pepper
City of Eagan

3830 Pilot Knob Road
Eagan, MN 55122

E-Mail: tpepper@ci.eagan.mn.us
Phone: 651-681-4617
Fax: 651-681-4612

Season's Greetings