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# MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

# MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

December 2005

*Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance*

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

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## Message from the President

By Tom Pepper

How appropriate that the holiday season starts with Thanksgiving. As my service as president now draws to a close, I'd like my holiday message to start—and be filled, and end—with thanksgiving, too. The MnGFOA is, very literally, nothing without its volunteers. My thanks to all of you who contributed your time and effort this past year to ensure our organization remains strong. Surely, I will miss a few names (but not Shirley); my apologies to you, if that's the case, and my thanks to you as well.

Thanks to the following cast of characters: The Social Committee is comprised of the entertaining names you'd expect. There's Rock & Roll (Rock-sanne Matson and Al Roll-ek); Larry, Moll & Curly (that's Jacobson, Judy, and Mike Kloos); and the stars of Tony 'n' Tina's Wedding (Shelstad and Lannes). Let's not forget Gayle Bauman, Lynn CornWells Fargo, Brenda Davitt, Bobbie Leitner, Ian O'Connell, Joan Rutten, Mike Shuba, Jim Eichten, Murtuza Siddiqui, Tonya Weinert, all the way down to the very last (Pat) Hair-ris on your (Ron) Head-berg.

The Conference Committee has more stars. Bruce of DeJong and DeRestless; the Minnetonka Berger King (Liz and Merrill); and the F.A.-mous antonymic pair, Bob Winthrop and Rosemary Mas-loss-ski. David Blumberg, George Eilertson, Tim Fahey, Jessie Hart, Terri Heaton, Sue Iverson, Cory Kampf, Tom Kelly, Kathleen McBride, Cat Shuman, Lee Strom, and Julie Vogel also starred on the committee.

The Education Committee worked OT this year in providing educational offerings and planning our transition up to the next level of training. Thanks to Jylan Johnson, Cindy Rollins, Jean McGann, Bill Sonmor, and Esther the Jester Schultz.

The Treasurer Selection Committee was led by that rockin' Rolek man. Helping out were Bill Son-more one-more time, the two JeHa's, Jessie Hart & Jeanne Haapala, and Jeff Be-that-as-it May.

The Program Committee of Michelle Pietrick, Joe Huss and Terri Heat-on put the heat on some important people in our community to speak at our luncheons. They were successful in lining up Caroline Lowe, Charlie Weaver, Tom Gillaspy, Mark Gibbs, Peggy Moeller, Gary Carlson, Jim Nobles, Michael Swanson, Alice Seagren, Ann Gergen, and Dan McElroy ... an impressive group. Nice job, gang! And thanks to all the speakers.

Thanks to all who attended our luncheons. I enjoyed developing friendships and learning so much from our conversations around the table! Sorry about the stick riddles, by the way. ☺

The Technology Committee servers were Cat Shuman, Steve Apfelbacher, Dick Choyke, Ann Gergen, Ron Hedberg, Bill Lehner, Marvin McNeff, and Bob Winthrop ... oh, and Joel Merry-Christmas-to-you-all! Thanks!

Lori Johnson fashioned a fabulous task force to focus on finding ways our fellow finance friends could benefit from our survey fact-finding effort. Jylan Johnson (no relation to Lori), Ken Merrill (no relation to Merrill King), Cindy Rollins, and Beth Widstrom-Anderson served as well ... oh, and Joel Merry-Christmas-to-you-all again!

Thanks to all our presenters/facilitators at the Arrowwood conference. Co-chairs Sue Iverson and Tom Kelly put together a great lineup. Special thanks to MnGFOA members Greg Sticha and Robin Roland for facilitating a roundtable discussion and Jessie Hart for presenting.

Though not volunteers, we have many MnGFOA partners to thank. Heidi Guenther and Joe Get-your-money's Wirth at TimeSaver did a very fine job with the directory, the monthly newsletters, and solving most of our website glitches. Their work was, as always, a real timesaver, too. Tammy Grainger at the Sheraton 4 Points made sure we had just enough chairs, just enough plates of food, and plenty of sherbet. Helene Johnson and her GTS staff helped us put together that fine online survey you all loved, and administrate our fall trainings.

Several Minnesota members serve on national GFOA committees. Thanks to Tom Kelly, Pat Born, Al Rolek, Dave MacGillivray, and John Norman for their important contributions to the organization.

Many others serve the national GFOA by being reviewers for either the Budget or CAFR awards. Thanks to Steve Laible, Greg Wagner, Sue Kotchevar, Sue Virnig, Tom Kelly, Ken Bauer, Dave Blumberg, Jacob Cherucheril, Jeanne Day, Dave DeJonge, Diane Deblon, Jim Eichten, Dan Etling, Mark Gibbs, Claudia Gudvangen, Tom Karlson, Rhonda Krcil, Jeanine Leifeld, Karen Marquardt, Matt Mayer, Steve McDonald, Kyle Meyers, Peggy Moeller, Greg Mutchler, Jim Reibe, Barb Ruckheim, Esther Schultz, Nancy Schulzetenberg, Dave Stene, Tammy Wilson and Steve Wischmann.

Thanks again to George Eilertson for the wonderful job he has done in soliciting and collecting funds from our associate members for directory and conference sponsorship/advertising.

Thanks to Chris Miller for his extraordinary efforts to connect MnGFOA with college campuses through the annual Student Accounting Conference. Thanks to Greg Sticha and Ruth Wipper for their appearances on campus in St. Cloud on behalf of MnGFOA.

Our Executive Committee members are stellar and my gratitude for their energy and efforts is tremendous. You can expect great things from every one of the officers as they make their way to the presidency. Chris Miller, Greg Sticha, and Robin Roland have served you well. Larry Jacobson will continue that tradition when he comes on board next year. I couldn't have asked for two better at-large committee members this year than Lynn Cornwell and Ruth Wipper. The same is true for Bonnie Burton, our State Representative. Their input helped steer the rudder of this ship. And Tom Kelly, who served a second term as immediate Past President ... are there any superlatives left to describe what he has brought to this organization? What a great group to work with!

To Beth Widstrom-Anderson, Sharon Legg, and surely Shirley Hogan (see? I told you I wouldn't miss Shirley), thanks for coordinating your private fundraiser to build a garden bench in honor of Lori Webster. To all of you that contributed, thanks for doing that.

Thanks to John Norman for presenting the President's gavel to Lori at her Celebration of Life service. Thanks to Mike Webster for attending the Alex conference to receive the resolution honoring Lori. Thanks to the entire Webster family for all they taught us as we watched them courageously endure their heartbreak.

And Lori, thank you for everything I learned about living and dying from you. You're the best!

Finally, over the past year, many of you have made it a point to come up and share kind words about our organization and the people in it, our conference and trainings, and even my messages in this newsletter. There's a proverb that says, "A good word makes the heart glad." Thanks for making my heart very glad indeed.

It's been a great pleasure to serve you. Have a wonderful holiday season!

## December Meeting



Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2005  
Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points  
Speaker: Dr. James Benson  
Topic: Setting the Base for the Pace of the Race  
Meal: Lasagna  
Time: 11:30 a.m. – Welcome & Program  
12:15 p.m. – Lunch & Business Mtg.  
1:00 p.m. – Holiday Gathering  
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](http://www.mngfoa.org) by Thursday, December 8th. (Vegetarian meal choice is available.)

**Don't forget to bring a children's toy for the MnGFOA Toy Drive! And don't forget to stay around after the program to share some Holiday Cheer with your friends and colleagues. Hot apple cider and treats will be available!**

## Thank You

The Social Committee would like to thank everyone who made a donation at the November Program for the local area food shelves. Your contribution is appreciated!



## December Toy Drive



The Social Committee is once again sponsoring the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Toy Drive. Please bring unwrapped toys to the luncheon and they will see that the collection is distributed to the Toys-4-Tots Program.

## Future Meeting Dates

### Monthly Meetings:

December 14                      January 12                      February 9

### Conferences & Training:

MnGFOA – Winter Training Event - January 2006  
More details to follow

## MnGFOA Internship Grant Available

Each year, the MnGFOA provides a matching grant up to a maximum of \$3,000, for active member organizations for the purposes of hiring an accounting or finance intern. We're currently accepting applications from active member organizations for the 2006 fiscal year. The application deadline is December 9, 2005.

The Internship Grant will be awarded in December or January. Application forms may be downloaded from the MnGFOA website at: [www.mngfoa.org](http://www.mngfoa.org) by clicking on the link 'Forms'. Applications should be directed to Tom Pepper by email at: [tpepper@cityofeagan.com](mailto:tpepper@cityofeagan.com) or by mail to his address listed in the MnGFOA directory.

## National GFOA Scholarships Available

The National GFOA has announced that it is now accepting applications for its five scholarship programs for award in the spring of 2006. The application deadline is February 3, 2006. For more information, please visit the GFOA website at: [www.gfoa.org](http://www.gfoa.org), and click on the 'Scholarships' link located on the left margin.

## Student Resumes Available

On September 29, 2005, the MnGFOA participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Accounting & Auditing Student Conference at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Over 500 students stopped by the MnGFOA's exhibit booth to talk with members about careers in governmental accounting and finance. 65 resumes were collected and are now available on the MnGFOA's website at [www.mngfoa.org](http://www.mngfoa.org). Many of these students are nearing graduation and have impressive GPA's and relevant work experience. Members are encouraged to consider these students for internships and entry-level positions.

## Lost and Found

Someone left behind a beige hooded sweater with a zippered front at Arrowwood. If it's yours, please call Tom Kelly at White Bear Township.

## City of Moorhead Receives Budget Award

Congratulations to the City of Moorhead for earning their first GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005. This was their first attempt to earn this prestigious award. Their budget document can be found on the City of Moorhead website at [http://www.ci.moorhead.mn.us/city\\_hall/budget.cfm](http://www.ci.moorhead.mn.us/city_hall/budget.cfm). Active Members are encouraged to consider applying for this award.

# Committee

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## Executive Committee Update

At the November 16th meeting, the minutes of the October 19th meeting were approved. Highlights of those minutes include:

- Approval of the check register and Treasurer's Report for September. Robin reported that revenues and expenditures for the year were as expected
- The Conference Committee provided a summary of the comments and evaluations received on the Annual Conference, and discussed some general themes and speakers for next year's Conference
- The Education Committee presented a tentative schedule for training events for 2006. The training events will be based on comments received through the membership surveys
- The Executive Committee held a brief discussion on the GFOA Minority Scholarship, and agreed to continue discussions at the next meeting

## JOB POSTINGS

### Finance Officer City of Minnetrista

The City of Minnetrista (Pop. 5,250) is accepting applications to fill the position of Finance Officer. Minimum qualifications include a bachelor's degree in accounting, public finance, business, or a related field and up to three years of public sector finance experience; or an equivalent combination of education and municipal finance experience. Knowledge of Banyon accounting software. This position requires proficiency in word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation software. Desired qualifications are a master's degree in one of the above fields. Prior municipal public finance experience beyond three years is desired. Salary range is \$62,652 to \$78,312. Interested persons must complete a city application to be received at Minnetrista City Hall, 7701 County Road 110 West, Minnetrista, MN 55364 by December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at 4:30 p.m. Applications can be downloaded from the City's web page at [www.ci.minnetrista.mn.us](http://www.ci.minnetrista.mn.us) or are available from City Hall at 952-446-1660.



Chris Miller  
City of Roseville  
2660 Civic Center Drive  
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## Finance Director City of Medina

Medina (pop. 4,650) is accepting applications to establish the newly created position of Finance Director.

Primary responsibilities include serving as department head for all financial management/planning functions. Position requires a Bachelors degree in accounting, business administration, finance, public administration or related field; and, two years of experience in finance or accounting operations. Desirable qualifications include a Masters degree in applicable field (stated above), and two years of experience in municipal government finance or accounting operations (additional experience may be substituted for Masters degree). Starting salary range is \$57,000 to \$65,000; Max. salary range extends to \$75,000. A city application packet may be obtained at the Medina City Hall, County Road 24, Medina, MN 55340 or on the city's website at: [www.ci.medina.mn.us](http://www.ci.medina.mn.us). Phone: (763) 473-4643. Application materials should be submitted to City Administrator Chad M. Adams by 4:30 p.m., December 19, 2005.

## 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

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