



MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
**MnGFOA NEWSLETTER**

December 2007

*Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance*

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

## Message from the President

By Greg Sticha

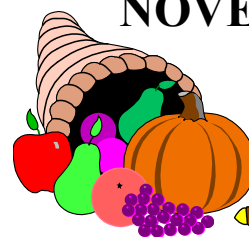
The holiday season is here and the New Year is approaching. This sadly means we have come to the end of my term as your president. The time I have served on the board has been memorable for so many reasons. I have had the honor of serving on the board with some amazing people this past year and previous years.

This brings me back to what I discussed in January ..... "Leadership". Every single member of our organization should be proud of the leaders that have served on the board and all the committees over the years. We all have been served well by so many terrific leaders. I would like to thank my fellow executive committee members for their hard work and dedication the past year: Robin Roland, Larry Jacobson, Cathy Shuman, Chris Miller, Fran Windschitl, Joe Rigdon, and Bruce DeJong. This board is filled with excellent people and leaders and we are in good hands with these people leading us in the future.

I would also like to thank all of you who have served on a committee the past year especially the chairs for 2007: Corey Kampf, Cindy Rollins, Michelle Pietrick, Judy Moll, Joel Merry, and Sharon Legg. As all of you know this organization is run on the backs of volunteers and these people along with their fellow committee members have worked extremely hard the past year. The amount of hours they put in on an annual basis is truly amazing.

We have all accomplished some great things the past year including another spectacular conference (thanks Corey), some great training events and speakers at lunch (thanks Cindy and Michelle), the enhancement of our website to be unveiled here in this next month (thanks Joel), and had some fun along the way (thanks Judy).

Leadership is evident in all these people, and they all have made my job as your president the past year a whole lot easier. I would lastly like to wish the best of luck to your 2008 president Robin Roland, the organization will again have a great leader at the helm for next year. Have a terrific holiday season and I hope to see all of you at the holiday social following the luncheon!!!



## NOVEMBER FOOD DRIVE

**THANK YOU!** The Social Committee sponsored the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Food Drive at the November (training) luncheon and distributed a trunk full of food (as well as a substantial check) to local area food shelves. Thanks also to Springsted for their match of GFOA donations.

## December Meeting

**DATE:** Wednesday, December 19, 2007  
**LOCATION:** Minneapolis Sheraton Four Points  
**TOPIC:** Leadership  
**SPEAKER:** Brain Lamb, General Manager  
Metro Transit  
**TIME:** 11:30 Meeting & Program  
12:15 Luncheon  
1:00 Holiday Social  
**LUNCH:** Turkey "Dinner"  
**COST:** \$15



**Reservations:** Please register on the MnGFOA website ([www.mngfoa.org](http://www.mngfoa.org)) or send an e-mail to Cathy Shuman ([cathy.shuman@ci.monticello.mn.us](mailto:cathy.shuman@ci.monticello.mn.us)) by Thursday December 13th.

## Speaker Bio ~

Brian Lamb returned to Metro Transit in September 2004 to serve as the agency's general manager. He oversees a bus and rail system with 2,600 employees who operate a light-rail rail line and 113 local, express and contract bus routes. Customers will use Metro Transit services nearly 77 million times in 2007, a 10.5 percent increase over two years. Metro Transit is an operating agency of the Metropolitan Council. Its operating budget exceeds \$240 million annually.

Lamb was a key figure in completing the first light-rail line operating in Minnesota. The Hiawatha light-rail line opened phase one operations in June 2004 and opened fully in December 2004. Its ridership – 9 million in 2006 --already exceeds projections for the year 2020. Lamb and his staff also are key contributors to the region's next two rail projects: the Northstar commuter rail line, scheduled to open in late 2009, will extend 40 miles between Big Lake and downtown Minneapolis, largely along congested Highway 10; and the Central Corridor light-rail line, now in preliminary engineering, linking downtown Minneapolis and downtown St. Paul via the University of Minnesota.

Earlier, Lamb served Metro Transit for nearly 20 years, leaving in 1999 after seven years as director of service development. From 1999 through 2002 he was director of driver and vehicle services in the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. In January 2003, he was selected by Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty as the state's commissioner of administration, a cabinet post, where he initiated and led the administration's "Drive for Excellence," a comprehensive effort to streamline state-delivered services.

## 2008 Meeting Dates

### Annual Conferences:

GFOA – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
MnGFOA – Alexandria, MN

June 15-18, 2008  
Sept. 23-26, 2008

# Committee

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## Executive Committee Update

The Executive Committee met in October and took the following actions:

- Approved October meeting minutes.
- Approved check register for October operations.
- Received report from Chris Miller on the Student Accounting and Auditing Conference and other student outreach efforts
- Took a first glance at the proposed 2008 budget.

## December Toy Drive



The Social Committee is sponsoring the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Toy Drive. Please bring unwrapped toys to the December Luncheon and they will see that the collection is distributed to the Toys-4-Tots Program.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Jason Schirmacher, the new Assistant Finance Director at South St. Paul. Justin is leaving the audit staff at HLB Tautges Redpath to join SSP on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Good luck Jason!



Robin Roland  
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## Message from the Editor

This is my last newsletter as editor. It's been a great year. Thanks to Heidi at Timesaver for all her skills! (I'm good with Excel but my Word talents are limited.) Thanks also to all of you who submitted items, mostly in a timely fashion.

Larry Jacobson steps up to the plate as editor in January. Send your job openings, ads, career moves, or other items of note to him by the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month and they will go in the next newsletter. Thanks.

Robin

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