



MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

December 2008

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President

Change. The only thing constant is change. People change jobs. Elected officials change. Even the weather changes in Minnesota - sometimes on an hourly basis. And, with the end of the year, the Minnesota GFOA will change Presidents. My tenure is done and Larry Jacobson will take the reins of this organization for the coming year.

It's been a great run. I have had so much fun and I have learned so much about our members and about myself, I don't even know where to start. We tried some new stuff this year: a training session in July in Brainerd, a reception after National training in August. We did some of the stuff we have done before: CAFR training in March, State Conference in Alexandria in September. We finished some stuff we started in 2007 - the Website! (Well, mostly.)

We counted on Julie Vogel, Judy Moll, Sue Iverson, Darin Nelson and Mark Beer to chair the various committees. They all did an awesome job on their respective committees. They deserve a big round of applause and a hearty "thank you".

Also departing the executive board of MnGFOA at year's end are Greg Sticha (Past-President), Bruce DeJong (State Rep), Charlie Hanson and Shelly Eldridge (at large members). Each of them gave time and talent this year to make our organization better and deserve our thanks. And to Larry, Cathy Shuman, Ron Hedberg and Jessie Hart who will take on their new roles January 1st, the best wishes for a fabulous 2009.

All of you will be terrific!

Our November 19th training session was a terrific success, especially considering the competition that day

from the Springsted Symposium (no, we didn't plan that intentionally). Bob Winthrop, Charles Elliott and Bob Kessler talked about Non-Tax Revenue Sources; giving examples and techniques that each had developed and tested. As a matter of fact, Bob and Bob are published in the October 2008 edition of the *Government Finance Review* with their article "Making an argument for police enforcement costs: the St. Paul fee study experience". The session was great and early reviews suggest enough interest to possibly repeat the session at a later date. Thanks to Bob, Charles and Bob for their very professional and informative training.

Don't miss our December 10th meeting, complete with "toys for tots" toy drive and holiday reception immediately following the luncheon. As 2008 winds down, plan on spending some time with your colleagues. Because in the end, that's what MnGFOA is all about: We have each other to work with, play with, learn from and rely on.

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as President this year. Thank you for your support of me and of each other. Have a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year.

Robin

2008 Meeting Dates

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

December 10 - Monthly luncheon, Sheraton Four Points
January 21 - Quarterly Training, Sheraton Four Points
February 13 - Monthly luncheon and Curling event

ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

MnGFOA - Alexandria, MN
GFOA - Seattle, Washington

Sept 23-25, 2009
June 28 - July 1, 2009

December Meeting & Toy Drive

DATE: Wednesday, December 10, 2008
LOCATION: Minneapolis Sheraton Four Points
TOPIC: Update on the state of the State and expectations for the 2009 Legislative session
SPEAKER: Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Speaker of the House
TIME: 11:30 Meeting & Program
12:15 Luncheon
LUNCH: Grilled Flank Steak with Wild Mushroom Merlot Sauce
COST: \$15



Reservations: Please register on the MnGFOA website (www.mngfoa.org), send an e-mail to Ron Hedberg (rhedberg@cottage-grove.org), or leave a voice mail for Ron at 651-458-2832 by Thursday, December 4th.

Please remember to register for the meeting to provide that enough meals are ordered and tables are set up for the meeting.

Speaker Bio...

Speaker of the House Margaret Anderson Kelliher

Margaret Anderson Kelliher grew up on a dairy farm in southern Minnesota. Her experiences there with four older brothers and a sister prepared her well for her current roles as a mother and Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives.

As Speaker, she has worked to make Minnesota a leader in energy, including guiding passage of the strongest renewable energy standard in the country. She also brought together a coalition of business, labor, agriculture and environmental leaders in support of a comprehensive transportation bill. The legislation became law following the first veto override of Governor Tim Pawlenty.

Throughout her life, Speaker Kelliher has been recognized by her peers for her leadership. She was recently elected to the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures. She also received a fellowship in leadership from the Bush

Foundation. As a teenager, she served as state 4-H president.

Those rural roots gave Kelliher an early introduction to politics. She participated in State Capitol rallies during the 1980s farm crisis. After college, she worked as a legislative staffer for both House Speaker Bob Vanasek and Senate President Allan Spear.

Kelliher is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College. She received her MPA from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. At home in Minneapolis, she is better known to her husband and two children as a hockey mom. She enjoys fishing, running and visits to her childhood home, which her mother still owns and her brothers continue to farm.

December Toy Drive



Don't forget to bring a toy for the Toy Drive on Wednesday Dec. 10th. The Social Committee will see that the donations are distributed to the Toys-4-Tots Program. Also remember to stay after the program to share some holiday cheer with your friends and colleagues. Hot apple cider and treats will be available!

February Meeting and Curling Event

The February meeting is going to have a different look and feel to it. It is going to be on a different day and at a different location.

Mark your calendar for Friday, February 13, 2009 @ the St. Paul Curling Club for the monthly MGFOA luncheon. The monthly meeting has been scheduled in conjunction with a networking opportunity.

Curling - This will be an all-inclusive event; including the monthly Speaker @ 11am, Lunch @ 11:45am, and Curling @ 12:30pm.

Come test your skill level! There will be instructors on hand with plenty of opportunity for fun and networking with colleagues.

Watch the January 2009 newsletter for all the details and sign up information!

Committee

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Executive Committee Update

The Executive Committee did not meet in November.

November Food Drive

Thanks to all those who contributed to the November food drive. Thirty-three pounds of food and \$20 were collected and delivered to a local food shelf for distribution to local needy families.



Congratulations To...

Congratulations to the City of St. Louis Park and Bruce DeJong for their Bond Rating increase from Standard & Poors. They are now AAA. Great job!

Congratulations to Julie Linnahan on her new position as Finance Director at the City of Dayton – she is leaving the Finance Director job at the City of New Hope.

Membership Information

Membership information can be updated on line at the MnGFOA website. You will need your username and password. If you have forgotten your username and password, select member, login and you can have the website send it to you.

JOB POSTINGS

Job posting are also made to the MnGFOA web site and you can check there on a continuing basis for new posting.

From the Education Committee - January 21st Training

The Education Committee is pleased to announce its January 21, 2009 training on "Fiscal Strategies for Implementing Your Comprehensive Plans". The tentative instructors for this training will be: Paul Donna and Rusty Fifield from Northland Securities and City representatives.

More information will be forth coming in the next few weeks. The training will run on Wednesday, January 21st from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. A networking lunch is also available for those who only want to attend the luncheon. Please see our website or the GTS website for registration and more information at www.mngts.org. If you have any questions, please call Sue Iverson, Education Chair at (651) 792-7816 or email at sue.iverson@ci.arden-hills.mn.us.

Schedule for 2009 Training:

January 21, 2009 - Fiscal Strategies for Implementing Your Comprehensive Plans - Four Points

March 18, 2009 - CAFR review (morning program only before luncheon) - Four Points

June 19, 2009 - Generating Non-Tax Revenues: Techniques, Issues, and Case Studies (Tentative date - repeat of November Training) – Outstate

October 21, 2009 - Beginning Governmental Accounting (St. Cloud area)

October 22, 2009 - Advanced Governmental Accounting (Metro Area)

November 18, 2009 - To be determined - Four Points

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Message from the Editor

Wow, it's December already? It seems like I began editing the MnGFOA newsletter only yesterday. It's been a lot of fun the past year putting the newsletter together. As always remember to take a few moments and send any news you have to share with other members, job openings, career moves, or other items of note; to me by the 20th of each month and they will go in the next newsletter.

Thanks!

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