

MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

February 2003

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: Tom Kelly

Hello Everyone. Once again I'm trying to juggle too many different projects at once and I'm sure I am no different than most of you. I'm sure everyone has their 2002 financial records closed out and ready to be audited by now. I am not even close yet and I've been trying to prioritize the 2003 budgeted expenditures in case the State cuts aids or the market value homestead credit payments. I'm also working on a possible bond issue plus various other items that never seem to disappear. One of these days I think my head will just explode. But as I said I am no different than the rest of you I am sure.

So far the proposal the Governor has sent to the legislature should have little effect on local governments unless they receive some grant funds for certain projects. However, the Legislature has not acted on the Governor's proposal, which only balances this year's budget. There still looms the projected 4+ billion dollar deficit for the next biennium. We all will be watching the Governor and Legislature closely over the next several months for any actions, which may affect our bottom lines.

For those of you who were unable to attend January's luncheon, not only did you miss another great meal, but Lisa Faul's presentation on health care. In her presentation she stated that the trend of health care premium increases of double digits will continue in the future because of the aging population, consumer demand and decreased competition. Also pharmaceuticals are more of a factor. Employers try to offset these increases by changing coverage's or plans. However employees are often reluctant to accept changes in benefits. Ms. Faul explained that HMOs are not the solution and now many employers are trying to implement health care plans, which involve some employee input and flexibility.

The idea is if employees share in the cost of prescriptions and premiums they will make wiser decisions, which could lead to more use of generic drugs and better use of coverage's, which would lead to decreased premiums in the future. For me this was a very good topic since this is an item the Township has been struggling with since I started working at the Township 8-1/2 years ago.

On January 23rd and 24th the National GFOA held its annual winter meeting for the various national committees. Currently MnGFOA members serving on national committees include Patrick Born, Al Rolek, Lynne Harrington and myself. I will provide a summary of the meetings in the next newsletter.

Finally, I would ask all of you to keep Steve Hauer and his family in your thoughts and prayers as Steve recovers from some very serious medical procedures. The day of our luncheon Steve was not doing real well, but since then he has improved and is awake.

Hope to see you all at the February meeting, as I believe we have another excellent speaker lined up.

FEBRUARY MEETING NOTICE

Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2003
Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points
Topic: Philosophy & Vision for the
State Auditor's Office
Speaker: State Auditor, Pat Awada
Meal: Caesar Salad with Grilled Chicken
Time: 11:30AM – Welcome and Program
12:20PM - Lunch & Business Meeting
1:00PM - Executive Committee Meeting
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, FEBRUARY 13, 2003. (Vegetarian meal choice is available).

SPEAKER BIO AND TOPIC

Patricia Awada was elected in 2002 to serve as Minnesota's 17th State Auditor. Her public service career began in 1991 when she was first elected to the Eagan City Council. After serving two terms, Patricia was elected in 1998 as mayor of Minnesota's 8th largest city.

Before her election as State Auditor, Patricia also owned two successful businesses that she created in 1994. With only a computer and a printer, she turned a one-person shop into a highly successful small business.

Because of her combined business and policymaking skills, Patricia was recently named as one of Minnesota's "Top 40 Business and Community Leaders Under 40" by City Business, as well as one of the state's "Most Influential Women to Watch" by The Business Journal. She graduated from the University of Minnesota, and later earned her M.A. in Public Administration from Hamline University.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership application forms have been mailed out as a separate mailing – even to those of you that receive the newsletter by e-mail, so be sure to watch for them. To be included in the 2003 membership directory, fill out the application form and mail with your payment by January 31, 2003 to Chris Miller, City of Roseville, 2660 Civic Center Drive, Roseville, MN 55113 or call him at 651-490-2210 if you do not receive an application. Please note that additional forms may be obtained from our website at www.mngfoa.org.

2003 MnGFOA DATES

Monthly Meeting Dates:

March 19	August 20
April 16	October 15
June 18	November 19
July 16	December 17

Conference/Training:

2003 National GFOA Conference	New York NY	May 18 – 21
2003 Fall MnGFOA Conference	Alexandria MN	Sept. 16 – 19

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Highlights from the January Executive Committee include:

- Approval of the December 11, 2002 minutes
- Approval of the Check Register for December in the amount of \$4,903.31 and the Treasurer's report as of December 31, 2002.
- The Board discussed plans for an informal gathering of past presidents later this spring. Location still to be determined. Those attending would pay for their own meals.
- Approved a motion to reaffirm the undesignated fund balance target of 20 –30% of next year's expenditures. The committee will continue to develop a policy for spending down the excess balance amount, which will then be designated for specific uses.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE EVENT

There is still space available!! The social committee has planned an outing to the Hey City Theater to take part in "Tony and Tina's Wedding." The "wedding" takes place February 27th so hurry and RSVP ! Look for a registration form in this newsletter. Contact Jim Eichten @ 952-545-0424 if you should have any questions.

GFOA INTERNET TRAINING

Internet Training: Using the GFOA Checklist to Implement the New Model – February 18 (1pm – 3pm EST) ; March 11 (3pm – 5pm EST)

All you need is a speakerphone and a separate Internet connection. For more information, contact GFOA at 312/977-9700 or check their website at www.gfoa.org.

ADVANCED INSTITUTE SCHOLARSHIP

Do you know an ambitious and up-and-coming finance person ? Or maybe is it time for you to move to the next level ? Now is the time for you to apply for the Advanced Government Finance Institute Scholarship. The application form is available on the MnGFOA web site or you can contact Tom Pepper at 651-675-5017.

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

The John B. Lilja Scholarship of \$1,000 is awarded to undergraduate students majoring in accounting or governmental finance at a college or university. John Lilja was an associate member of the MnGFOA, active at state and national levels, enhancing governmental reporting and development. For 2003, the Executive Board has decided to expand this outreach program by offering two scholarships. If you know of anyone who may want to be a candidate, contact Tom Pepper at 651-675-5017.

CERTIFICATE REVIEW SESSION

Mark Gibbs, HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd., is collecting comments received from GFOA for 2001 CAFR's to be used in the Certificate Review session to be offered on March 19, 2003. Please send copies of your comments along with a 2001 CAFR to Mark Gibbs, HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd., 4810 White Bear Parkway, White Bear Lake, MN 55110. If you are unable to send a complete CAFR please feel free to fax the comments themselves at 651-426-5004.

MNGFOA HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Does anyone know where there may be an old brochure or pamphlet containing **historical information** about MnGFOA? According to Lyle Haney (former Coon Rapids Finance Director) one was done in the early eighties. Lyle also has a photo album, which he is attaching narrative to the pictures with the help of others (sounds like it was fun getting together). It would be nice to keep this going. So if you know where the brochure is or have pictures that could be added to the album, let Sharon Legg know (she's history now!) at 763-767-6433 or legg@ci.coon-rapids.mn.us. This album and history will be on display at the annual conference.

LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES LISTSERV

Were you aware that the League of Minnesota Cities has a listserv? Sign up by accessing their website www.lmnc.org. Drop down the Quick links menu, then click on the listserv sign-up. (Or sign onto lmnc.org/forms/listserv.cfm.) The three that may be of the most interest to finance officers probably are:

Clerk/Administrator. Open to Minnesota City Clerks, administrators and related staff such as deputy clerks, assistant administrators for the purpose of sharing information about City government related to their job functions.

Finance Officer. Open to Minnesota City finance officers, city treasurers and related staff such as clerk-treasurers, finance managers, assistant finance directors for the purpose of sharing information about City government related to their job functions.

IGR-General. Open to any City staff or officials interested in periodic legislative updates. Listserv members will receive Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Friday fax via email and requests from IGR to contact their legislators. **And, find out how jobs can be posted** at no charge in the Cities Bulletin by accessing www.lmnc.org/cityjobs/cityjobpolicy.htm.

JOB POSTINGS

ACCOUNTANT – CITY OF ANDOVER

The City of Andover, MN (pop. 28,000+) a growing, progressive community is recruiting an Accountant to assist in maintaining the accounting functions of the city and providing assistance to the Assistant Finance Director and Finance Director. Salary \$38K – \$48K DOQ w/benefits. Duties include prepare monthly financial statements, analyze financial questions, review capital investment proposals and prepare special, non-standard reports. Compile and monitor budgets. Support the assistant finance director in reviewing department financial situations with department heads. Prepare coding on invoices, journal entries and other transactions. Assist in preparation of annual Capital Improvement Plan. Assist in preparation for annual audit and annual comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). Bachelors Degree (B.A) in Accounting, Finance or related field. Must be proficient with MS Word & Excel. Excellent writing, verbal, analytical skills required. Cover letter, resume and references by February 14, 2003 to, Attn: Human Resources, 1685 Crosstown Blvd, Andover, MN 55304.

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS - ACCOUNTANT II

The City of Minneapolis is currently accepting applications for the position of Accountant II. This person will manage the accounting cycle, direct financial management support to customer, and provide leadership for financial and accounting staff. For more information about this opportunity and/or to apply, go to our web site, www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us by Tuesday, February 4, 2003 or call 612-673-2282 for application materials. City of Minneapolis Human Resources Dept, 250 S 4th St, Room 100, Mpls, MN 55415. AA/EOE

CITY OF SAVAGE – FINANCE DIRECTOR

FINANCE DIRECTOR: CITY OF SAVAGE, Minnesota: \$66,951 - \$84,748 annually (DOQ). Requires 5 to 10 years responsible professional experience in governmental finance including two (2) years at the management level, and Bachelor's Degree (Master's preferred) in finance, accounting, economics, public administration or a related field. For further information and application materials visit our website at www.cityofsavage.com or contact: The City of Savage Human Resources Department, 6000 McColl Drive, Savage, MN 55378 Phone: 952/882-2660 Job Line: 952/882-2651 **APPLY BY:** Friday, February 28, 2003 EOE

RETIREMENT

Gerald Sorenson retired from the City of Moorhead effective December 31, 2002. After 37 years at the helm of their Administrative Services Department, which includes the Finance division, among others, Jerry will be greatly missed by his colleagues. Congratulations Jerry !!

2003 EXECUTIVE BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

The 2003 MnGFOA Executive Board is as follows:

President	Tom Kelly White Bear Township	651-429-5827
President-Elect	Lori Webster City of Hastings	651-480-2352
Secretary	Tom Pepper City of Eagan	651-675-5017
Treasurer	Chris Miller City of Roseville	651-490-2210
Past President	Sharon Legg City of Coon Rapids	763-767-6433
At-Large	Cathy Shuman City of Monticello	763-271-3204
At-Large	Rosemary Masloski Ehlers & Associates	651-697-8530
State Rep.	Ron Hedberg City of Cottage Grove	651-458-2832

Committee Chairs for 2003 are as follows:

Conference	Michelle Pietrick	612-673-5122
Education	Julie Vogel	952-448-2851
Program	Joe Huss	952-563-4930
Social	Jim Eichten	952-545-0424
Selection	Lori Johnson	763-441-7420

If you have any questions, want to help out, or have suggestions for the Executive Board or for the committees for 2003, please feel free to give them a call.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

I look forward as serving as Editor for 2003 – but I will need your input! We are looking for information to put in the newsletter of interest to the group. Please contact me with any retirements, job changes, promotions, certifications received or any other items you are willing to share with the group. Please give me a call or e-mail me by the 20th of the month to guarantee publication.

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