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# MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

# MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

February 2004

*Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance*

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

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## Message from the President

By Lori Webster

What a great turnout for the first meeting of the year!! For those of you unable to attend the January luncheon, Don Uram spoke to us on his recent experience in Iraq. Don, formerly Director of Management and Budget with the City of Eden Prairie, gave us all a first-hand account of what it was like in Iraq through his work with RTI International. In April, RTI International was awarded a contract by the United States Agency for International Development to participate in the reconstruction of Iraq. Under this contract, RTI is responsible for implementing the Iraq Local Governance Project (LGP) in Iraq's 18 national governorates. Trying to build a completely new government system in the context of language and cultural barriers is proving to be a very complex and arduous task.

The LGP is a capacity-building project that aims to improve the quality of governance in Iraq's governorates (equivalent to counties), cities, and towns in order to bring concrete improvements to the quality of life of Iraqi citizens. In close cooperation with Coalition Provisional Authority personnel and military civil affairs officers, LGP representatives are placed in the field to build the capacities of both government institutions and civil society organizations while fostering democratic dialogue on policy issues and partnerships for their implementation.

Don was able to give us all an insight as to how difficult yet rewarding this job can be. (Not to mention very hot!)

On January 22 and 23, the National GFOA held its annual winter meeting for the various national committees. Current Minnesota members serving on national committees include Tom Kelly, Al Rolek, Patrick Born, and Lynne Harrington.

The national GFOA offers five different scholarships, which I invite you to read about in a separate article. Please share this information if you know someone who may be interested.

The national GFOA has placed an emphasis on the importance of attendance to the national conference from the Midwestern states since over 2,000 GFOA members reside in the Midwest region. GFOA offers a special discounted rate for a one-day attendance and a 10% discount if 3 or more from the same jurisdiction register together.

We at MnGFOA are exploring the idea of chartering a bus to reduce travel costs from the Twin Cities area to Milwaukee – so stay tuned!! Should you decide to drive on your own, I am told parking rates are reasonable. The following is the link that will take you to every parking lot in Milwaukee: [www.parkmilwaukee.com](http://www.parkmilwaukee.com).

Hope to see you all at the February meeting!

## February Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2004  
Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points  
Speaker: To be announced  
Topic: (Details to follow via email)  
Meal: Hot Roast Beef Sandwich  
Time: 11:30 a.m. – Welcome and Program  
12:20 p.m. – Lunch & Business Meeting  
1:00 p.m. – Executive Committee Mtg.  
Cost: \$15.00

**Reservations:** Please leave your reservation with Liz Berger at the City of Minnetonka at 952-939-8252 or on our website at [www.mngfoa.org](http://www.mngfoa.org) by THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2004. (Vegetarian meal choice is available.)

## 2004 MnGFOA Luncheon Dates

March 17	April 21	May 19
[No June Mtg.]	July 14	August 18
[No Sept Mtg.]	October 20	November 17
December 15		

# Committee

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## Executive Committee Update

At its January 21 meeting, the Executive Committee approved the December 17 minutes, which included the following:

- Acceptance of the November Treasurer's report. It was predicted at that time MnGFOA would show a surplus of about \$10,000 for the year. (Unaudited results presented at the December meeting show a 2003 surplus of \$9,882.)
- Final approval of the 2004 budget, the highlights of which were presented in the January newsletter.
- Discussion of recent troubles with the website and distribution of the newsletter. Again, if you are signed up to receive the newsletter electronically, but did not in November and/or December, our apologies!! Please contact Tom Pepper at 651-675-5017 or [tpepper@cityofeagan.com](mailto:tpepper@cityofeagan.com) if you continue to experience problems.

## MnGFOA Retirees/Past Presidents Gathering

All MnGFOA retirees (both active and associate members) and past presidents and their guests will be invited to a get-together at 4:00 p.m., Thursday, April 22 at Jax Café, 1928 University Ave NE, Minneapolis. Dinner will be served at 6:00, and comments from a few "old-timers" will follow. A mailing list is being developed and invitations will be sent at a later date. Cost will be noted on the invitation.

MnGFOA Past Presidents Lyle Haney and Norman Werner and GFOA Past President Gary Norstrom are organizing this event. They need your help finding the addresses of some retirees/past presidents! They HAVE addresses for the following retirees:

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|-----------------|--------------------|
| Jim Vanhoudt    | Richard Gangelhoff |
| Shirley Davis   | John Frane         |
| Jim Snyder      | Lyle Olson         |
| Don Rippentrop  | Ann Easley         |
| Ruth Franklin   | Paul Utesch        |
| Harlan Syverson | Jean Mitchell      |
| Nick Ensruide   | Larry Watts        |
| John Schedler   | Bob Trudeauy       |
| Lloyd Ricker    |                    |

They NEED the names and addresses of other retirees that did not immediately come to mind as they developed the list. They also NEED addresses for four past presidents: Ed Moline, Vernon Pederson, Earl Arneson and Richard Berg. If you can help with addresses for either the retirees or the four past presidents, please leave that information with Dianne, Finance Department, City of Coon Rapids at 763-767-6448. Thanks!

## Fred Christiansen to Retire

After more than 25 years of service, Fred Christiansen will be retiring from the helm of the Finance Department at the City of Maple Grove. Fred was president of MnGFOA in 1988 and received the prestigious Thomas J. Moran award in 2000 for his dedication to and exceptional representation in the association. Enjoy yourself, Fred! You will be missed!

Please join us for his reception at Maple Grove City Hall, 12800 Arbor Lake Parkway, on Thursday, February 26 from 2:30-4:00, and/or after work at Champps, 13521 80<sup>th</sup> Circle N., Maple Grove, from 5:00-7:00. Contact B.J. Patnode at (763) 494-6322 for details and directions.

## Certificate Review Session CAFR Comments Wanted!

The Education Committee is pleased to announce that Mark Gibbs and Peggy Moeller, HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd., will be conducting the annual Certificate Review session in conjunction with the March 2004 meeting. This is a popular session, but requires preparation and assistance. Mark and Peggy are collecting CAFR comments received from GFOA for 2002 Annual Financial Statements and will use them in the session to be offered March 17, 2004. **Please send copies of your comments and a 2002 CAFR to:**

Mark Gibbs, HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd.,  
4810 White Bear Parkway,  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

## 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 Chris Miller at 651-490-2292.

## Undergraduate Scholarships

The John B. Lilja Scholarship is awarded to undergraduate students majoring in accounting or finance at a Minnesota college or university. John Lilja was an associate member of MnGFOA, active at state and national levels, enhancing governmental reporting and development. In 2004, the Executive Committee hopes to award three \$1,000 scholarships. If you know of anyone who may want to be a candidate, contact Chris Miller at 651-490-2292.

## 2004 National GFOA Scholarships

The National GFOA will again administer five scholarship programs that are available for award in the Spring of 2004. All of these programs are intended to benefit students planning to pursue careers in state and local government finance. The submission deadline for applications for the 2004 awards is March 1, 2004. Following are brief descriptions of each scholarship:

**The Daniel B. Goldberg Scholarship** of \$10,000 is for graduate students in public finance who are enrolled in a full-time master's program.

**The Frank L. Greathouse Governmental Accounting Scholarship** of \$3,500 is for one or more undergraduate or graduate students enrolled full-time in an accounting program (undergraduate student must be in the process of completing at least their junior year by the time of the scholarship award).

**The Minorities in Governmental Finance Scholarship** of \$5,000 for upper-division undergraduate or graduate students of public administration, accounting, finance, political science, economics or business administration (with a special focus on government or nonprofit management). To be eligible for this award students must belong to one of the following groups (as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau): Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, or Asian.

**Public Employee Retirement Research and Administration Scholarship** of \$4,000 is for graduate students of public administration, finance, business administration, or social sciences, enrolled full-or part-time in a graduate program. This scholarship is for students that intend to pursue a career with a focus on public-sector retirement benefits.

**George A. Nielson Public Investor Scholarship** of \$5,000 (may be awarded as two \$2,500 scholarships) is for an employee of a local government or other public

entity who is enrolled or plans to enroll as a full- or part-time student in an undergraduate or graduate program in public administration, finance, business administration or a related field (enrollment must occur before funds are awarded). This scholarship is for students that intend to pursue a career with a focus on the investment of public funds (i.e., portfolio investing of idle funds).

If you are interested or know of someone that may be interested, applications are available in the "Forms" section of the GFOA website, [www.gfoa.org](http://www.gfoa.org), or by phone at (312) 977-9700, extension 267.

## 2004 Executive Board and Committee Chairs

President	Lori Webster City of Hastings	651-480-2352
President-Elect	Tom Pepper City of Eagan	651-675-5017
Secretary	Chris Miller City of Roseville	651-490-2210
Treasurer	Greg Sticha City of Minnetonka	952-939-8254
Past President	Tom Kelly White Bear Township	651-429-5827
At-Large	Dan Maiers City of New Brighton	651-638-2102
At-Large	Terri Heaton Springsted, Inc.	651-223-3022
State Rep.	Ron Hedberg City of Cottage Grove	651-458-2832
Conference	Robin Roland	651-463-1880
Education	Bonnie Burton	952-474-3236
Program Co-chairs	Michelle Pietrick Joe Huss	715-381-4304 763-717-2677
Social	Lynn Cornwell	612-667-9874
Selection	Steve Hauer	763-494-6334

If you have 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.

## Job Posting

### Accounting Supervisor, Anoka County

Anoka County has a vacancy for Human Services Accounting and financial reporting. Position will supervise, maintain general ledger, month-end and year-end closing and monitor budgets.

REQ: Accounting, Business or related; 3-5 yrs of exp; 2 years supervisory experience; CPA preferred; SAL: \$42,306-56,784/yr DOE. Excellent benefits. Applications for Job announcement #04005 will be available from January 15, 2004 through February 3, 2004. Submit an application and supplemental (NO RESUMES) to HR (763-323-5525) by 4:30 pm Tues, Feb 3, 2004. Application and supplemental can be downloaded from [www.co.anoka.mn.us](http://www.co.anoka.mn.us) , or mailed to you upon request. (TDD for hearing impaired 763-323-5544) AA/EOE/ADA

**Don't forget to check the [mngfoa.org](http://mngfoa.org) website for a complete list of current job openings!**

Tom Pepper  
City of Eagan  
3830 Pilot Knob Road  
Eagan, MN 55122

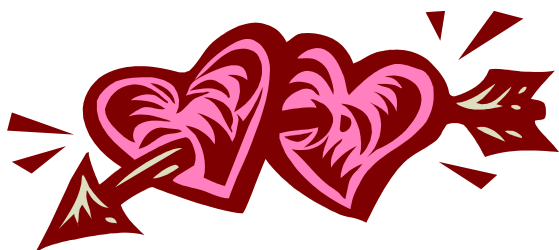
## Message from the Editor

Seems like many of us are in the GASB 34 mode these days. If you let it, GASB 34 can become all-consuming, even to the point of permeating your normal speech patterns...

As usual, we are looking for any *major* news you may have relating to *additions* or *retirements* of your human *infrastructure*. We welcome your *discussion and analysis* of any such topic *government-wide*, and rest assured that information will always be *discretely presented* by us. To insure information is presented fairly, we will take a *modified* approach.

Please help us all with MnGFOA news. (And God help us all with GASB 34!)

Send articles to Tom Pepper by the 20<sup>th</sup> for publication in the next monthly newsletter.



**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**

