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# MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

# MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

February 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

Around the time you read this, Punxsutawney Phil will be popping up out of his hole in search of his shadow so he can answer the question we ask him every year—will winter last another six weeks? Up to 30,000 Pennsylvania spectators and countless media will give their attention to a question that either can't be answered with any certainty or is already answered with complete certainty, depending on how literal you are about it.

In case you're interested, 88% of the time, Phil answers yes ... although you won't find any statistics on his accuracy. And 100% of the time, winter lasts another six weeks and four days *exactly*, according to the calendar.

Yes, it's all in fun, but certainly there are more important questions for such masses of humanity to ponder.

Let me relate to you a couple questions that Charlie Weaver's organization, the Minnesota Business Partnership (MBP), has been pondering. Mr. Weaver, Gov. Pawlenty's first chief of staff, was our guest speaker at the January luncheon. Now, as Executive Director of the MBP, Charlie leads 100 CEOs of Minnesota's largest companies as they endeavor to maintain a high quality of life for Minnesotans by making the state more competitive.

The first question they're thinking about concerns *education*: How do we remove the barriers to innovation that have made education the only system that hasn't changed significantly in the last 100 years? While the U.S. is driving comfortably in the right lane along the education highway, much of the world is whizzing by in the passing lane.

The second question is about *healthcare*: How do we provide a link between healthcare cost and consumption? People want a Cadillac plan for the price of a VW, and right now, that's exactly what they're getting. But with 70% of new revenues in the State's budget, for example, being consumed by healthcare

costs, something has to give. Charlie mentioned that one approach, say for a person with diabetes, is to allocate a fixed amount for treatment of diabetes and let the person spend it as he or she wishes.

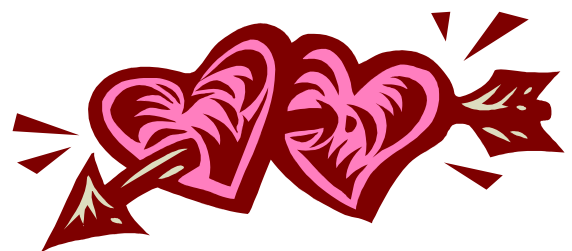
A third focus area of the MBP is *jobs*. And a fourth, to a lesser degree, is *transportation*.

Big issues. Hard questions. No easy answers. And significant barriers to change. These are issues all of us face, and questions all of us ponder. Regardless of one's politics and regardless of how slow changes are in coming, it's a good thing that 100 CEOs employing over 400,000 Minnesotans are involved in tackling these issues ... and not filling their time with the timing of Phil.

## February Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2005  
Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points  
Speaker: Tom Gillaspay, State Demographer  
Topic: Demographic Trends in Minnesota, And the Impact on Resources  
Meal: Lasagna  
Time: 11:30 a.m. – Welcome and Program  
12:15 p.m. – Lunch & Business Meeting  
1:00 p.m. – Executive Committee Mtg  
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, February 10, 2005. (Vegetarian meal choice is available.)



## About Our Speaker ...

Tom Gillaspay has served as the Minnesota State Demographer since 1979. During that time, he has been involved with a wide-ranging set of issues, applying an understanding of demographic trends in such areas as the state's economy, health care for an aging population, higher education, welfare reform, rural population change, labor shortages, government spending, and the aging state workforce. The demographer works in the Minnesota Department of Administration.

Prior to moving to Minnesota, Tom held the position of demographer at the Andrus Gerontology Center, University of Southern California. He received his Ph.D. in economics from the Pennsylvania State University, specializing in economic demography. He also holds a Masters Degree in agricultural economics. Born and raised in Texas, he received his undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Texas at Austin.

## 2005 Meeting Dates

### Monthly Meetings:

February 16	March 16	April 20
May 18	[no June mtg]	

Dates for the second half of 2005 have not been established as yet.

### Annual Conferences:

GFOA	San Antonio, TX	June 26-29
MnGFOA	Alexandria, MN	Sept 21-23

## Certificate Review Session

The Education Committee is pleased to announce that Mark Gibbs and Peggy Moeller from HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd., will be conducting the annual Certificate Review session in conjunction with the March 2005 meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 2005. This is a popular session, but requires preparation and assistance. Mark and Peggy are collecting CAFR comments received from the GFOA for the 2003 Annual Financial Statements, which will be used as examples for this session. **Please forward copies of your 2003 CAFR and GFOA comments to:**

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

# Committee

## o Executive Committee Update

At the January 19 meeting, the minutes of the December 15 meeting were approved. Highlights of those minutes include:

- Approval of the check registers and Treasurer's Report for November. Greg reported that revenues and expenditures for the year continued as expected.
- The Executive Committee adopted the 2005 Budget, which includes revenues and expenditures of \$118,700. Included in the revenue sources is the planned use of \$11,200 of reserves, much of which has been earmarked to implement potential new measures that might result from recommendations received from the Membership Services Task Force.
- The Executive Committee agreed to meet with Chairs and Co-Chairs of the Standing Committees at a planning meeting in January, to discuss the MNGFOA's 2005 Work Plan.

## MNGFOA Committee Positions are Available

The 2005 MNGFOA Annual Fall Conference is just around the corner. Well maybe not, but we do need to start planning for it. The first step in having a great conference is the formation of a great committee with great ideas. To this end I would like to extend an invitation to anyone interested in serving on the 2005 Conference Committee to contact Tom Kelly at [tom.kelly@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us](mailto:tom.kelly@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us). The first planning meeting will be held February 16<sup>th</sup> before the monthly luncheon. If you have any ideas for the conference please forward them to either Sue Iverson or Tom Kelly, this years Conference Co-Chairs.

If the Conference Committee doesn't suit your interests, consider joining your colleagues on the Education, Program, Social, or Technology Committees. Remember, the MNGFOA is your organization. Participating on one of the Committees provides you the opportunity to be part of the MNGFOA's success.



# JOB POSTINGS

## City of Minnetonka Assistant Finance Director

The City of Minnetonka has a full-time employment opportunity for an Assistant Finance Director. This highly responsible position supports the Director in managing the activities of the Finance Department. The successful candidate will thrive in a team environment and have excellent written and oral communication skills. Background must include solid experience with governmental accounting and financial tools as well as demonstrated proficiency with government financial technology systems and software, including spreadsheet software. The ideal candidate will have a positive, enthusiastic attitude and be flexible and innovative.

Minimum qualifications are a bachelor's degree in accounting as well as three to five years work experience in accounting or finance related field. Experience with local government finance and familiarity with the LOGIS computer consortium a plus. Salary range: \$70,688 - \$78,542 with excellent fringe benefits.

A fully completed city application form must be submitted. To obtain an application, contact the Job Line at (952) 939-8212 or visit our Web site at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Application deadline date is February 11, 2005.

## City of Owatonna Finance Director

The City of Owatonna, MN (population 24,000) is seeking a Finance Director. Starting salary: \$66,576 to \$73,453. Require bachelor's degree in accounting/finance/related field; 5 years governmental accounting experience. Performs variety of complex supervisory, finance, and accounting duties. Assist in planning, oversight, and development of a \$24 million annual operating budget; manage a \$36 million investment portfolio; administer financial reporting system; debt financing; purchasing and all operations of finance/administrative services. Resume, cover letter, and city application required. For application contact City of Owatonna, 540 West Hills Circle, Owatonna, MN 55060 or visit [www.ci.owatonna.mn.us](http://www.ci.owatonna.mn.us). Deadline for applications is 3/4/05. For more information contact Barb or Deb at (507) 444-4300.

## New Blue Books are Available

The National GFOA recently announced that the 2005 edition of the Governmental Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting (GAAFR): Using the GASB 34 Model is now available at [www.estoregfoa.org](http://www.estoregfoa.org).

The "Blue Book" has been thoroughly revised and updated to address every significant issue and development affecting public-sector accountants and auditors up to and including the Governmental Accounting Standards Board's (GASB) Statement No. 45 on other post-employment benefits and the newest edition of the audit and accounting guide State and Local Governments. The GAAFR also incorporates the very latest Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommended practices on accounting and auditing.

## 2005 Executive Board Members

President	Tom Pepper City of Eagan	651-675-5017
President-Elect	Chris Miller City of Roseville	651-792-7031
Secretary	Greg Sticha City of Minnetonka	952-939-8254
Treasurer	Robin Roland City of Farmington	651-463-1880
Past President	Lori Webster City of Hastings	651-480-2352
At-Large	Ruth Wipper City of St. Cloud	320-650-3377
At-Large	Lynn Cornwell Wells Fargo	612-667-9874
State Rep.	Bonnie Burton City of Shorewood	952-474-3236



## Career Moves...

### City of Chanhassen

Congratulations to Greg Sticha, who has accepted the position of Finance Director for the City of Chanhassen. Greg's first day at the City is February 7<sup>th</sup>. Good luck in your new job Greg!

### Ehlers & Associates

Congratulations to Bruce DeJong who has accepted a position at Ehlers & Associates. Bruce had previously worked as the Finance Director at the City of Chanhassen. Bruce will be working with clients on various financial consulting matters. Good luck Bruce!

## 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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Happy  
Valentines  
♥ Day!

