



MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

February 2007

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President

By Greg Sticha

Reality TV shows have become a large part of American television. No one show is an example of this more than American Idol. I caught myself watching the season premiere the other evening, and as usual found a number of the contestants to be more than interesting. They came to Minnesota in September of this last year and needless to say we did not disappoint them with several participants that had unique characteristics. My particular favorite was the woman from Brainerd that did an excellent impersonation of the "Cowardly Lion" in the Wizard of Oz.

In a related theme for our January lunch meeting the topic was GASB 40 or American Top 40: Which is more fun? Our two superb speakers, David Blumberg from HLB Tautges Redpath and Lynn Cornwell from Wells Fargo, had the daunting task of making GASB 40 an exciting topic. They both did a great job making this seemingly drab topic be somewhat palatable.

Most of us have already dealt with GASB 40 in some form, but David and Lynn brought a couple of important reminders or "Reality" of GASB 40 to the forefront. Do all of us have investment policies? It certainly is a highly recommended policy for all of us to have, but the "Reality" of it is that some of us may not. Do we follow one of the recommended practices of having only 5% of our portfolios with one issuer? Do we own highly sensitive securities such as Step-Up Bonds (deemed highly sensitive by GASB)? I think the "Reality" of both of these questions is many of us may not follow all of these recommended practices.

Now don't get me wrong I am not preaching for compliance with every recommended best practice that either the GFOA or GASB has. I am guilty of non-compliance with at least one of the questions I asked previously. However, I do think it is a good practice to be aware of these recommendations. The "Reality" of it is, they are best practices for a reason. I would like to thank David and Lynn for bringing them to our attention at our January lunch program and making the topic more fun than it should ever be.

This gets me back to American Idol and American Top 40. First, Chris Miller knows way too much about Casey Kasem. I think winning an autographed picture of his "Idol" is a little more than luck or coincidence. Secondly while watching American Idol the other evening they had one contestant who was from the USS Ronald Regan. That ship held an "Idol" contest where they had the winner represent their ship and attempt to win a spot on American Idol. That contestant did make it on to the next round to Hollywood.

My challenge to our Social Committee is maybe the MnGFOA needs to have our own "Idol". We certainly would encourage this winner to enter the American Idol contest next time they hold auditions, and who knows maybe the MnGFOA has a star in its presence. (For those of you that are concerned that I will be entering the contest using my Madonna impersonation, relax I am thinking of a song by Justin Timberlake this time.)

I will leave you with some words of wisdom from Mr. Miller's "Idol"; "Keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for the stars".

2007 Meeting Dates

Monthly Meetings:

March 21 – Training	April 18
May 16 – Quarterly training	No June Meeting

Annual Conferences:

GFOA – Anaheim, California	June 10-13
MnGFOA – Alexandria, MN	Sept. 19-21

February Meeting



Date:	Wednesday, February 21, 2007
Location:	Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points
Topic:	Who needs a Masters Degree? I have done quite well without one!
Speakers:	Professor Roger Israel, Metropolitan State University
Time:	11:30 a.m. – Welcome & Speaker 12:15 p.m. – Lunch & Business Mtg.
Menu:	Potato Crusted Cod
Cost:	\$15.00

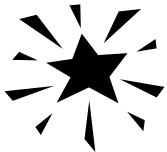
Speaker Bio...

Roger Israel is a Professor in the Metropolitan State University College of Management. He is also Coordinator for Metropolitan State's Public Administration and Nonprofit Management Programs. Since 2000, the Masters in Public and Nonprofit Administration Program (MPNA), which Roger heads, has more than tripled in size. It now has approximately 150 students and is the fastest growing program of its kind in Minnesota. From 1992 to 2000, Roger was on the faculty at Hamline University's Graduate School of Public Administration and Management.

Before entering academia, Roger worked in state, local and regional government for 26 years. He spent 20 years with the Metropolitan Council where he held several senior management positions. As Director of Research and Long Range Planning, his last position there, he was responsible for all of the Met Council's research and data functions as well as the review of local government plans.

Roger received his Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Masters in Public Administration from the University of Minnesota, a master's degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina, and a Doctorate in Public Administration from the University of Southern California. He has lived in St. Louis Park for 38 years with his wife Marilyn. They have three adult children and four incredibly adorable grandchildren. As a resident of St. Louis Park, he has been very active as a charter member of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Chair and member of the St. Louis Park Fire Commission and Chair of the City's Outcomes Committee for tracking progress on its long term vision.

Reservations: You may leave your reservation on our website at www.mngfoa.org or in an e-mail to Cathy Shuman (cathy.shuman@ci.monticello.mn.us) by Thursday February 15, 2007. (Vegetarian meal choice is available.)



Congratulations and Good Luck to:

- Sue Iverson as she takes the reins as the new Finance Director at Arden Hills January 22nd.
- Tim Simon, the new Finance Director at Elk River. Tim was previously an Accountant at the City of St. Louis Park.
- Brian Swanson, the new Finance Director at South St. Paul. Brian was previously an Accounting Manager at the City of St. Louis Park.
- Daryl Sulander, the new Finance Manager at LOGIS. Daryl starts at LOGIS on February 5th but will be finishing up part time at New Hope for a little while after that date.

Committee

o Executive Committee Update

r
n
e
r
The following are highlights of the January 17th meeting:

- Approved minutes, Check register and treasurers report from December.
- Approved contracts for 2008 – 2010 State Conference with Arrowwood Resort.
- Discussed GTS training costs for 2006 and considered revisions to 2007 budget for training.
- Awarded 2007 Internship grant to Rice County.

From the Education Committee

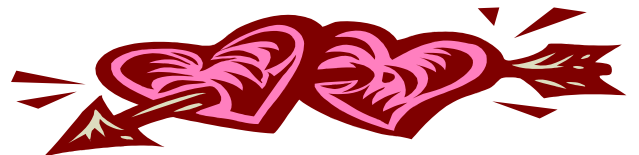
The Education Committee is pleased to announce that Peggy Moeller and David Blumberg from HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd. will be conducting the annual Certificate Review session in conjunction with the March 2007 meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, 2007. This is a popular session that necessitates participation and assistance. Peggy is collecting CAFR comments received from the GFOA 2005 Annual Financial Statements, which will be used as examples for this session. Please forward copies of your 2005 CAFR and your GFOA comments to: Peggy Moeller, HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd., 4810 White Bear Parkway, White Bear Lake, MN 55110. Thank you for your cooperation.

Membership Renewals Reminder

You should have mailed your MnGFOA membership renewal to Cathy Shuman by now to be included in the 2007 membership directory! If you haven't, fill out the application form and mail with your payment (ASAP) to Cathy Shuman, City of Monticello, 505 Walnut Street, Monticello, MN 56362 or call her at 763-271-3204 with questions.

Scholarship Deadline

The Lori A. Webster Advanced Government Finance Institute Scholarship deadline is March 30th. The Advanced Institute is at the University of Wisconsin – Madison from July 29th to August 3rd. Application forms are available on the MnGFOA website or in the Membership directory. Send your completed application to Larry Jacobson @ City of Plymouth.



JOB POSTINGS

CITY OF ST. LOUIS PARK ACCOUNTANT

Provide general financial accounting duties relating to the development and control of financial records and reports. Ensure accuracy, completeness and timeliness of financial information. Prepare financial reporting, analysis, budget work, grant funds and provide professional assistance to other customers. Requires Bachelor's Degree or equivalent experience and two years related experience. **Salary: \$55,141 - \$64,872/yr** DOQ w/ benefits. **Deadline is Friday, Feb 2, 2007.** EOE/AA Download application and job description at: http://www.stlouispark.org/city_hall/employment.htm#1633 or pick up at: City Hall, 5005 Minnetonka Blvd, St. Louis Park, MN 55416. Job line 952/924-2527

CARVER COUNTY, MN Financial Services Division Director

Carver County is recruiting a highly skilled leader to fill the position of Financial Services Division Director. The Division Director is responsible for the planning, development, implementation, and administration of finance and accounting functions for the County. The Director provides staff and organizational leadership in establishing a vision for the Division and the County; and guiding the development and implementation of strategic plans to accomplish the vision.

Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration, Business Administration, Political Science or a related field, 8 years of progressively responsible managerial experience in public, business administration or related field, 5 years experience in a supervisory role, budget preparation experience, excellent communication skills, valid Minnesota driver's license or evidence of mobility. Salary Range: \$68,411 - \$106,309 annually DOE plus excellent benefits package.

Contact: Carver County Employee Relations, 600 E. 4th St., Chaska, MN 55318. Job line 952-361-1522. <http://www.co.carver.mn.us>. EOE. Closing: February 28, 2007

FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK City of Fairmont

The City of Fairmont is accepting applications for the position of Finance Director/ City Clerk. This management staff position performs highly responsible administrative work in directing the financial affairs and record keeping for the City under the general direction of the City Administrator. Serves as chief financial officer and as secretary to the City Council.

Responsibilities include: budget, audit, investments, records management and elections. Minimum qualifications include: graduation from an accredited 4 yr college or university with degree in accounting, finance, business or public administration and 3 yrs municipal finance experience. CPA or CPFO a plus. Salary range \$60,736 to \$75,920, depending on qualifications and experience. City application and job description available at www.fairmont.org. Send city application and resume to: City Administrator, City of Fairmont, PO Box 751, Fairmont, MN 56031. (507) 238-9461. Applications accepted through February 9, 2007.

RAMSEY COUNTY COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES ACCOUNTANT III

Ramsey County Community Human Services is recruiting for the position of Accountant III. Starting salary range is \$50,333 - \$63,465 (mid-point) DOQ. This is a supervisory position responsible for the functions of payroll, purchasing, and facilities management.

Minimum Qualifications: Bachelors degree in Accounting, Business Administration, Public Administration or related field plus five years progressively responsible experience as a professional accountant. Desired qualifications include previous supervisory experience, strong leadership and interpersonal skills, and project management skills. Candidates should also possess (1) ability to effectively supervise, assign, direct and motivate employees and plan their work assignments; and (2) ability to communicate ideas, explanations and recommendations clearly and effectively, both orally and in written form.

Examples of Work Performed: Supervises and participates in the activities of staff engaged in functions to include: **Payroll:** supervise 4 line staff who process payroll for 1,000+ employees; track positions within the agency (filled, vacant, changes); annually prepare the salary budget; **Purchasing:** supervise the purchasing supervisor; provide high level oversight for the equipment & furniture budgets and facility related budget line items such as lease space, building improvements, telephones and cell phones; **Facility Management:** monitor lease documents; provide high level oversight for staff moves and other building/space concerns for the Ramsey County Government Center-East Building in downtown St. Paul and also Community Offices. **General:** Will use Countywide financial accounting system and payroll system (both PeopleSoft) and Microsoft Office products to perform many duties assigned.

Application is available at <http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/hr/jobs>. Submit Ramsey County application online or by mail to Human Resources, attention Tammy Funk, 430 Government Center West, 50 West Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55102. **Application deadline:** February 16th, 2007.

Robin Roland
City of Farmington
325 Oak Street
Farmington, MN 55024



**FINANCE DIRECTOR
Mahtomedi MN**

Mahtomedi, Minnesota (pop. 8,000) is seeking applicants for the position of Finance Director. This position is responsible for all City accounting and fund management functions. Major responsibilities include preparation of financial records for all funds, assist City Administrator in the preparation of the annual city budget and capital improvement plan, coordinating annual audit, managing debt service funds and investments.

The successful candidate will possess a Bachelor's degree in accounting or equivalent; and a minimum of three years related experience in a responsible public financial management position or equivalent combination of education and experience. Municipal accounting, CPA, and supervisory experience preferred. Knowledge of municipal and state legal requirements concerning financial operations, governmental accounting and budgeting, and ability to effectively communicate with city officials, outside agencies, and the general public. Salary range \$56,387 - \$74,194 plus benefits.

Application deadline is February 28, 2007 at 4:30 p.m. Send resume and City of Mahtomedi application to Scott Neilson, City Administrator, City of Mahtomedi, 600 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi, MN 55115. Job description and applications available at www.ci.mahtomed.mn.us or by calling City Hall at 651-426-3344. Mahtomedi is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Message from the Editor

Be my valentine! Or at least, send me your job openings/ads, career moves, or other items of note, by the 20th of this month so I can put it in the next newsletter.

Thanks!
Robin Roland
City of Farmington
325 Oak Street
Farmington, MN 55024
651-463-1880
roland@ci.farmington.mn.us



