



MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

February 2009

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President

By Larry Jacobson

What kind of year is 2009 going to be anyway? That's the question I ask myself and the longer the year goes on the more I don't know the answer.

We recently had a planning meeting of the MnGFOA executive board members and committees. We brainstormed and discussed plans for 2009. A budget was reviewed which contained line items for conference registrations and education seminar revenues. Comments were made that training and travel budgets may not survive the budget cuts that will be coming. It's a challenge just preparing the budget for MnGFOA!

My 2009 theme was presented which is:
"Give Every Challenge Your Best Shot"
Confronting Challenging Times

I expect 2009 will be filled with challenges of many varieties. How do we balance organization budgets given inflationary pressures on the expense side, and shrinking incomes on the revenue side? The call for service delivery from our residents and customers doesn't decrease, so we attempt to continually do more with less.

The economic numbers are a nightmare with record low interest rates on investments, employment numbers are scary and the general business climate is nothing to be excited about as layoffs and store closing occur almost every day.

Within the next week, the Governor will present his budget for the next two years. I expect there will be a new challenge or two once that news is out.

The state budget climate is certain to add a degree of difficulty to an organization that receives any funding from the State. Those entities that receive LGA are certain to feel the hit again, as the other shoe drops, and the Governor attempts to balance the state budget once more with spending cuts, wage freezes and creative accounting shifts.

I don't expect final answers to be provided in January. As a finance officer, my crystal ball will be blurry as I try to see what the impact will be on the 2009 budget that was only recently adopted.

I encourage everyone to be willing to share our ideas, our strengths and pull together with new service delivery ideas for the future.

Our next challenging event is the Curling Outing on Friday, February 13th. I know the date is ominous in conjunction with President's day weekend. There is still time to sign up and experience something different, take on a new challenge, sweep away some frustrations, develop some new relationships within GFOA, and be home from work early to head out of town.

2009 Important Dates

MONTHLY MEETINGS/EVENTS:

- February 13, 2009 (Friday) – Monthly Luncheon and Curling Event, St Paul Curling Club
- March 18, 2009 – Monthly Luncheon and CAFR Review, Sheraton Four Points
- April 15, 2009 – Monthly Luncheon, Sheraton Four Points
- May 20, 2009 – Monthly Luncheon, Sheraton Four Points
- June 2009 – Quarterly Training: "Generating Non-Tax Revenues" (date and place TBD)

- June 28-July 1, 2009 – National GFOA Conference, Seattle WA
- July 15, 2009 – Monthly Luncheon, Sheraton Four Points
- August 19, 2009 – Monthly Luncheon (boat ride)
- September 23-25, 2009 – Annual Conference, Alexandria MN
- October 21, 2009 – Monthly Luncheon, Sheraton Four Points
- October 2009 – Beginning Governmental Acctg, St Cloud MN
- October 2009 – Advanced Governmental Acctg, Metro Area
- November 18, 2009 – Quarterly Training (topic TBD), Sheraton Four Points
- December 9, 2009 – Monthly Luncheon & Holiday Social, Sheraton Four Points

February Meeting

DATE: Friday, February 13, 2009
LOCATION: St Paul Curling Club
TOPIC: (to be announced)
SPEAKER: (to be announced)
TIME: 11 am – Speaker
 11:30 am – Luncheon
 12:30 pm – Curling instructions
 1-3 pm – Enjoy the adventure of Curling
LUNCH: Classic Irish Lunch with steak & chicken
COST: \$20 (includes luncheon and curling)



Reservations: Please register on the MnGFOA website (www.mngfoa.org), send an email to Jessie Hart (jessie.hart@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us), or leave a voice mail for Jessie at (651.747.2760) no later than Friday, February 6th.

Important Notes: Must bring and carry in clean shoes to wear on the ice (preferred smooth on the bottom). Dress for 40 degrees, including gloves or mittens.

The St Paul Curling Club is located at 470 Selby Avenue, St Paul MN 55102. For directions, go to the “About” tab on their website at www.stpaulcurlingclub.org or call 651-224-7408.

2009 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

<u>President</u> Larry Jacobson City of Robbinsdale 763.531.1215	<u>Past President</u> Robin Roland City of Farmington 651.463.1880
<u>President Elect</u> Cathy Shuman City of Monticello 763.271.3204	<u>At-Large</u> Daryl Sulander LOGIS 763.543.2607
<u>Secretary</u> Ron Hedberg City of Cottage Grove 651.458.2832	<u>At-Large</u> Jennifer Vucinovich US Bank 651.466.8750
<u>Treasurer</u> Jessie Hart Township of White Bear 651.747.2760	<u>State Rep</u> Jim Knutson City of Maple Grove 763.494.6321

2009 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<u>Conference</u>	Dan Jordet, Brooklyn Center 763.569.3345
<u>Education</u>	Joel Merry, Blaine 763.785.6142
<u>Program</u>	Tammy Wilson, Eden Prairie 952.949.8376
<u>Social</u>	Tina Lannes, Albertville 763.497.3384
<u>Technology</u>	Mark Beer, Mounds View 763.717.4011
<u>Selection</u>	Tom Pepper, Eagan 651.675.5017

If you wish to know more about or help out on any of these committees, please contact the person listed above.

Committee

Executive Committee Update

The 2009 Executive Committee and Committee Chairs met on January 16 for the annual planning session. Discussion included:

- 2009 Calendar of Events
- Reports from the MnGFOA committee chairs
- Social events for the year
- Training topics for the year
- Final draft budget for 2009

Membership Renewals

You should have received your MnGFOA renewal notice in the mail. You can also download an application form from the MnGFOA website. Applications and payments were due by January 31 but will be accepted through February 13. **MAIL TO: Jessie Hart, White Bear Township, 1281 Hammond Road, White Bear Township, MN 55110.**

Please note that you can help save on postage and printing by requesting your newsletter by email. Mark your membership renewal form in the appropriate spot.

Membership Directory Ads

Mailings were sent to associate members of the MnGFOA to solicit advertising for the 2009 membership directory. You can select the size of your ad and provide a camera ready copy for publishing. Don't miss this great opportunity to promote your business and support MnGFOA at the same time!

Ad rates:	¼ page	\$300
	½ page	\$450
	Full page	\$600

Please email your ad file (PDF preferred) directly to Jessie Hart at: jessie.hart@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us. Payments can be mailed to Jessie at White Bear Township, 1281 Hammond Road, White Bear Township MN 55110. For more information, contact Jessie by email or call 651.747.2760.

MnGFOA Scholarship Announcement

Applications for the **Lori A. Webster Advanced Government Finance Institute Scholarship** are now being accepted through March 30, 2009. The Advanced Institute is a 5-day program which provides an opportunity for government officers to address big picture issues facing public finance and participate in seminars with your peers. The AGFI will run from July 26-31, 2009 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. More information can be found on the national GFOA website at www.gfoa.org. The MnGFOA provides up to 2 scholarships for members of our organization that serve as public finance officers.

MnGFOA also provides scholarship opportunities to undergraduate students of accounting or government finance attending any college or university located in Minnesota. The application deadline for the **John Lilja Undergraduate Scholarship** is April 15, 2009. The amount of each scholarship is \$1000, and the MnGFOA awards at least one a year, up to a maximum of four.

Scholarship application forms are available on the MnGFOA website or you can contact Secretary Ron Hedberg for information. Completed applications should be emailed to Ron at rhedberg@cottage-grove.org.

CAFR Review – March 18, 2009

The MNGFOA CAFR Review and Monthly Luncheon will be held at the Sheraton Four Points on Wednesday, March 18. The Education Committee is pleased to announce that HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd will be conducting the annual Certificate Review session. In order to create the most informative session, they are asking cities and counties to submit copies of CAFR comments received from the 2007 Annual Audit Financial Statements to be used as examples for the session. Please mail **hard copies** to: Petty Moeller, HLB Tautges Redpath Ltd, 4810 White Bear Parkway, White Bear Lake MN 55110.

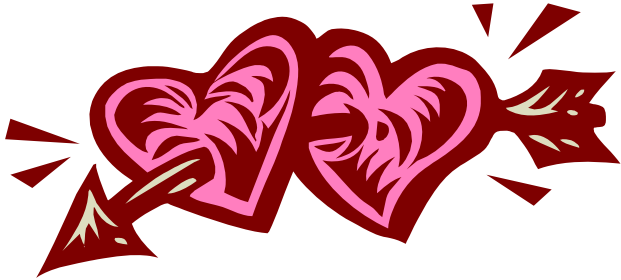
JOB POSTINGS

City of Apple Valley, MN (pop. 50,800) is accepting applications for Finance Director. Starting salary mid \$90s to low \$100s. A thriving Twin Cities metro community named *Money Magazine's* 24th "Best Place to Live" in the nation in 2008, Apple Valley has experienced significant growth in population and development over the last fifteen years. The position is responsible for the management, direction, development and accountability for all functions under the Finance Department with 6 full-time employees. Qualified candidates for the Finance Director position will possess a Bachelor's degree in finance/accounting or a closely related field plus 7-10 years of governmental finance experience with a history of increasing responsibility. At least five years as a department manager with supervisory experience, Master's degree in public financing and CPA preferred. Background in all phases of financial management for a municipality or government agency including: budget preparation, bond issuance, financial audit, and TIF reports. Position Profile is available on www.brimgroup.com or www.cityofapplevalley.org. E-mail resume and letter of interest by 02/02/09 to brimgroup@aol.com. Questions should be directed to Richard Fursman via email or call (651)338-2533. For more information about the City of Apple Valley, please visit: www.cityofapplevalley.org.

The City of New Hope is seeking applications for the position of Finance Director. This position will report to the City Manager and will plan, direct and coordinate all financial matters for the city including: accounting, budgeting, payroll, utility billing, capital project financing, debt management, tax increment financing, investments, fixed assets, and risk management. This position requires a Bachelor's degree in accounting/finance or a closely related field; MBA preferred. Five years of government accounting experience, including budgeting as well as two years of supervisory experience preferred. Additional education in government accounting & finance and experience in preparing a comprehensive annual financial report are preferred. The ideal candidate will have JD Edwards and LOGIS experience. Anticipated salary range is \$71,861-92,596. First review of applications is February 12, 4:30 pm. Recruitment will be ongoing until the position is filled. Visit www.ci.new-hope.mn.us or call 763-531-5107 for application packet. Resumes will be accepted only when included with a completed application packet.

City of Hutchinson seeks qualified candidates for the position of Assistant Finance Director. Duties include assisting with administration, coordination/control cash and financial accounting including utility billing, budgeting, audit, investments, fixed assets and personnel management. Requires Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Public Finance or related field, 2 years responsible accounting experience, governmental accounting knowledge, audit, budget preparation, and computer proficiency. Desire 1-2 years public/municipal accounting, CPFO certification, PeopleSoft applications, cost accounting, and supervisory experience. 2008 Salary range is \$55,902-\$80,358 plus benefits. All candidates are required to fill out an application packet. Applications and full description available at the City Center, 111 Hassan St. SE, Hutchinson, MN 55350, and also online at www.ci.hutchinson.mn.us. Tel: 320-587-5151, E-mail: rboomgarden@ci.hutchinson.mn.us. Submission of application packets preferred by February 20, 2009. Position will remain open until filled. The City of Hutchinson is proud to be a "Veteran Friendly Employer" in partnership with the MN Dept. of Employment & Economic Development.

Cathy Shuman
City of Monticello
505 Walnut Street
Monticello, MN 55362



Message from the Editor



Please send me any news for our newsletter: job openings, ads related to government finance, career moves, committee updates, or other noteworthy items. The cutoff date is the 20th of each month, and the newsletter will be emailed or mailed about the first day of the upcoming month. Thanks.

Cathy Shuman, City of Monticello
Cathy.shuman@ci.monticello.mn.us

505 Walnut Street, Suite 1
Monticello MN 55362
Phone: 763-271-3204
Fax: 763-295-4404