



MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

February 2010

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President

By Cathy Shuman

We are off to a running start in the Minnesota GFOA. The Executive Board and Committee Chairs and co-chairs met on January 6th in Brooklyn Center to do some reviewing and planning for 2010. That was followed by the first board meeting of the year on January 20th.

At both the planning session and the board meeting, there were lengthy discussions related to the MnGFOA website. There were delays getting the website fully operational originally and now that most components are in use, we have encountered some issues and are receiving requests for further enhancements. Mark Beer and the Technology Committee have been concentrating on addressing these concerns. A list of service requests has been submitted to our web design company to determine costs and ability to do the work. The committee has also done a number of updates creating more interactive use of the website such as online registrations and payments. The Board is looking at refining the format of the online Membership Directory and revamping the resource guide. We plan to streamline the registration process for membership renewals and conference. We ask for your patience as we work through these various enhancements. If you do experience difficulties, you should go to "Contact Us" on the website and email your feedback (which will be directed to the Technology Committee).

We have some great events coming up for GFOA members. On February 19th will be the 2nd annual Curling Event at the St Paul Curling Club. Look for more information in this newsletter. You can register and pay online.

The Social Committee, chaired by Dennis Sonnek, has planned this event and has more exciting events coming up during the year.

In conjunction with our March meeting date, will be the annual CAFR Review in addition to an overview of GASB 54. Registration starts at 9:30am and the session concludes with the monthly luncheon at noon. This will be held at the Ramada Plaza. Look for more information inside. You can register and pay online for the training and/or the monthly luncheon. Thanks to the Education Committee, led by Katie Reed, for making the arrangements for this training.

The Executive Board approved the 2010 budget for MnGFOA. We are proud to say that we were able to reduce the budget without increasing registration fees and anticipate that we can continue to provide quality training and activities at reasonable costs. Although many of you have probably experienced cuts in your city budgets, we hope that you can still attend some of the GFOA events.

Membership Renewals



Don't Miss

You should be receiving your MnGFOA renewal notice in the mail anytime now. You can also complete the renewal process online on the MnGFOA website, although if you renew on-line please still mail (or email) in your renewal form. Renewals and payments are due by February 19, 2010.

Renewal forms should be mailed to: Cory Kampf, City of Brooklyn Park, 5200 - 85th Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443. 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.

COMMITTEE

Executive Committee Update

The Executive Committee met on January 20th and took the following actions:

- Approved meeting minutes for December
- Approved check registers and Treasurer's reports for December
- Discussed the involvement of GTA for planning training activities
- Discussed the contract for the Annual Conference for 2010 and 2011.
- Discussed the upcoming CAFR review session and the possibility to have a greater MN

location.

- Discussed the upcoming CPFO examination being held in Forest Lake and GFOA's request for additional test sites later in the year.
- Discussed the annual renewal process and the need to have members mail the registration form, even if they pay on line.
- Discussed advertising options in the membership directory, conference book and the website.

MnGFOA Scholarships Announced

Applications for the **Lori A. Webster Advanced Government Finance Institute Scholarship** are now being accepted through March 30, 2010. 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 25-30, 2010 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. More information can be found on the national GFOA website at www.gfoa.org. The MnGFOA provides a scholarship for eligible members of our organization that serve as public finance officers. Scholarship recipients are reserved a spot at the AGFI in Madison.

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, 2010. The amount of each scholarship is \$1000, and the MnGFOA awards at least one a year.

Scholarship application forms are available on the MnGFOA website or you can contact Secretary Jesse Hart for information. Completed applications should be emailed to Jesse at jessie.hart@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us

Important Dates For 2010

MONTHLY MEETINGS/EVENTS:

- February 17, 2010 – Monthly Luncheon Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- February 19, 2010 – Curling Event, St. Paul Curling Club
- March 3, 2010 - CPFO Exam, Forest Lake City Hall
- March 17, 2010 – CAFR Review and Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- April 21, 2010 – Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- May 19, 2010 – Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- June 16, 2010 – Monthly Luncheon Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- June 6-June 9, 2010 – National GFOA Conference, Atlanta, Georgia
- July 21, 2010 – Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- August 18, 2010 – Monthly Luncheon, Lake Minnetonka
- September 22-24, 2010 – Annual Conference, Alexandria, Minnesota
- October 20, 2010 – Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- October 2009 – Beginning & Advanced Governmental Accounting, TBD
- November 17, 2010 – Quarterly Training (topic TBD), Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- December 15, 2010 – Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis

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Message from the Editor



Hello to all members of the Minnesota GFOA. I am serving as the Editor of the newsletter for the 2010 year. 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.

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