



MnGFOA Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2012

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

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President's Message

By: Jessie Hart

Winter in Minnesota . . . did I miss something! Every day that we go without snow or ice or freezing rain is one more day the commute to work will be that much easier to deal with. Does this mild winter mean a frenzied spring or an overly dry summer? I guess only Mother Nature knows the answer to that question.

As for the travel and commute, Matt Smith from Dakota County provided an uplifting talk about the transit systems. Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) is a Joint Powers Board which controls an estimated \$100 million annually in transit funds for the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. I was very impressed to hear how financially sound CTIB is and the manner in which they have positioned themselves even with the looming State budget problems.

CTIB provides funding the development, construction and operations of a number of existing and

planned transit ways with in the metropolitan area. This includes bus, light rail, and commuter rail systems. The Board does not provide for planning and studies and plans and prioritizes its expenditures on an annual basis in a sound fiscal manner. This Board oversees a very large system that has plans to make it accessible to most all commuters in some manner over time.

The information provided about CTIB was very interesting. I didn't realize the complexity of the systems and how well managed they really are. Many of us use these transit avenues on a daily basis and probably didn't realize how well planned and managed they are. Thanks to Matt for a very enlightening topic.

A lot of activity is already taking place as new bills are being introduced daily at the Capital. Keep your eyes on the newly propped mandate, "Local Government Object Code Reporting Budget Info".

The Executive Board had the opportunity to review the proposal and meet with the organization introducing the concept. Jennifer O'Rourke from the LMC put a good description of the proposed language in the LMC Friday Fax last week. Take a minute to review and please provide Jennifer O'Rourke your comments.

The MnGFOA is making progress to replace and enhance your website experience. Due to some organizational changes with our current vendor, necessary changes and updates cannot be made to our current website structure. Technology Committee Chair Joe Rueb and the Committee have been working to find a solution that will meet our current needs and grow with us into the future.

Happy Valentine's Day and enjoy February, even if the auditors and bearing down on us!!!!



February 15th Luncheon Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, February 15, 2012

LOCATION: Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
Itasca Room

TOPIC: The MSRB: Who we Are, What we Do and How it Impacts Local Government Issuers

SPEAKER: Alan Polsky, Sr. Vice-President
Dougherty & Co. LLC

TIME: 11:30 am – Speaker
12:00 pm – Luncheon

LUNCH: Focaccia Club Sandwich

COST: \$15.00

SPEAKER BIO: Alan Polsky is Chair of the Board of Directors of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB). He is also Senior Vice President of Dougherty & Co., LLC, a Minneapolis, Minnesota-based investment firm. Mr. Polsky is responsible for the company's negotiated municipal underwriting and fixed income institutional sales and research. During his 26 years with the firm, Mr. Polsky has also served as director of research, responsible for the tax-exempt sector, and as a tax-exempt trader. Prior to Dougherty & Co., Mr. Polsky was controller for the University of Minnesota Foundation and an audit manager for Peat, Marwick & Mitchell. He has served as chairman of the board of governors for the National Federation of Municipal

Analysts. Mr. Polsky received a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Reservations: It is preferred that you register on the MnGFOA website (www.mngfoa.org) – there is a link on the home page to register for the luncheon event. You can pay for the luncheon online also!! You could also send an email to Darin Nelson at nelsond@ci.fridley.mn.us or leave him a voice mail at (763) 572-3520 **NO LATER THAN Friday, February 10, 2012.** Please remember to pre-register for the luncheon to provide that enough meals are ordered and tables set up for the meeting. Thank you for your cooperation.

2012 IMPORTANT DATES

MONTHLY PROGRAM

Do you have topic ideas for monthly meetings? Join the Program Committee and help plan and organize upcoming monthly luncheon speakers. Contact Program Committee Chair Diane Sweet at diane.sweet@ci.stpaul.mn.us for more information.

- February 15, 2012 – Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- March 7, 2012 – CPFO Testing, Forest Lake
- March 9, 2012 – CPFO Testing, Bloomington
- March 21, 2012 – CAFR Review and Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- March 29, 2012 – CAFR Review, Mankato City Center
- April 18, 2012 – Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- May 3, 2012 – Cinco de Mayo Happy Hour
- May 16, 2012 – Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- June 10 – 13, 2012 – National GFOA Conference, Chicago, IL
- June 20, 2012 – Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- June 2012 – Annual Golf Event (date and place to be determined)
- July 11, 2012 – Advanced Excel Modeling, LOGIS offices in Golden Valley
- July 18, 2012 – Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- July 19, 2012 – Minnesota Twins Game
- August 6-10 – National GFOA Training, Minneapolis Marriott City Center
- August 15, 2012 – Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- September 19 – 21, 2012 – Annual MnGFOA Conference, Alexandria, MN
- October 2, 2012 – Annual Student Accounting & Auditing Conference, Mpls Convention Center
- October 17, 2012 – Monthly Luncheon, Radisson Hotel Roseville
- October 17, 2012 – Beginning Governmental Accounting, Ramada Plaza
- October 23, 2012 – Intermediate Governmental Accounting, Ramada Marshall
- October 25, 2012 – Advanced Governmental Accounting, Hermantown
- October 2012 – Oktoberfest, TBD
- November 14, 2012 – Extended Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- November 14, 2012 – Annual Food Drive in conjunction with November Luncheon
- November 2012 – Video Broadcast Training (TBD)
- December 12, 2012 – Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- December 12, 2012 – Annual Toys for Tots Collection in conjunction with December Luncheon

National GFOA On-line
Training Opportunities

Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO)

The Certified Public Finance Officers Program (Certification Program) of the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) is a broad educational self-study program designed to verify knowledge in the disciplines of government finance. The Certification Program is governed by the Council on Certification. Technical and administrative support for the program is provided by Radford University's Governmental and Nonprofit Assistance Center.

To earn the designation of Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO), **candidates must pass a series of five examinations** covering the major disciplines of public finance.

A candidate has seven years in which to successfully complete the program. Once earned, the CPFO designation is maintained by participating in 30 hours of continuing professional education each year.

While GFOA certifies that an individual who passes one or more of GFOA's certification

examinations demonstrates certain competencies, GFOA withholds an opinion as to the capabilities of any individual to successfully perform in a given position. GFOA encourages prospective employers and employees to share information regarding the requirements of the position and the capabilities of the candidate in a forthright manner to promote sound employment and professional decisions.

www.gfoa.org

Train without the travel with GFOA's Internet Offerings – ALL courses take place from 1:00 to 3:00 pm (CT) and will earn you 2 CPE credits with your participation. The registration fee for each seminar is \$85.00 for Active/Associate GFOA Members and \$160 for Nonmembers. Upcoming training events include the following:

- How to Achieve a Sustainable Pension Plan – January 12
- Gaining Acceptance of LT Financial Planning – January 18
- Practical Guidance on How to Report Fund Balance & Net Position – January 19
- Performance Management Trends: Case Studies – January 31

Spring 2012 CPFO Examination Locations

MARCH 7, 2012 FOREST LAKE

The City of Forest Lake will be hosting a spring 2012 CPFO examination on Wednesday, March 7, 2012 from 1:00 to 4:30 pm at Forest Lake City Hall. For information about the exam site, contact Ellen Paulseth, Finance Director, City of Forest Lake, by phone at (651) 209-9725 or email at ellie.paulseth@ci.forest-lake.mn.us.

Exam Site:
City of Forest Lake
City Hall
220 North Lake Street,
Forest Lake, MN 55025

MARCH 9, 2012 CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

The City of Bloomington will be hosting a spring 2012 CPFO examination on Friday, March 9, 2012 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm at Bloomington Civic Plaza. For information about the exam site, contact Cindy Rollins, Budget Manager, City of Bloomington, by email at crollins@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

Exam Site:
City of Bloomington
2nd Floor – Haeg Conference Room
1800 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, MN 55431

Visit www.gfoa.org for additional information and to register for these and any other training opportunities offered by GFOA.

For further information about the examination, please see the GFOA website at www.gfoa.org.

SAVE THE DATE:

Cinco de Mayo Happy Hour – May 3, 2012

Advanced Excel Modeling – July 11, 2012

Minnesota Twins Game – July 19, 2012

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Reminder, MnGFOA memberships are due. You should have received your renewal notice.

Also, please consider renewing online at www.mngfoa.org or by mailing the form with check made payable to MnGFOA to the 2012 Treasurer as follows:

Darin Nelson
City of Fridley
6431 University Avenue
Fridley, MN 55432.

Darin can be reached by email at nelson@ci.fridley.mn.us or by phone at (763) 572-3520.

CAFR Review

Just a friendly reminder, that in March we will be holding our annual CAFR Review for all our members. Once again, it will be offered at two different dates and locations. The first will be in conjunction with our regular monthly meeting on March 21st at the Ramada Plaza in Minneapolis. The second will be in Mankato on March 29th at the Mankato City Center Hotel. Both sessions will start at 10am and run till noon and a lunch will be included for both. Look for information on the meal to be provided and cost of the session coming shortly in the next few weeks in a list-serve and on the website. Hope to see you there!!

In order to create the most informative CAFR review sessions, Peggy Moeller is asking cities to submit copies of CAFR comments received from their 2010 annual audited financial statements to be used as examples for the sessions. Please submit comments and reports electronically to Peggy Moeller, HLB Tautges Redpath Ltd. at pmoeller@hlbtr.com.

JOB OPENINGS

**Payroll Manager
(Budget & Acct
Analyst 4)
RAMSEY COUNTY**

Ramsey County invites applicants to apply for the position of Budget & Acct Analyst 4 – Payroll Manager. Salary range is \$29.43 - \$43.70 hourly. Qualified applicants should have a Bachelor's degree in business administration, project management, accounting or a closely related field and three years experience as a Budget and Accounting Analyst 3 or equivalent(5-7 years as an accountant or payroll). For a full description of the position and an application, please visit <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/ramsey/default.cfm>.

If you require further information regarding this posting, please contact tammy.bakeberg@co.ramsey.mn.us or by telephone at 651-266-2703. Applications are due by February 12, 2012 at 11:59 pm.

**Payroll Accountant
City of
Brooklyn Park**

Brooklyn Park is accepting applications for a full-time payroll accountant. The position reports to the Finance Director and is primarily responsible for managing all aspects of the payroll process from time-entry to issuance of net pay to each employee. In addition, the position will maintain / adjust employee benefit and pay

**Robert L. Ehlers, Sr.
GFOA Scholarship**

The MnGFOA, along with Ehlers & Associates offer an annual scholarship to fund the registration fee for a MnGFOA active member to attend the National GFOA conference. Look for more information in future newsletters and online.

information, reconcile and pay benefits/ payroll taxes, and assist with the payroll budgeting process.

Qualified applicants should have a bachelor's degree in accounting or related field or an equivalent combination of education and experience and one (1) year experience performing the payroll function for an employer.

Wage range is anticipated to be \$23.62 - \$30.35 per hour, with anticipated hiring wage from \$23.62 - \$27.47.

A City Application and supplement must be submitted for consideration. See www.brooklynpark.org for the full details of the job. Applications are due by Wednesday February 8, 2012 by 5 pm.

2012 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President

Jessie Hart
White Bear Township
jessie.hart@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us
651.747.2760

Past President

Ron Hedberg
City of Apple Valley
rhedberg@ci.apple-valley.mn.us
952.953.2540

President Elect

Cory Kampf
City of Brooklyn Park
cory.kampf@brooklynpark.org
763.493.8150

At-Large

Josh Feldman
City of South St. Paul
jfeldman@southstpaul.org
651.554.3207

Secretary

Dan Jordet
City of Brooklyn Center
djordet@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us
763.569.3345

At-Large

Sue Moses
US Bank
susan.moses@usbank.com
651.466.8601

Treasurer

Darin Nelson
City of Fridley
nelsond@ci.fridley.mn.us
763.572.3520

State Representative

Robin Roland
City of Cottage Grove
rroland@cottage-grove.org
651.458.2832

National Conference Update

The conference will be held June 10-13 in Chicago. The Hilton Chicago (720 South Michigan Avenue) will serve as the MnGFOA's home base.

We are currently planning a Minnesota Reception for the Monday Night of the conference due to conflict with the opening session on Sunday.

Congratulations To:

Clara Hilger, Assistant Finance Director in Brooklyn Center on her completion of the requirements to become a Certified Professional Finance Officer (CPFO).

PLEASE NOTE...

This is the last month the MnGFOA newsletter will be mailed to members. From this point on, the newsletter will only be available electronically on the website.

2012 Committee Chairs

Conference

Dawn Koenig
Hennepin County
Dawn.koenig@co.hennepin.mn.us
(612) 348-8837

Social

Lynn Cornwell
Wells Fargo
Lynn.r.cornwell@wellsfargo.com
(612) 667-9874

Program

Diane Sweet
City of St. Paul
Diane.sweet@ci.stpaul.mn.us
(651) 266-8813

Technology

Joe Rueb
City of Maplewood
Joe.rueb@ci.maplewood.mn.us
(651) 249-2903

Education

Greg Sticha
City of Chanhassen
gsticha@ci.chanhassen.com
(952) 227-1100

Selection

Chris Miller
City of Roseville
Chris.miller@ci.roseville.mn.us
(651) 792-7031

Conference

Darin Nelson
City of Fridley
nelsond@ci.fridley.mn.us
763.572.3520

Message from the Editor

This is YOUR newsletter. If you wish to share items of interest with the membership please send them to me. Send job openings, career moves, retirements, or other items of note by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next newsletter. Thanks!

Contact Information:

Cory Kampf
City of Brooklyn Park
5200 – 85th Avenue No.
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443
cory.kampf@brooklynpark.org
763.493.8150