

MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
MGFOA NEWSLETTER

January 2003

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: Tom Kelly

As I begin my term as MnGFOA President, I want to thank our outgoing board and especially our past President Sharon Legg, for a great 2002. MnGFOA is much better for Sharon's leadership and we sincerely hope that we can make 2003 as productive.

It's hard to believe we are into a New Year already and we hope a time of exciting and useful meetings, seminars, and conferences for the MnGFOA. While we must always pay attention to the basics of why we exist as an organization, there are always new ways and approaches being considered on how we can better deliver for our members? Discussions to-date have revolved around how we can better deliver educational luncheons and programs, while building on the past successes, and strengthening our relationships with our members, other professional groups, universities and colleges.

2003 won't be with out challenges. The State is facing over a \$4 billion budget short fall, of which will most like have some effects on local budgets. In addition those of us who have not converted our financials to comply with GASB 34, will be doing so next year. Plus there are the usual challenges that always seem to spring up when we have the least amount of time to deal with them. It is the boards hope that MnGFOA will be there to help our members through these and other challenges. One of my goals for 2003 is to have more of members apply and receive GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. It is hard for me to understand how over 100 entities receive the Certificate of Achievement for their CAFRs, which tells readers of the document what has happen financial, but that less than 25 entities receive the budget award, which tells our readers what we hope will happen financial to our entity.

Hopefully, the upcoming year can be as fruitful as this past for MnGFOA members. You can help, by volunteering to serve on one of the many MnGFOA committees. Most committees are just beginning to for and plan for the coming year. I know all of you have some ideas that MnGFOA members can benefit from. Joining a committee is a great way to get to know other MnGFOA members, share ideas, and even have some fun. We especially need volunteers to serve on the education and program committees, but all committees' chairs will accept your willingness to help out. I will try to continue building on past accomplishments, especially when it comes to education.

In the coming months, I welcome your thoughts, comments, criticism and suggestions. We have a great organization with great dedication. I hope to keep it going strong! Hope everyone had a happy new year, and the 2003 Board looks forward to working with you all in 2003.

JANUARY MEETING NOTICE

Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2003
Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points
Topic: Health Insurance Today & Post-Retirement Health Care Plans
Speaker: Representatives from
Deloitte & Touche
Time: 11:30AM - Welcome and Program
12:15PM - Lunch & Business Meeting
1:00PM - Executive Committee Mtg
Cost: \$ 15.00

Reservation: Please leave your reservation with Chris Miller at the City of Roseville at 651-490-2210 or on our website at www.mngfoa.org by THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2003. (Vegetarian meal choice is available).

SPEAKER BIO AND TOPIC

Speaker bio information was not available at the time we went to press, however a brief agenda as to the speakers topics:

Health Insurance Today

- Current State of the industry; What to expect in 2003
- Post-Retirement Health Care Plans (Brief description of what they are and how they work)
- Accounting for Post-retirement benefits. Mention of this in relationship to GASB pronouncement expected out shortly.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership application forms have been mailed out as a separate mailing - even to those of you that receive the newsletter by e-mail, so be sure to watch for them. To be included in the 2003 membership directory, fill out the application form and mail with your payment by January 31, 2003 to Chris Miller, City of Roseville, 2660 Civic Center Drive, Roseville, MN 55113 or call him at 651-490-2210 if you do not receive an application. Please note that additional forms may be obtained from our website at www.mngfoa.org.

ADVANCED INSTITUTE SCHOLARSHIP

Do you know an ambitious and up and coming finance person, or maybe you have decided it is time for you to move to the next level. Now is the time for you to apply for the Advanced Government Finance Institute Scholarship. The application form is available on the MGFOA web site or you can contact Tom Pepper at 651-675-5017.

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

The John B. Lilja Scholarship of \$1,000 is awarded to undergraduate students majoring in accounting or governmental finance at a college or university. John Lilja was an association member of the MGFOA, active at state and national levels, enhancing governmental reporting and development. For 2003, the Executive Board as decided to expand this outreach program by offering two scholarships. If you know of anyone who may want to be a candidate, contact Tom Pepper at 651-675-5017.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The November 20th minutes of the Executive Board were approved at the December 11, 2002 meeting. A summary of the minutes is as follows:

- The Check Register for October in the amount of \$41,650.59 and the Treasurer's report as of October 31, 2002 was approved.
- The Board discussed a draft policy for conference refunds and merits of a fund balance policy.

THANK YOU TO PAST PRESIDENT

As a past president, I have been involved with or followed the organization over many years. We have had a good many very capable Presidents over these years. Our outgoing president has performed over and above the expectations of her position. Her messages to the membership have been very insightful and to the point. I have been very impressed with Sharon's tour of duty and congratulate her for on an outstanding year as President of this great organization. Gary Norstrem

CERTIFICATE REVIEW SESSION

Mark Gibbs, HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd., is collection comments received from GFOA for 2001 CAFR's to be used in the Certificate Review session to be offered March 2003. Please send copies of your comments along with a 2001 CAFR to Mark Gibbs, HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd., 4810 White Bear Parkway, White Bear Lake, MN 55110.

2003 MnGFOA DATES

Monthly Meeting Dates:	February 19	March 19	April 16
	June 18	July 16	August 16
	November 19	December 17	October 15

Conference/Training:

2003 National GFOA Conference	New York NY	May 18 - 21
2003 Fall MnGFOA Conference	Alexandria MN	September 16 - 19

SECOND CALL FOR VIDEO

Just a reminder that if members have video available for their city, county, or schools, which they would be willing to share, be sure to let us know. MNGFOA is planning to develop a video to provide information to students and others about the advantages of entering the governmental finance profession and for informing schools and community groups about local government finance.

The general areas needed include public works projects, public safety activities, snow removal, human services, schools, and budget meetings with departmental staff, Council\Boards, and citizen interaction.

Any cities, counties, schools or other agencies, which think they might have appropriate video, should contact Ed Burrell at 651-641-1114, (keburrell@usfamily.net) for more details.

JOB OPENINGS

ACCOUNTING MANAGER - CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

Excellent career opportunity for Accounting Professionals with a desire to work in the Public Sector. This person will manage the Accounting cycle, direct financial management Support to customer, and provide leadership for Financial & Accounting staff. Applications accepted through 1/8/03. To apply and see full position description, go to: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us or call us at 612-673-2282.

City of Minneapolis
250 S 4th St., Rm 100
Minneapolis, MN 55415
An AA/EOE

2003 EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

The 2003 MnGFOA Executive Board is as follows:

President	Tom Kelly	651-429-5827
	White Bear Township	
President-Elect	Lori Webster	651-480-2352
	City of Hastings	
Secretary	Tom Pepper	651-675-5017
	City of Eagan	
Treasurer	Chris Miller	651-490-2210
	City of Roseville	

Past President Sharon Legg 763-767-6433
City of Coon Rapids
At-Large Cathy Shuman 763-271-3204
City of Monticello
At-Large Rosemary Masloski 651-697-8530
Ehlers & Associates
State Rep. Ron Hedberg 651-458-2832
City of Cottage Grove

Committee Chairs for 2003 are as follows:

Conference Michelle Pietrick 612-673-5122
Education Julie Vogel 952-448-2851
Program Joe Huss 952-563-4930
Social Jim Eichten 952-545-0424
Selection Lori Johnson 763-441-7420

If you have any questions, want to help out, or have suggestions for the Executive Board or for the committees for 2003, please feel free to give them a call.

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DISTINGUISHED BUDGET AWARD

Congratulations to the City of Hopkins on receiving the Distinguished Budget Award for the first time!

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GFOA INTERNET TRAINING

Internet Training: Using the GFOA Checklist to Implement the New Model - January 14, 2003 (10 am - noon EST); February 18 (1pm - 3pm EST); March 11 (3pm - 5pm EST).

All you need is a speakerphone and a separate Internet connection. For more information, contact GFOA at 312/977-9700 or check their website at www.gfoa.org.

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

I look forward as serving as Editor for 2003 - but I will need your input ! We are looking for information to put in the newsletter of interest to the group. Please contact me with any retirements, job changes, promotions, certifications received or any other items you are willing to share with the group. Please give me a call or e-mail me by the 20th of the month to guarantee publication.

Contact: Lori A. Webster
City of Hastings
101 Fourth Street East
Hastings, MN 55033
E-Mail: Lwebster@Ci.Hastings.MN.US

Phone: 651-480-2352
Fax: 651-437-7082

Love, Chaos & Pasta

Come join the wackiest, wildest and most talked about wedding in the Twin Cities?

Join Tony n' Tina and their loved ones as they take you through this wild romp of an evening, *from* the wedding ceremony *itself* to the rowdy reception, tasty Italian buffet dinner, and dancing to the dynamic tunes of "Donny Duke and Fusion!"

At Tony n' Tina's Wedding, you're not just a member of the audience - you're part of the family

The show takes place at the
Hey City Theater
824 Hennepin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55403

For more information checkout Heycity.com

The Minnesota GFOA has reserved 24 tickets to the February 27, 2002 performance of Tony n' Tina's Wedding. To join us at the show send the following form along with a check to the following address.

Please reply prior to January 31, 2002

TONY N' TINA'S WEDDING REGISTRATION FORM

Please hold for me ____ tickets @ \$47.00 each

Enclosed is a payment of \$_____
(Make checks payable to MGFOA)

Name_____

Organization_____

Mailing Address_____

Please mail your registration form and payment to:

Jim Eichten
Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich, & Co. P.A.
5353 Wayzata Blvd., Suite 410
Minneapolis, MN 55126
952-545-0424

