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# MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

# MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

January 2006

*Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance*

[www.mngfoa.org](http://www.mngfoa.org)

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## Message from the President

By Chris Miller

From humble beginnings . . . to the MnGFOA of today. Many of you know the story of how the MnGFOA was established. You may know that in 1964, 15 finance officers established the MnGFOA with the purpose of getting together to discuss common issues facing government finance officials at the time. Over time, the purpose of the MnGFOA evolved to encompass educational and networking opportunities, as well as promoting and enhancing the profession.

Purpose. We've been talking a lot about purpose lately. While our beginnings may have been humble, the MnGFOA of today stands vibrant and purposeful thanks to our membership - a membership which has remained as committed to the collective cause as we were in 1964.

Thanks to your input, exciting changes are on the way. New educational and networking opportunities have been established. Added emphasis at reaching members in Greater Minnesota is underway as well. Finally, outreach efforts to prospective members have received greater attention. Thanks to all of you, our purpose is clear and focused.

2006 brings a new year, with new opportunities, and new challenges. Larry Jacobson becomes our new Treasurer; Robin Roland takes over as our Secretary, and Greg Sticha becomes President-Elect. Tom Pepper continues to serve as Past President. After serving on the Executive Committee for the past 6 years, Tom Kelly moves on to other callings. His energy, ideas, and guidance will be missed.

Bonnie Burton remains as the State Representative, and we're joined by Fred Espe and Aaron Nielsen as At-Large Members to round out the Executive Committee.

We have a strong group of people, and along with our Committee Chairs and all who serve on those committees, 2006 looks to be another successful year.

I would like to extend a special thanks to this year's Committee Chairs for their continued dedication. This year's chairs include; Sue Iverson (Conference), Cindy Rollins (Education), Michelle Pietrick (Program), and Tonya Weinert (Social). Your efforts are truly appreciated.

Finally, I want to thank Tom Pepper for his unsurpassed effort in serving as President during the past year. Over the years, and especially during his term as President, Tom served simultaneously as captain, navigator, and oarsman on initiatives and efforts too numerous to list here. Thank you Tom for everything you've done. Thank you for keeping the MnGFOA purposeful.

## 2006 Meeting Dates

### Monthly Meetings:

February 15	March 15
April 29(Quarterly Training)	No May Meeting
June 21	July 19
August 16	October 18
Nov. 15(Quarterly Training)	December 13

### Annual Conferences:

GFOA – Montreal, Canada	May 7-10
MnGFOA – Alexandria, MN	Sept. 20-22



## January Meeting



There is no monthly Lunch meeting for the month of January, instead please take advantage of the half-day training seminar we are having with the information as follows:

Date: Wednesday, January 19, 2006  
Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points  
Topic: On-Line Payments Workshop  
Speaker: Fred Laing, President Upper Midwest Automated Clearing House Association (UMACHA)  
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Cost: \$60.00  
Lunch Only: Those interested in joining for lunch only, may come to network for a cost of \$15.00

**Reservations:** Please visit our website at [www.mngfoa.org](http://www.mngfoa.org) for more information on this training event and an event registration form. An event registration form has also been included with this newsletter for your convenience. (Vegetarian meal choice is available.)

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the City of Orono who on November 23, 2005 received a bond rating upgrade provided by Moody's Investors Service from an Aa1 to Aaa. This makes Orono one of five (5) cities in the nation with a population under 10,000 who have an Aaa rating. Nationwide there are 96 cities with an Aaa Moody's rating. In Minnesota there are six (6) cities with an Aaa Moody's rating, including Orono.

Congratulations to Don Taylor who is retiring with the City of Golden Valley on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006, after 21 years of service. Have a great and enjoyable retirement Don, from all of us at the MnGFOA.

On a related note, congratulations also goes out to Sue Virnig on becoming the next Finance Director with the City of Golden Valley. Golden Valley has and will continue to be in great hands with Sue now as the Finance Director.

# Committee

## Executive Committee Update

At the abbreviated December meeting, the following highlights took place:

- Approved Budget for 2006 totaling \$127,300 in revenues and expenses.

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## JOB POSTINGS

### CITY OF PLYMOUTH ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR

Plymouth (population 71,000), a dynamic suburb of Minneapolis, is seeking an Administrative Services Director. The director reports to the City Manager and directs a staff of 40 and a total budget of \$ 10.7 million. The Director manages the Finance, IT, Assessing, City Clerk, Transit, Facilities, Risk Management, Budget, Investment and Communications functions of the City.

We are looking for someone with excellent management and leadership skills and someone who has a proven track record of establishing and maintaining supportive working relationships with the management team, boards and councils and the community.

We require a minimum of a bachelor's degree; a master's is desirable. The degree focus can be public administration, management, finance or other related fields. We also require at least five years of increasingly responsible management experience. At least two years of the experience should be in the public sector managing some or all of the functions listed. Experience supervising professional and technical staff is also essential.

If you are fun, flexible, collaborative, and take initiative this is a position for which you should apply.

Please submit a resume and an application. Contact City of Plymouth, 3400 Plymouth Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55447, or call 763-509-5072 (TDD 763-509-5065) for an application form. Or, you can apply online at [www.ci.plymouth.mn.us](http://www.ci.plymouth.mn.us). Applications will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 17, 2005.

*An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.*

## Membership Renewals

You should have received your MnGFOA membership renewal form via postal mail by now. To be included in the 2006 membership directory, fill out the application form and mail with your payment by January 31, 2006 to Larry Jacobson, City of Plymouth, 3400 Plymouth Boulevard, Plymouth, MN 55447-1482 or call him at 763-509-5320 if you did not receive an application.

## 2006 Executive Board Members

President	Chris Miller City of Roseville	651-792-7031
President-Elect	Greg Sticha City of Minnetonka	952-939-8254
Secretary	Robin Roland City of Farmington	651-463-1880
Treasurer	Larry Jacobson City of Plymouth	763-509-5320
Past President	Tom Pepper City of Eagan	651-675-5017
At-Large	Fred Espe City of Shoreview	651-490-4622
At-Large	Aaron Nielsen MMKR & Company	952-545-0424
State Rep.	Bonnie Burton City of Shorewood	952-474-3236

## Introducing the New Committee Chairs for 2006:

Conference	Sue Iverson	952-467-1807
Education	Cindy Rollins	952-563-4702
Program	Michelle Pietrick	715-381-4304
Social	Tonya Weinert	651-430-6044

If you have any questions, want to help out, or have suggestions for the Executive Board or for any of the committees for 2006, please feel free to give them a call.

## Message from the Editor

As always, if you have any job openings, career moves, or any items of note, please forward them to me by the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month so I can put it in the next newsletter.

Thanks

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