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# MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

# MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

July 2004

*Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance*

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

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## Message from the President(-Elect)

By Tom Pepper

You may recall the recent Spielberg film *Catch Me if You Can* about a teen-age con man (Leonardo DiCaprio) who passed \$2.5 million in bad checks and traveled the world while posing as a Pan Am pilot, doctor and lawyer in the 1960s. The movie is based on the real-life story of Frank Abagnale, the keynote speaker at the GFOA national conference in Milwaukee in June.

Mr. Abagnale addressed the entire GFOA delegation, recounting his incredible journey from criminal to crime stopper. (He has now worked with the FBI for over 25 years in fraud detection.) As he began to conclude his tale of going from bad to good, I wondered what he would put forth as the proverbial moral of the story. Justice? Forgiveness? I was surprised when Mr. Abagnale said what really matters is ... family. Be faithful to your family. Support your family.

Which, appropriately, brings me to a "family" matter here at MnGFOA. Our President, Lori Webster, recently has been diagnosed with cancer—an abdominal carcinoma of unknown primary source. Doctors are attempting to first manage the pain so that Lori can begin chemotherapy soon. Many of you sent cards or flowers while Lori was briefly hospitalized and she is very grateful for the outpouring of support and prayer offered on her behalf. She's at home right now and, though still in much pain, tells me she is itching to get back to work. Lori is a strong woman with a strong family and they are ready to tackle the treatment challenges ahead.

Mike and Lori have begun periodic updates at [www.caringbridge.org/mn/loriwebster](http://www.caringbridge.org/mn/loriwebster). If you visit the site, you can also leave a personal message for Lori and her family. I know the care, support, encouragement and prayers of all of us—Lori's MnGFOA family—will mean so much to her.

## July Meeting

Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2004  
Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points  
Topic: "Economic & Investment Market Update"  
Speaker: Daniel Spiller, Vice President - Corporate Treasury - US Bancorp  
Meal: Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad  
Time: 11:30 a.m. – Welcome and Program  
12:00 noon – Lunch & Business Meeting  
1:00 p.m. – Executive Committee Mtg.  
Cost: \$15.00

**Reservations:** Please leave your reservation with Liz Berger at the City of Minnetonka at 952-939-8252 or on our website at [www.mngfoa.org](http://www.mngfoa.org) by Thursday, July 8. (Vegetarian meal choice is available.)

### About Our Speaker ...

Daniel Spiller is Vice President of U.S. Bancorp's Corporate Treasury Division. Mr. Spiller has been with U.S. Bancorp since 1996. Among their many duties, the Corporate Treasury Division's responsibilities include securitization and day-to-day pricing support to corporate, commercial and retail banks.

Mr. Spiller holds both Bachelors and JD degrees, and is licensed to practice law in Minnesota and New York.

## 2004 MnGFOA Dates

### Monthly Meetings:

August 18 [No Sept mtg] October 20  
November 17 December 15

### Conference/Training:

GFOA Training Seminar  
Minneapolis, MN August 23-27

MnGFOA Annual Conference  
Alexandria, MN Sept 21-24

## National Training Seminars in August

Stephen Gauthier will be among the distinguished faculty presenting six national GFOA seminars at the Hyatt in downtown Minneapolis the week of August 23-27. Here are the offerings:

- Aug 23-24 Designing Performance Measurement Systems
- Aug 23-24 Treasury Management & Cash Flow Forecasting
- Aug 23-25 Intermediate Governmental Accounting
- Aug 25-26 Best Practices in Budgeting
- Aug 25-26 Costing & Outsourcing Government Services
- Aug 25-27 Advanced Governmental Accounting

To register online or learn more about these training opportunities, visit [www.gfoa.org](http://www.gfoa.org) or call the GFOA offices at 312-977-9700. Receive a 10% discount if you register by July 23.

## Congratulations to ...

- Jim Knutson, formerly of the City of Anoka, on accepting the position of Finance Director at the City of Maple Grove.
- Lori Yager, formerly of the City of Hopkins, on accepting the position of Finance Director at the City of Anoka.

Take a look at the Job Postings and stay tuned for the next chapter of this story!

# Committee

## Executive Committee Update

There was no Executive Committee Meeting in June due to the Annual Conference.

## Play Ball!

The annual Saints outing happens this month! Sign up now for a fun and entertaining evening with the St. Paul Saints and your fellow MnGFOA members! The MnGFOA has 50 reserved tickets available for the Saints game on Thursday, July 29. Game time is 7:05 p.m. Prior to the game, we will be having a tailgating party starting after 5:00 p.m. at AREA 10. The field is located on Energy Park Drive (south of the fairgrounds, just off Snelling Avenue).

We will be grilling brats and burgers, and we'll have plenty of chips, cookies, etc. Pop and beer will be provided to quench your thirst. The cost is \$14, which includes one ticket, and all food and beverages. If you are interested in joining your fellow colleagues at the Saints game, fill out the form below and **mail it in by Friday, July 16**. Tickets will be mailed to you prior to the game. If you have questions, please call Tonya Weinert, Washington County, at (651) 430-6044.

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## ST. PAUL SAINTS REGISTRATION FORM

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ Saints tickets @ \$14.00 each. Enclosed is a payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Make checks payable to MnGFOA)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your registration form and payment to: Tonya Weinert, Washington County Department of Financial Services, 14949 62nd Street North, P.O. Box 3804, Stillwater, MN 55082-3804.

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## Tee it Up!

This year's golf outing will be Tuesday, August 3, at the Chaska Town Course at 3000 Town Course Drive. The registration form is available at [www.mngfoa.org](http://www.mngfoa.org) under Quick Links. Don't delay ... **registration deadline is Friday, July 16!** Please contact Ron Hedberg at the City of Cottage Grove at 651-458-2832 or Jim Eichten at MMKR & Company at 952-545-0424 for more information.

## Annual Conference at Arrowwood

Make plans now to attend the 2004 Annual Conference "Financing the Future of Minnesota Government" to be held at Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria from September 22 to 24. Included in this newsletter are the registration forms for the conference and room reservation.

Please make sure to send the proper forms and payments to the following:

- Conference registration form along with payment should be mailed to Cory Kampf at the address indicated on the form; and
- Hotel reservation form should be mailed or faxed to Arrowwood Resort at the address or fax number indicated on the form.

Also included in this newsletter is a tentative agenda of topics and speakers for the conference. From Lyle Wray to Stevie Ray, this year's conference offers a wealth of information and fun! Bring your Hawaiian shirts for the Wednesday night Casino night. The Conference Committee and the Social Committee look forward to seeing you there!

Questions about the conference? Contact Robin Roland: [roland@ci.farmington.mn.us](mailto:roland@ci.farmington.mn.us) or 651-463-1880.

## New at Arrowwood This Year: CPE Certificates

The Conference Committee is adding a new attraction for the 2004 Annual Conference: Continuing Professional Education (CPE) certificates.

As a professional organization, we provide sessions at the annual conference that contribute to the professional competence of licensed CPAs or others with professional certifications. MnGFOA will be meeting all of the requirements necessary for the issuance of a Certificate of Completion for certain sessions at the

annual conference. The requirements—for the MnGFOA and you as a participant—are as follows:

MnGFOA:

- Provide an outline for each eligible session and provide to each participant
- Ensure each session is at least 50 minutes
- Maintain an attendance list
- Provide each participant on the attendance list a certificate of completion that will include the name of the sponsoring organization, location of the program, title of the program, dates attended and hours claimed

PARTICIPANT:

- Maintain the certificate of completion and outline for a minimum of four years
- Submit the required information to the professional association when requested

The sessions eligible for Continuing Professional Education Certificates will be clearly identified and certificates will be issued after the conference.

## JOB POSTINGS

**Finance Director, City of Hopkins** - The City of Hopkins is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Finance Director. The Director is responsible for planning, directing, and administering all financial activities for the City. Duties include, but are not limited to, management of all accounting functions, payroll, utility billing, investments, risk management; and providing assistance to the City Manager and City Council on financial planning and related matters. The Finance Director is a department head level position reporting to the City Manager. Minimum qualifications include: bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business, or public administration; 5 years governmental accounting experience and 2 years supervisory experience or equivalent; personal computer experience; and must have worked with or supervised basic data processing operations and applications in a local government setting. Desirable qualifications include: C.P.A. or Master's degree in accounting, finance, or business and experience with tax increment financing. Salary range: \$60-80,000, excellent fringe benefits. Application and job description are available at [www.hopkinsmn.com](http://www.hopkinsmn.com) or Hopkins City Hall, 1010 1st St. S., Hopkins, MN 55343. City of Hopkins application is required. Deadline for applications is July 7, 2004. EOE

**As always, visit the [www.mngfoa.org](http://www.mngfoa.org) website for a complete list of current openings.**

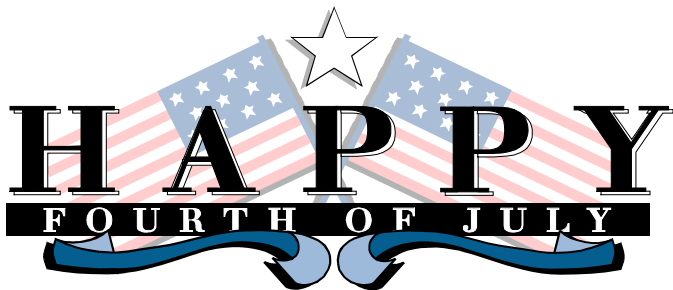
## Message from the Editor

Well, the editor's mailbag was almost stuffed full after last month's Monty Hall dilemma. My thanks to both respondents. That smart lady is right, by the way—you should switch.

If you have news to share with the group about a job change, promotion, award, retirement, or new pet—or if you still have a problem with the smart lady's answer—let me know. You can email me at [tpepper@cityofeagan.com](mailto:tpepper@cityofeagan.com).

Have a great month, and do something to support Lori.

Tom Pepper  
City of Eagan  
3830 Pilot Knob Road  
Eagan, MN 55122



**MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**Financing the Future of Minnesota Government**

<b><u>WHEN:</u></b>	<b>September 22 – 24, 2004</b>
<b><u>WHERE:</u></b>	<b>Arrowwood Resort Alexandria, Minnesota FAX: 320-762-0133</b>

<b>CONFERENCE [9/22-24/04] <u>REGISTRATION FEE</u></b>	<b>BY</b>	<b>AFTER</b>
<b>Member</b>	<b><u>August 25</u> \$ 200.00</b>	<b><u>August 25</u> \$ 225.00</b>
<b>Non-Member</b>	<b>\$ 260.00</b>	<b>\$ 285.00</b>

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:** Minnesota GFOA

**MAIL REGISTRATION/PAYMENT TO:** Cory Kampf, Finance Director  
City of Robbinsdale  
4100 Lakeview Ave. N.  
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

**NEW MEMBER POLICY:** You may join MnGFOA at the time you register. Rates are \$40 for regular members and \$60 for associate members. New members may remit membership dues with the conference registration fee.

**LODGING:** YOU MUST make separate arrangements by completing the attached lodging registration form for Arrowwood Resort by August 23, 2004. YOU MUST MAIL OR FAX YOUR RESERVATION FORM. Reservations are on a first-come first-served basis and overflow lodging reservations WILL BE made for you by Arrowwood. You are encouraged to make arrangements to share a room.

**REFUND POLICY:** The registration fee (less expenses) will be refunded if written notice of cancellation is received anytime through September 15, 2004. Written notice of cancellation received on or after September 16, 2004 will be refunded after deducting expenses including meals. Requests for refunds will only be considered up to October 1, 2004

***THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE INVITES ALL PARTICIPANTS TO DRESS CASUALLY AND ENJOY THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE***



**MN Government Finance Officers Conference**  
**Conference Lodging Reservation Form**  
**September 21 – 24, 2004**  
**Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center**

**PREFERRED LODGING HELD UNTIL**

**August 23, 2004**

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Mr./Mrs./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Requests:** (i.e. Room accessibility, dietary, etc.)  
Explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:

\_\_\_\_\_ Check-Send with form

\_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card - Card Charged Upon Receipt of Form

Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover  
accepted.

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**CANCELLATION POLICY**

**LABOR DAY – MEMORIAL DAY**

Our cancellation policy is 72 hours. We will charge your credit card one night's lodging for any cancellations made within 72 hours of your arrival. If payment is made by check, we will refund your money if cancellation is made before 72 hours of your arrival. We will keep deposit if cancelled within 72 hours of your arrival.

MGFOA requests that all cancellations be made as soon as possible to make rooms available for other conference attendees.



**SPECIAL GROUP RATES**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$99.00 Standard accommodations/ Per night + tax

\_\_\_\_\_ \$140.00 Suites Per night + tax (Suites are limited)

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Room Nights: \_\_\_\_\_

**ROOMMATES**

**If you are sharing a room, each person must complete a separate reservation form.**

List name of the roommate you've selected:

\_\_\_\_\_

If you are selecting roommates, reservation forms must be mailed or faxed together. If not received together, specific roommate requests cannot be guaranteed.

**ROOM PREFERENCE**

*(room preference is taken as a request only and is not a guarantee. Arrowwood will do their best to honor your request at check in.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Smoking      \_\_\_\_\_ Non-smoking

*Overflow lodging is being held at the Country Inn & Suites. Once Arrowwood Resort is full, attendees will be notified that their reservation has been made at the Country Inn & Suites.*

*The Country Inn & Suites room rate is \$99 with the following cancellation policy: Individual reservations cancelled within 72 hours of scheduled arrival will be charged one night's lodging on the date of cancellation. Once the reservation has been made at Country Inn & Suites, **YOU** are responsible for any changes that would need to be made. Country Inn & Suites phone number is 320-763-9900.*

**MAIL OR FAX ENTIRE FORM TO:**

**Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center**

**2100 Arrowwood Lane NW**

**Alexandria, MN 56308**



**PRELIM Conference Agenda**

**"FINANCING THE FUTURE OF MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT"**

**MnGFOA 41st Annual Conference - September 22 to 24, 2004 - Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria, MN**

TIME	TUESDAY SEPT 21
1-5 pm	Certified Public Finance Officer Testing
9-11 pm	Golf - Executive Putting Course

TIME	WEDNESDAY SEPT 22
9-10 am	Registration Upper Conference Lobby
9:15-9:45	New Attendee Orientation Session-Lake Itasca
10-11:45	Nancy Zielke - President National GFOA <b>Lyle Wray - 'Financing the Future of MN'</b> Lower Conference Center
12-1 pm	Lunch - Lake Darling Ballroom
1:15-2:45	<b>LOCAL CONTROL ISSUES</b> Jack Vogt & Lyle Wray Lake Osakis
	<b>BUDGETING FOR EXCELLENCE</b> Nancy Zielke - President National GFOA Lake Miltona
	<b>ETHICS</b> Dr. David Schultz - Hamline University Lake Minnewaska
2:45-3	Break - Lower Conference Lobby
3-4:30	<b>THE US ECONOMY &amp; TECHNO-GLOBAL REVOLUTION</b> - Bob Moore Lake Osakis
	<b>CAPITAL BUDGETING FOR SMALL CITIES</b> Jack Vogt Lake Miltona
	<b>LIGHTING THE FIRE WITHIN</b> Ursula Pottinga, CPCC, CPG Lake Minnewaska
4:45-6	Activities - Tennis Center Socializing, Cribbage, etc.
6:30	Dinner - Lake Darling Ballroom
8-11 pm	

TIME	THURSDAY SEPT 23
7-8:30 am	Breakfast - Lake Darling Ballroom
8:30-10	<b>GASB 34 &amp; POST EMPLOYMENT HEALTH CARE</b> Darcy Hitesman Lake Miltona
	<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCING</b> Craig Rapp Lake Osakis
	<b>PROCURING BANKING SERVICES</b> Panel: USBank, Bremer Bank Lake Minnewaska
10-10:15	Break - Lower Conference Lobby
10:15-11:45	<b>LEGISLATIVE UPDATE</b> Gary Carlson & Gene Raneri Lake Miltona
	<b>PERA UPDATE</b> Mary Most Vanek - Executive director Lake Osakis
	<b>CURRENT TRENDS IN FINANCIAL FRAUD &amp; IDENTITY THEFT</b> - Lake Minnewaska
12-1:30	Lunch - Lake Darling Ballroom <i>Annual Business Meeting</i>
1:30-3	<b>MOODYS/FITCH/S&amp;P</b> "Best Practices" Lake Miltona
	<b>ALTERNATIVE FINANCING METHODS</b> Lake Osakis
	<b>GENERATIONS IN THE WORKPLACE</b> Tammi Nodlund Lake Minnewaska
3-5:30	Activities - Tennis Center; Exec Putting Course Socializing, Cribbage, Ping-Pong
6-9 pm	Dinner & Comedians - Lake Darling Ballroom
9:30 pm	Bonfire

TIME	FRIDAY, SEPT 24
7:30-8:30 am	Continental Breakfast - Lower Conf Lobby
9:00 - 11:00	<b>THINKING ON YOUR FEET</b> - <i>Techniques for handling yourself on the spot</i>  Stevie Ray
11:15	Brunch - Lake Darling Ballroom

ROOM RESERVATIONS	
Use Arrowwood Reservation Form	
=====	
Standard	\$99 single/double per night
Suite	\$136 single/double per night
OVERFLOW: Arrowwood will make ALL overflow reservations	
CONFERENCE INFORMATION	
Robin Roland, Chair	651-463-1880

ADDITIONAL MEAL TICKET COST	
Breakfast	\$12.00
Lunch	\$14.00
Dinner	\$27.00

