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# MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

# MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

July 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

Charles Darwin and similar practitioners observed that in order for species to survive, they must evolve. They must adapt to their changing environment, respond to challenges and threats, and be highly tuned to their own needs. And perhaps most important of all, they must pass along their wisdom to those that follow.

In many ways, these same principles can apply to organizations such as the MnGFOA. Which begs the question; do we have the mechanisms in place to pass our institutional wisdom to tomorrow's government finance leaders? It would certainly seem that way. Our Annual Conference, training events, monthly programs, and networking opportunities all provide valuable opportunities.

The 2004 Membership Survey findings suggest that we are indeed attracting new entrants into the profession. But I think we have a responsibility to keep challenging ourselves to seek as many avenues for sharing knowledge as possible. Mentoring, attending college fairs, and speaking to accounting or business clubs all present opportunities that are in abundance and there for the taking. While the MnGFOA will continue to do its part, I hope all of you feel empowered to pursue your own efforts to share your knowledge with tomorrow's government finance leaders.

At the June meeting, our speakers included Gary Carlson and Jennifer O'Rourke from the League of Minnesota Cities. Gary commented that the recent legislative session was relatively short, but challenging nonetheless.

He noted that with a few exceptions, there wasn't much substantive change to State Statutes. Jennifer also updated us on the tax bill, noting that absence of levy limits, and the restoration of the market value homestead credit reimbursement that had been withheld from many cities. Thanks again to Gary and Jennifer for a great legislative update. Gary will also be presenting an expanded update at the Annual Conference.

## July Meeting



Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2006  
Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points  
Topic: Economic Forecast  
Speaker: Bob Moore  
Time: 11:30 a.m.  
Cost: \$15.00  
Meal: Southwestern Turkey Club Croissant

*Reservations:* You may leave your reservation with Larry Jacobson, City of Plymouth at 763-509-5320 or on our website at [www.mngfoa.org](http://www.mngfoa.org) by Thursday, July 13, 2006. (Vegetarian meal choice is available.)

## Speaker Bio

Bob Moore is the president and portfolio strategist for Institutional Capital Management, located in Lafayette, Colorado. Bob is a successful entrepreneur, founding ICM nine years ago, with the goal of providing a client-driven alternative to traditional Investment Advisory services. ICM contracts exclusively with public funds investors and places a high priority on client education. Bob is a frequent presenter for organizations including the Minnesota GFOA, Wisconsin GFOA, Colorado GFOA, California County Treasurers and Tax Collectors, NACO and the Minnesota Auditor Treasurers Association.

Bob is a graduate of the State University of New York at Stony Brook with a Bachelors degree in Economics/Education. He has nearly 20 years experience in the securities industry. Bob utilizes his unique combination of skills and experience to provide public finance officials with a working knowledge of macro-economics, the fixed income markets and a variety of investment strategies.

# SUMMER



As plans and speakers are finalized, the agenda and a synopsis of the sessions will be posted to assist you in your planning on the website along with all the registration forms.

If you have any questions about the conference, please contact Sue Iverson at: [siverson@ci.mahtomedi.mn.us](mailto:siverson@ci.mahtomedi.mn.us) or 651-426-3344 or Cory Kampf at: [ckampf@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us](mailto:ckampf@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us) or 763-531-1215.

## Annual Conference Advertising

The 2006 Annual Conference will be at Arrowwood again this year, September 20 – 22, 2006. The theme this year is “The times, they are a changin!” Associate members are invited to achieve maximum results by placing an advertisement in the annual conference book. Your ad will be seen by hundreds of finance officers and other finance professionals and will help to defray the costs of the conference for all members. The advertising opportunities and related costs are as follows:

1/4 Page	(3 1/4 " W X 4 1/2 " L)	\$225
1/2 Page	(7 " W X 4 1/2 " L)	\$350
Full Page	(7 " W X 9 " L)	\$475

Please adhere to these sizes and orientations when submitting your ads. Email a “clean” copy of your ad to George Eilertson at [geilertson@northlandsecurities.com](mailto:geilertson@northlandsecurities.com) by **August 7, 2006**. If you placed an ad in the 2005 program, we have your ad on file. If you would like to re-run the same ad please indicate. The quality of your program ad will only be as good as what you send us. Acceptable ads will be the appropriate size and acceptable in Adobe (.pdf); MS Word (.doc); MS Publisher or MS PowerPoint (.ppt).

Make your check **payable to “MnGFOA”** and forward to:

George Eilertson, Sr. Vice President  
Northland Securities, Inc.  
45 South Seventh Street - #2500  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

This is a great way to keep your name in front of the general membership and support the Association at the same time. Thanks to all of you who purchased ads last year. We are looking forward to a great conference and hope to see you at Arrowwood this fall.



## The MNGFOA is Working to Attract Tomorrow’s Financial Leaders

Over the past eight years, the MNGFOA has remained a sponsoring organization and exhibitor at the annual Accounting & Auditing Student Conference. In this role, the MNGFOA has an opportunity to visit with over 500 students from area colleges and universities who are interested in learning about careers in governmental finance and accounting. We need your help in getting the message out! The MNGFOA is looking for members from governmental organizations that are willing to spend some time helping out during the event as a conference ambassador, or in the exhibit booth.

This year’s conference is Thursday, September 28, 2006, and runs from 9:00 – 3:00pm. We could use your help especially in the morning hours, but if you can stay the whole day, there will be a free lunch plus a motivational speaker during the break!

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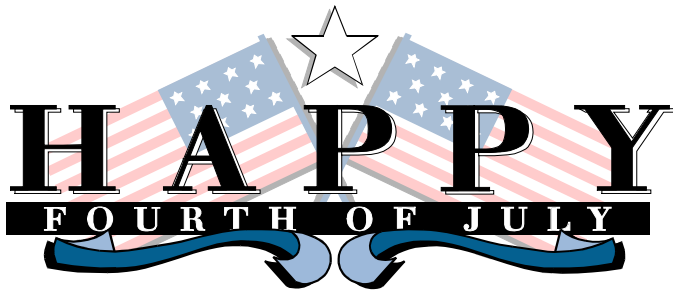
Has your organization recently hired employees that have recently completed a degree program? At the annual Accounting & Auditing Student Conference, a forum is provided where students interested in careers in governmental finance and accounting can visit with employees that have recently completed a four-year or two-year degree program, and have gone on to work for governmental agencies. This has proven to be extremely popular as the sessions are held ‘behind closed doors’ which gives the students a chance to find out what it’s like to work in government, and how rewarding it can be.

We need your help in introducing students to careers in governmental finance and accounting. If you are a recent grad or your organization has hired a recent grad in the past five years, we would like to extend an invitation to the conference so that they can share their success stories with our future hiring prospects.

If you are willing to help us out on these important efforts, please contact Chris Miller at 651-792-7031, or by email at [chris.miller@ci.roseville.mn.us](mailto:chris.miller@ci.roseville.mn.us).



Greg Sticha  
City of Chanhassen  
7700 Market Blvd, PO Box 147  
Chanhassen, MN 55317



## 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,

Greg Sticha, City of Chanhassen  
7700 Market Blvd, PO Box 147  
Chanhassen, MN 55317  
952-227-1149  
gsticha@ci.chanhassen.mn.us



## Congratulations!!

Congratulations goes out to Sue Iverson in Mahtomedi and Chris Regis in Richfield, who are the 2006 Lori Webster Advanced Government Finance Institute Scholarship winners. Chris and Sue will be going to Madison in August for this amazing training opportunity. Congratulations and have fun in Madison!!

Congratulations to Bruce DeJong who is now the Finance Director for the City of St. Louis Park, good luck and congrats from all of us!!

# **RICE COUNTY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY** **ACCOUNTANT - AUDITOR/TREASURER'S OFFICE**

**PURPOSE:** To assist the Auditor/Treasurer with the preparation of annual and interim financial reports, including the countywide budget document and special projects as assigned.

## **EXAMPLES OF WORK:**

- Assists/prepares annual financial statements and interim financial reports.
- Assists/prepare the annual budget document and Capital Improvement Plan.
- Assists with special projects of financial nature.
- Prepares journal entries, organizes accounts and prepares monthly financial reports.
- Coordinates the electronic archival storage of financial information
- Assists in the development of internal control processes.
- Maintains capital asset records.
- Conducts surveys to identify best practices and provide comparisons.
- Maintains grants accounting records.
- Other duties as assigned.

## **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**

Bachelor's degree in Accounting or related field. Two years financial statement and budget preparation experience. Spreadsheet and PowerPoint experience.

## **PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

Three or more years experience working with financial statements and budget preparation. CPA or Master's degree in accounting or related field. One or more years Governmental auditing or accounting experience.

**SALARY RANGE:** \$19.02 - \$26.62 per hour (NU-G8-1-12) D.O.Q.

**HOURS:** M – F, 8:00am – 4:30pm with a one-hour lunch to equal 37.5 hours per week.

## **APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

For further information and Rice County application, contact Administration Office/ Rice County Government Services Building/ (507)332-6100 or [www.co.rice.mn.us](http://www.co.rice.mn.us) . Only current applications will be accepted. Applications must be received in the Rice County Administration Office no later than 4:00 pm, Friday, July 14, 2006. E.O.E.



# ST. PAUL SAINTS TICKETS ARE HERE

It's time once again for another fun and entertaining evening with the St. Paul Saints and your fellow MnGFOA members. The MnGFOA has 55 tickets available for the Saints game on Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 p.m.

Prior to the game, we will be having a tailgating party starting after 5:00 p.m., Section 5 of the Midway Stadium parking lot. We'll be grilling brats and burgers; we'll have plenty of chips, cookies, etc. Pop and beer will be provided. The cost is \$17.00, which includes one reserved ticket, and all food and beverages.

If you are interested in joining your fellow colleagues at the Saints game, please fill out the enclosed form and return to the address shown below by **Monday, July 10, 2006.** Tickets will be mailed to you prior to the game. If you have any questions, please call Judy Moll, White Bear Township at 651.747.2759.

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## REGISTRATION FORM

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ Saints tickets @ \$17.00 each

Enclosed is a payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Make checks payable to MnGFOA)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Please mail your registration form and payment to:*  
**Judy Moll, White Bear Township, 1281 Hammond Road, White Bear Township, MN 55110**

MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
"The Times, They Are A Changin!"  
"The Changing Face of Government Finance"

<b><u>WHEN:</u></b>	<b>September 20 – 22, 2006</b>
<b><u>WHERE:</u></b>	<b>Arrowwood Resort Alexandria, Minnesota</b>

<b>CONFERENCE [9/20-22/06]</b>	<b>BY</b>	<b>AFTER</b>
<b><u>REGISTRATION FEE</u></b>	<b><u>August 25</u></b>	<b><u>August 25</u></b>
<b>Member</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>	<b>\$ 225.00</b>
<b>Non-Member</b>	<b>\$ 260.00</b>	<b>\$ 285.00</b>

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:** Minnesota GFOA

**MAIL OR FAX REGISTRATION/PAYMENT TO:** Cory Kampf, Finance Director  
City of Robbinsdale  
4100 Lakeview Ave. N.  
Robbinsdale, MN 55422  
Fax (763) 537-7344

**Note:** Faxed registrations require payment by credit card (MC / Visa only). Please fill out credit card information on bottom of registration form.

**NEW MEMBER POLICY:** You may join MGFOA 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. Please note that membership dues paid are for a 2006 membership.

**LODGING:** YOU MUST make separate arrangements by completing the attached lodging registration form for Arrowwood Resort by August 21, 2006. 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 14, 2006. Written notice of cancellation received on or after September 15, 2006 will be refunded after deducting expenses including meals. Requests for refunds will only be considered up to October 2, 2006

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

**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**[PLEASE RETURN WITH PAYMENT]**  
**MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**  
**2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**“The Times, They Are A Changin!”**  
**"The Changing Face of Government Finance"**

**YOUR NAME WILL APPEAR ON YOUR NAME TAG AS SUBMITTED BELOW!!!**

LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP FEE (2005 MEMBERSHIP):** REGULAR [\$40] \_\_\_\_\_  
 ASSOCIATE [\$60] \_\_\_\_\_

CONFERENCE [9/20-22/06]

<u>REGISTRATION FEE</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>	
By August 25	\$ 200.00	\$ 260.00	_____
After August 25	\$ 225.00	\$ 285.00	_____
<b>TOTAL PAID REGISTRATION</b>			_____

**IS THIS YOUR FIRST MGFOA CONFERENCE?** YES NO

**IDENTIFY SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**[SOMEONE WILL CONTACT YOU BY PHONE OR EMAIL REGARDING YOUR NEEDS]**

**FAXED REGISTRATIONS REQUIRE PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD**

**MC / VISA CREDIT CARD NUMBER :** \_\_\_\_\_

**EXPIRATION DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CVVS NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(3 digit number on back of card)

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

**MN Government Finance Officers Conference**  
**Conference Lodging Reservation Form**  
**September 19-22, 2006**  
**Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center**

**PREFERRED LODGING HELD UNTIL**  
**August 21, 2006**

Company \_\_\_\_\_

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

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**All of our lodging is non-smoking.**

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.



**Arrowwood**  
RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER  
by CLUBHOUSE\*

**SPECIAL GROUP RATES**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$102.00 Standard accommodations/ Per night + tax

\_\_\_\_\_ \$145.00 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.

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 cancellation policy is as follows: 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**

**FAX: 320-762-0133**

**Phone: 320-762-1124**

**\*\*NO RESERVATIONS TAKEN  
WITHOUT FORM.\*\***

***HOTEL CHECK-IN TIME IS 4 P.M.  
HOTEL CHECK-OUT TIME IS 12 NOON***

