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# MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

# MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

June 2004

*Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance*

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

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## Message from the President

By Lori Webster

The legislative session has ended—or has it? The coming weeks should prove to be interesting as to what happens with some of the unresolved issues at the close of the legislative session. For now, it appears levy limits have ended for local governments—but as they say, it's not over until it's over!!

There will be no monthly meeting in June as the GFOA's national conference will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this month. I hope to see many of you there! This year, MnGFOA will be holding the Minnesota reception along with the Wisconsin and Illinois groups—a tri-state get-together. The Sunday, June 13 reception will be held at the Milwaukee Ale House, 233 North Water Street, from 4 to 6 p.m. I have been informed that busing will be available from certain conference hotels to our reception and then from the reception to the GFOA Welcome reception at 6 p.m. Remember to wear your badges, and I hope to see you there!!

In addition to the national conference, other training opportunities are available to members. This August, GFOA will be coming to Minneapolis with several selections for training. For more information, please visit [www.gfoa.org](http://www.gfoa.org). Also, I had an opportunity to sit in on one of our local conference committee's meetings and I have to tell you, it certainly promises to be an excellent conference this September! Stay tuned for more details.

The executive board has been working for quite some time on improving the services we as an organization provide to our members. As part of this, we have contracted with Decision Resources to conduct a survey of our members to solicit your comments and ideas. To conduct a statistical survey, naturally only a sample of members will actually be contacted.

The executive board and I ask that if you are one of the lucky members surveyed, please take the time to complete and return it as your response WILL make a difference! We hope to have the surveys out soon and returned by late summer so that the results will be presented to members at the fall conference. As a member of the organization, you—and your comments—are important to us all! If you have any questions on this, feel free to contact myself or another member of the executive board.

## No Lunch This Month

You'll have to go somewhere else this month to satisfy your craving for rainbow sherbet. With the national GFOA conference running June 13-16, there will be no MnGFOA luncheon. We hope to see you at the Minnesota/Wisconsin/Illinois reception in Milwaukee, but if you can't make the trip, mark your calendar for our next luncheon date—July 14 ... and, in the meantime, you might find a scoop of Pavarotti at Sebastian Joe's to be a nice change of pace. ☺

## 2004 MnGFOA Dates

### Monthly Meetings:

July 14	August 18	[No Sept mtg]
October 20	November 17	December 15

### Conference/Training:

GFOA Annual Conference Milwaukee, WI	June 13-16
GFOA Training Seminar Minneapolis, MN	August 23-27
MnGFOA Annual Conference Alexandria, MN	Sept 21-24

# Committee o r n e r

## Executive Committee Update

At the May 19 Executive Committee meeting, the minutes of the April 21 meeting were approved. Highlights from those minutes:

- Discussion was held regarding the current format of the website's ListServ. The Technology committee is working with our website administrator to address areas of concern.
- A representative from the firm we have engaged to perform a comprehensive membership survey was present to discuss the firm's proposal and coordinate the next steps with the committee. Read this month's President's Message for more information.
- The Scholarship Committee received ten applications for the John B. Lilja Undergraduate Scholarship this year. The Executive Committee approved the Scholarship Committee's recommendation to award two \$1,000 scholarships. We hope the recipients will be able to attend the Fall Conference in Alexandria to accept their scholarship checks.

## 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 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, please fill out the form on the following page and mail it in by Friday, July 16. Tickets will be mailed to you prior to the game. If you have any questions, please call Tonya Weinert, Washington County, at (651) 430-6044.

## Attention: Associate Members – Annual Conference Advertising

A message from John Sander of the Conference Committee:

The 2004 annual conference will be at Arrowwood again this year, September 22-24. Associate members are invited to place an advertisement in the annual conference program. Your ad will be seen by hundreds of finance officers and help to defray conference costs for members. There will again be no increase in ad prices this year. The advertising opportunities and related costs are:

1/4 Page	(3¼"W x 4½"L)	\$200
1/2 Page	(7"W x 4½"L)	\$325
Full Page	(7"W x 9"L)	\$450

Please email a **clean** copy of your ad to [jsander@northlandsecurities.com](mailto:jsander@northlandsecurities.com) by **July 31, 2004**. The quality of your program ad will only be as good as what you send us. Accepted formats are PDF (Adobe), DOC (MS Word), and PPT (PowerPoint).

Mail your check payable to "MnGFOA" to: John Sander, Northland Securities, Inc., 45 South 7th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

This is an excellent way to keep your name before the membership and support the association at the same time. Thanks to all of you who purchased ads last year. We're looking forward to a great conference and hope to see you at Arrowwood this Fall!

## Golf Outing!

This year's golf outing will be on Tuesday, August 3, at the Chaska Town Course at 3000 Town Course Drive. The registration form will be available very soon at [www.mngfoa.org](http://www.mngfoa.org) under Outings. 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.

# SUMMER

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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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## Past Presidents/Retirees Reunion

Remember how significant a feat it was a few years ago when five former U.S. Presidents were assembled together at one event? Well, MnGFOA Past President Lyle Haney shattered that record when he assembled 23 former Presidents recently at Jax Café. Forty-three people in all attended the April 22 Past Presidents/Retirees Reunion event that Lyle spearheaded.

The program included prepared comments by several Past Presidents and impromptu speeches and storytelling by almost everyone else. It was clear from the remarks that MnGFOA has grown and changed over the years, but throughout its history, the association consistently has provided great value and unwavering service to its membership.

On the lighter side, separate stories were told of two MnGFOA retirees who shared similar challenges in their careers. Each—at separate conferences—accidentally locked himself out of his hotel room without, shall we say, appropriate hallway attire. (Was it really only because the bathroom door and the hallway door looked so much alike?)

Several awards were presented: Darrel Johnson was recognized for having traveled the farthest to attend; Ernie Clark received the award for longest municipal finance-related career; Miles Johnson had been retired the longest time; and Fred Christiansen had been retired the shortest time.

Just as Lyle predicted ... a good time was had by all!

Lyle handed out a few commemorative coffee mugs from past national conferences. Now, take a good look at these 23 good-looking Past Presidential “mugs” below:



*FRONT ROW, from left:* Mike Webster, 1997; Sharon Legg, 2002; Beth Widstrom-Anderson, 1996; Lori Johnson, 1999; Lori Webster, 2004; Ed Burrell, 2001.

*MIDDLE ROW:* Lyle Haney, 1975-76; Richard Schultz, 1978-79; Charlie DARTH, 1980-81; Dale Eggenberger, 1983; Al Rolek, 2000; John Norman, 1994; Darrel Johnson, 1993; Gary Norstrom, 1977-78; Fred Christiansen, 1988.

*BACK ROW:* Duane Schuck, 1979-80; Norm Werner, 1967-68; Dallas Petersen, 1982; Marv Brunsell, 1970-71; Gene VanOverbeke, 1985; Tom Kelly, 2003; Paul Holmlund, 1968-69; Miles Johnson, 1964-65. (Photo by Greg Sticha)

## JOB POSTINGS

**Please visit our website at [www.mnqfoa.org](http://www.mnqfoa.org) for a complete list of current openings. Be sure to check back throughout the month as new listings are added and updated. To get your job postings on the web, email Tom Pepper at [tpepper@cityofeagan.com](mailto:tpepper@cityofeagan.com) or call him at 651-675-5017.**

## Message from the Editor

My attempts to generate some activity in the editor's mailbag (or even one email!) have so far been fruitless. Nevertheless, my spirit is undaunted, so we'll try something else. ☺ Certainly, a little mathematical brain stimulation is good for all of us ... and maybe it will even spur a response!

Remember Monty Hall and the "Let's Make a Deal" TV show? Suppose you're a contestant and Monty gives you the choice of three doors. Behind one door is a new car, and behind the other two, goats. You pick a door, say Door #1, and Monty, who knows what's behind all the doors, opens another door, say Door #3, which has a goat. Then, as he always does with his contestants, he offers you this option: "Do you want to stay with Door #1? Or do you want to trade it for what's behind Door #2?" Assuming you want to give yourself the best odds of winning the car, should you switch? Stay with your first choice? Or does it matter?

A woman claiming to have the world's highest IQ says you double your chances of winning if you switch. Do you agree?

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



**WELCOME SUMMER!**

