



MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

June 2007

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President

By Greg Sticha

Well happy summer to everyone! Let's hope we all have a fun safe summer and winter isn't here by September.

In early may our audit was fully underway here in Chanhassen, and a couple new pronouncements have me considering a career change. Thanks to SAS no. 112 and GASB no. 44, this years audit has been as fun as ever. I think during this year's audit we spent as much time preparing the statistical section of our CAFR, than we did the rest of the CAFR. It seems each year we have a pronouncement of some sort that keeps evolving us and our CAFR's.

So it gets me curious when will we all have the "Perfect CAFR"? Each year we make major improvement's to our internal controls or the way our CAFR is presented, so the theory would be at some point this thing we produce each year must be getting closer to perfection. Or is it as the national GFOA has hinted at, that GASB may not be as helpful a body as it was intended to be when it was created.

Each of you has your own opinion on this topic I am sure. (Even Robin) I am not here to take a side on this topic, but I do believe that the GFOA at least questioning GASB, and considering a move away from that body isn't a bad thing. It makes sense that as everything evolves, some tough questions need to be pondered. This to me holds true in almost all aspects of life and work. If we just all follow blindly and no one questions authority or attempts to be creative, this world of ours would not have many of the amazing creations we do.

I do know one thing, all this deep thought has given me a headache and I now need a nap. (It could also be my auditors have given me the headache, either case I need a nap). I would like to thank everyone who attended our quarterly training at Mankato in May. I was not able to attend, but my sources have told me that Dan Jordet and Jessie Hart did a fabulous job with the topic of capital planning. It was also nice to hear that there were a few new faces at the training that we have not seen in the past.

One last reminder to those of you who are attending the national conference in June, the Minnesota reception will be Sunday night from 7-9 pm at the House of Blues. If you are attending and did not receive a letter from me giving you the information please call or email me and I will be happy to tell you more about it. Hope to see you all there!!!

**NO JUNE MEETING IN
MINNESOTA. SEE YOU IN
ANAHEIM!**

2007 Meeting Dates

Monthly Meetings:

July 18 - Quarterly Training

August 15 – Meeting on the St. Croix

September – Annual conference

Annual Conferences:

GFOA – Anaheim, California

June 10-13

MnGFOA – Alexandria, MN

Sept. 19-21

Annual Conference Advertising

The 2007 Annual Conference will be at Arrowwood again this year, September 19–21, 2007. The theme this year is “Riding the Highway of Change.” 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:

¼ page	\$225
½ page	\$350
Full page	\$475

Email a “clean” black and white copy of your ad to George Eilertson at geilertson@northlandsecurities.com by **August 15, 2007**. If you placed an ad in the 2006 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 it to:

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

We are looking forward to a great conference and hope to see you at Arrowwood this fall.

Cha-Cha-Cha-Changes....

- Mahtomedi City Staff welcomed Roxane Smith on Monday April 23 as she began her new role as Finance Director. Roxane previously worked for the State of Minnesota and the City of Columbia Heights.
- Larry Jacobson started as the new Finance Director in the City of Robbinsdale on May 23rd. Larry had been at the City of Plymouth. Congratulations Larry!

Committee

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Executive Committee Update

The Executive committee did not meet in May.

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Golf Outing. Thursday, August 30, 2007 at Noon at Oak Marsh Golf Course. Look for more information in the July Newsletter.



JOB POSTINGS

CONTROLLER

SouthWest Transit, a joint powers agency created by the Cities of Eden Prairie, Chanhassen and Chaska is accepting applications for the position of Controller. Responsibilities include overall financial management of the agency, preparation of the annual and capital budget and CAFR, investments, grant management, payroll and benefit administration and risk management. Supervises two full-time staff. Requires a bachelor's degree in finance, public administration or a related area and five or more progressively responsible years of related experience including public sector accounting experience. Thorough knowledge of GAAFR, GAAP, GASB and other application state and federal laws is required. Previous experience with transit, grants management, Human Resources and or Information Technology is desired.

Salary is commensurate with experience. Salary range is \$57,396 - 86,095 with benefits. For position description and application visit www.swtransit.org or call 952-974-3103 or call Bonnie Carlson at 952-974-3103. Applications should be sent to Human Resources, SouthWest Transit, 13500 Technology Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55344. Applications will be reviewed upon receipt and recruitment will continue until position is filled. SouthWest Transit is an equal opportunity employer.

***State of Minnesota
Team Leader-Audit***

***ASST. FINANCE DIRECTOR
CITY OF HASTINGS***

The Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor's Financial Audit Division has a rare opportunity for experienced auditors. The office is seeking applicants for its Team Leader audit position. This leadership role helps guide less experienced auditors in their understanding of audit standards, audit tools and techniques, and assessing audit results, and supervises audit teams.

The office's Financial Audit Division is a professional, nonpartisan audit office. Its mission is to strengthen accountability and promote good management in government. The division audits state government operations, including the state's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, federal "Single Audit" compliance, and internal control and compliance audits of over 150 state agencies, boards, and commissions. The division has about 40 professional staff.

The office is committed to work/life balance. Realistic audit budgets emphasize quality over quantity; overtime is not expected. Travel is less than 10%. The office encourages flexible work schedules and telecommuting. Audit personnel are part of the state's classified services and receive the full range of state employee benefits, including: 11 paid holidays; 2½ weeks vacation; 2½ weeks sick leave; health, dental, and life insurance; and a defined benefit pension plan.

Applicants must have a bachelor's or Master's degree in Accounting, work experience demonstrating the ability to plan and execute audits and supervise audit teams, and a CPA license. Preference will be given to those with advanced database query skills (Access or SQL), financial statement experience, government auditing or accounting experience, or knowledge of state operations and accounting systems.

Submit your letter of interest and resume to:

Eric Jacobson, Business Manager
Office of the Legislative Auditor
140 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The City of Hastings is now hiring for an Assistant Finance Director. This is a dynamic position responsible for assisting the Finance Director in all areas of Finance Department operations, including performing technical accounting and fiscal management tasks and directing the work of non-supervisory employees. Strong interpersonal skills, effective supervision skills, and the ability to work independently and direct work processes are essential skills. The successful candidate will have a bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance, at least five years experience in professional accounting, with two years of municipal accounting experience and at least one year of supervisory experience. Must have strong communication and organizational skills, and be able to work both independently and in a team environment.

2007 starting salary is high \$50's plus an excellent benefit package. For more information and to obtain an employment application, visit the City of Hastings at www.ci.hastings.mn.us or call 651-480-2350. Resumes may accompany but will not be accepted in lieu of a City application. Applications received by the Assistant City Administrator by 4:30 p.m., Friday June 8, 2007 are assured consideration. **THE CITY OF HASTINGS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.**

For more information, contact Cecile Ferkul at (651) 297-2507 or cecile.ferkul@state.mn.us

Robin Roland
City of Farmington
325 Oak Street
Farmington, MN 55024



Message from the Editor

Send your job openings, ads, career moves, or other items of note to me by the 20th of this month and I'll put them in the next newsletter. Thanks to everyone who sends me their newsworthy items!

Thanks!
Robin Roland
City of Farmington
325 Oak Street
Farmington, MN 55024
651-463-1880
rroland@ci.farmington.mn.us



