



---

MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
**MnGFOA NEWSLETTER**

June 2008

*Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance*

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

---

## Message from the President

The Legislature is done with their work for the year – and now ours begins anew with the 2009 budget cycle. And, oh look, they left us a present – three years of LEVY LIMITS! Joy! Rapture! But the State budget is balanced – for awhile at least. (We will pretend there is no next biennium.)

Gary Carlson and Jen O'Rourke from the League of Minnesota Cities visited our overflowing May luncheon meeting (a comment on that later too) to tell us about their adventures at the Capitol. They had almost 48 hours after the end of session to catch up on their sleep and gave us 30 jam packed minutes of information on everything from LGA to Utility host community aid. It was informative and entertaining. Look for their 2008 Law Summaries document in mid-June.

Thanks to Gary and Jen for their dedication to public service and their incredible knowledge of all things legislative.

I noted before that the May luncheon was overflowing. Its four months until we get back to the Sheraton Four Points - all our meetings are at other locations until October - but we can't seem to estimate our attendance quite right no matter how hard we try to. Ron Hedberg is the guy charged with the estimating, so please help him out come October by calling or signing up on the website.

That's right; we are "out" until October! There is no June meeting here because 85 of our members will be attending the National GFOA conference in Fort Lauderdale, June 15 – 18. If you are one of the 85, please let Bruce DeJong know where you are staying so he can put together a contact list – and be sure to look for your letter from me about hospitality in Florida.

July and August we are combining business with pleasure. The social, education and program committees are all working together to provide our monthly meetings with a different flavor. Make sure you see the related articles in this newsletter.

And of course, our September meeting is the Annual State Conference in Alexandria. Look for all the registration information in July's newsletter.

Finally, this is just THE BEST. Congratulations to Lynn Moser of the City of St. Paul. Lynn is the 2008 recipient of the \$5,000 *George A. Nielsen Public Investor Scholarship* from National GFOA. Lynn is completing her business degree at Northwestern College. She has worked for the City for 19 years and is currently their cash/investment manager. Lynn's long term goal is to be a City or County Treasurer. GFOA couldn't have made a better choice! We are ecstatic for Lynn and plan on making lots of noise at the National Business Meeting when she is introduced. We are proud to have her as one of Minnesota's GFOA members.

Make it a great month.

Robin

**NO JUNE MEETING IN  
MINNESOTA. SEE  
YOU IN FORT  
LAUDERDALE!**

## FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE JULY QUARTERLY TRAINING

The Education Committee is pleased to announce our July quarterly training to be held Wednesday July 16, 2008 at Cragun's on Gull Lake. Our speakers will be Jonathan North, Dave Callister and Bruce Kimmel of Ehlers & Associates, Inc. The topic will be on Long-term Financial Planning. This session will discuss how long-term financial planning for the general and utility funds can guide policy and make tough political decisions easier for your City Council. Specifically, we will explore hands-on how cities can consider all of their operating and capital needs as a whole and project their impact on future tax levies. We will walk through the necessary building blocks: from setting project objectives and information gathering, to data analysis and measuring outputs. Equally important, we will discuss how the Council interacts throughout this process and to ensure ownership of the process.

The session will be from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., lunch will be from 12:15 – 1:00 p.m. The social committee has planned some fun activities for networking in the afternoon, pontoon rides on Gull Lake and for those who would rather stay on dry land, golf for \$79. Rooms are available for \$129 per night. Registration and additional information will be available from GTS at [www.mngts.org](http://www.mngts.org). If you have any questions, please call Sue Iverson, Education Committee chair at (651) 792-7816 or [sue.iverson@ci.arden-hills.mn.us](mailto:sue.iverson@ci.arden-hills.mn.us).

### 2008 Meeting Dates

#### Monthly Meetings

No June Meeting

July 16 – Quarterly Training

August 20 – Boat Cruise - location to be determined

No September Meeting – Annual Conference

October 15

November 19 – Quarterly Training

December 10

#### Education Training Dates:

October 22 – Beginning Gov. Accounting – St. Cloud

October 23 - Intermediate Gov. Accounting – Metro area

November 19 – Topic to be determined

#### Annual Conferences:

GFOA – Fort Lauderdale, FL June 15-18, 2008

MnGFOA – Alexandria, MN Sept. 24-26, 2008

# Committee

## Executive Committee Update

The Executive Committee met in May and took the following actions:

- Approved April meeting minutes
- Approved check register for April
- Approved the Treasurer's Report for April
- Discussed the plan to sponsor a reception at the National GFOA training which will held in Minneapolis in August.
- Awarded the John B Lilja Scholarship awards for 2008 (See Scholarship article)
- Awarded the Lori Ann Webster AGFI Scholarship for 2008 (See Scholarship article)
- Postponed discussion of the MnGFOA representation on the Accounting and Auditing Student Conference Committee until a future date.

## COME ONE, COME ALL, TO SOME FUN AFTERNOON EVENTS AT CRAGUNS!!



There is room for up to 65 people to do some relaxing boating on Gull Lake. Bring a fishing pole if you like or just kick back and enjoy the scenery. Light refreshments will be available on the pontoons. The adventure will be from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. However, you must reserve in advance with GTS. This event will be sponsored by the MN GFOA. You can call Lynn Cornwell at Wells Fargo with any questions at 612-667-9874.

If boating is not your thing, you can also head to the golf course. Cragun's is offering a really good deal at \$79. This will be at one of their two championship 9.5 star courses. Again, you must register in advance with GTS. Ron Hedberg at the City of Cottage Grove can help with any questions at 651-458-2832.



## Annual Conference Update

The 2008 Annual Conference recognizes that Together Everyone Achieves More...TEAM. Keynote speaker Dr. Alan Zimmerman will help set that tone with his opening session on rapport, respect and recognition. Session speakers will reinforce the theme with sessions as varied as building effective work teams, best purchasing practices, subprime market effects and healthcare options. Technical sessions will include internal control review, segregation of duties and the SAS suite and several sessions with Paul Glick. On the lighter side, Casino Night will make its return. The 2008 Annual Conference will be held at Arrowwood in Alexandria from Wednesday, September 24 through Friday September 26. Watch for registration information.

## Annual Conference Advertising

The 2008 Annual Conference will be at Arrowwood again this year, September 24 – 26, 2008. The theme this year is “Together Everyone Achieves More.” 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 (no increases) are as follows:

¼ Page	3 ¼” W x 4 ½” L	\$225
½ Page	7” x 4 ½” L	\$350
Full Page	7” W x 9” L	\$475

Please adhere to these sizes and orientations when submitting your ads. Email a “clean” black and white copy of your ad to George Eilertson at [geilertson@northlandsecurities.com](mailto:geilertson@northlandsecurities.com) by **August 15, 2008**.

If you placed an ad in the 2007 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 checks payable to “**MnGFOA**” and forward to:

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

NOTE – if you would like to pay for your ad with a credit card please contact me directly at 612-851-5906.

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.

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The Board of the MN Government Finance Officers Association wishes to extend their congratulations to the winners of the John B. Lilja Undergraduate Scholarship and the Lori Ann Webster Advanced Government Finance Institute Scholarship.

Theresa Harris from the College of St Catherine and Amy Friesen from Bethel University were selected for the John B. Lilja Scholarship out of twelve applicants. Theresa is a senior at St Catherine’s majoring in Accounting and Business Administration. She was named Outstanding Junior and Outstanding Senior in Accounting, serves as the Treasurer of the Investment Club, and is a member of Delta Mu Delta Honor Society.

Amy is a junior with a major in Business and emphasis in Accounting. She serves on the board of the Bethel Business and Economics Association and as a tutor in the business and economics department. She was selected by her professors for an internship at United Health.

Shelly Kolling, Finance Director at the City of Savage, was selected as recipient of the Lori Ann Webster AGFI Scholarship. She will attend the Advanced Government Institute in Madison Wisconsin at the end of July with the MN GFOA covering the cost of the workshop. Shelly has been a member of the MN GFOA for six years and worked in government finance for 15 years.



## Website News ~

The new website is almost complete. We should be going live shortly after you read this news letter. We will send out a listserv when it officially happens. Some of the new features will be added later, so check it out and let us know what you think. Many thanks go to Joel Merry for his hard work in getting the website set-up.

# JOB POSTINGS



## **CITY OF PRIOR LAKE SEEKS FINANCE DIRECTOR**

City of Prior Lake (pop. 23,000), a growing Minneapolis/St. Paul metro suburb located in Scott County, is seeking an energetic and experienced manager for the position of Finance Director. This is a highly responsible key administrative position responsible for long-term capital planning, investments and financial impact analysis, and all financial operations of the City. Qualified candidates will have a Bachelor's degree (masters preferred) in public finance, business administration, public administration or closely related field; 5 years financial experience including 3 years or more as a manager. Annual salary range is \$82,099 - \$100,532 DOQ plus excellent benefit package. A City application and a resume are required. Application deadline is July 14, 2008. For an application packet, visit our web site at [www.cityofpriorlake.com](http://www.cityofpriorlake.com); call Prior Lake City Hall at 952-447-9803 or email us at [cgreen@cityofpriorlake.com](mailto:cgreen@cityofpriorlake.com). Come be a part of our Prior Lake team!

Job posting are also made to the MnGFOA web site and you can check there on a continuing basis for new posting.

## **Congratulations To...**

The City of Monticello welcomes Karri Thorsten as their Senior Accountant replacing Paula Mastey, who is now at the City of Plymouth. Karri was working as an accounting supervisor for the State of Minnesota at the Central MN Jobs & Training Center in Monticello, prior to coming to the City. Before that, she worked for the Minnesota State Auditor's office in central Minnesota and the metro area. Karri served as a lead auditor on county and other public audits.

Congratulations to Jeanne Vogt on her new position with Elhers as a Utility Rate Specialist. Jeanne started her new position on May 18<sup>th</sup> and formerly worked for the City of Vadnais Heights.

Larry Jacobson  
City of Robbinsdale  
4100 Lakeview Avenue N  
Robbinsdale, MN 55422-2280



## Membership Information

If you need to update your membership information, because you have changed jobs, or for some other reason, you can do it online at the MnGFOA website. You will need your username and password. If you have forgotten your username and password, please email [timesaver1@aol.com](mailto:timesaver1@aol.com) with your request.

## Message from the Editor

If you wish to share any items of interest with the members I look forward to receiving them. Send your job openings, ads, career moves, or other items of note to me by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month and they will go in the next newsletter. Thanks!

Larry Jacobson, City of Robbinsdale  
4100 Lakeview Avenue North  
Robbinsdale, MN 55422-2280  
Phone: 763-531-1215  
Email: [Ljacobson@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us](mailto:Ljacobson@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us)

