



MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

June 2009

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President

By Larry Jacobson

At our May monthly meeting Gary Carlson and Jennifer O'Rourke from the League of Minnesota Cities presented on the topic of "Legislative Update". Unfortunately, it was more of a non-update as they had very little to report. The 2009 session ended without the governor and legislators reaching agreement on how to balance the remaining \$2.7 billion state budget deficit.

Gary and Jennifer summarized those items that did pass and provided insight as to what we might expect in the months ahead.

One of the components to balance the budget was the "shift" in revenue payments to school districts. Another component will be the unallotment process. It remains unknown what the amounts will be or when the unallotment will occur.

Gary's recommendation is to look at the January proposal of the governor's unallotment of LGA and MVHC and plan around that. That report is available at the LMC website at www.lmcmn.org. He tells us to expect a reduction in the LGA on the July and December payments this year and the MVHC payments in October.

Levy limits remain, as efforts to repeal them did not pass.

The limits will now have a new special levy provision that allows a city to declare a special levy for the unallotment reductions in LGA and MVHC. For taxes payable in 2010, the law will allow cities to declare a special levy for the December 2008 unallotment and they will also be able to declare a special levy for the unallotment of LGA and MVHC in 2009, as long as the amount is known by September 1. Other provisions are also included. These options will become important as we work our way through the levy limits and the unallotment provisions.

The current levy limit inflation factor, known as the implicit price deflator, is currently estimated to be only 0.76 percent. Last year the rate was at 6.1 percent but the levy limit formula only allowed increases of 3.9 percent.

Gary and Jennifer remind us to keep an eye on the LMC website for updates and current news as things develop. I would like to thank both of them for providing the great insight that they do each year, especially when things are unclear.

There are a lot of things coming up during the year that are included in the newsletter. Please take a look at them and put them on your calendar.

There is no June meeting as the National GFOA is in Seattle June 28 – July 1. There are currently approximately 50 members attending the annual conference. Please let Jim Knutson know where you are staying, if you haven't already, so he can update the contact list.

I will be in contact with members attending on details of a Minnesota member gathering on Sunday.

Have a great June and enjoy the summer!

Larry

**No June MnGFOA
Meeting and Luncheon
due to GFOA Annual
Conference. See you in
Seattle Washington!**

2009 Important Dates

MONTHLY MEETINGS/EVENTS:

- June 28-July 1, 2009 – National GFOA Conference, Seattle WA
- July 15, 2009 – Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- July 20-24, 2008 – GFOA National Training, Hyatt Regency Minneapolis
- August 19, 2009 – Monthly Luncheon & Boat Cruise at Stillwater
- September 23-25, 2009 – Annual Conference, Alexandria MN
- October 21, 2009 – Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- October 2009 – Beginning Governmental Acctg, St Cloud MN
- October 2009 – Advanced Governmental Acctg, Metro Area
- November 18, 2009 – Quarterly Training (topic TBD), Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- December 9, 2009 – Monthly Luncheon & Holiday Social, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis

PLEASE NOTE – The **Ramada Plaza Minneapolis** is the new affiliation, replacing the Sheraton Four Points effective May 28, 2009. Same place – new name!!

CHANGED JOBS OR CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGED?

Have you changed jobs or has your contact information changed recently? If so we would encourage you to update this information directly on the MnGFOA web site in the Members section under “Update Members Information.” If you do not remember your login information (user name and/or password) there is a link on the home page to make a request for that information to be emailed directly to you. The web site data base is the official member data base and should be current so to ensure you receive timely information from the organization; please keep your information current.
THANKS!

2009 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

<p><u>President</u> Larry Jacobson City of Robbinsdale 763.531.1215</p> <p><u>President Elect</u> Cathy Shuman City of Monticello 763.271.3204</p> <p><u>Secretary</u> Ron Hedberg City of Apple Valley 952.953.2500</p> <p><u>Treasurer</u> Jessie Hart Township of White Bear 651.747.2760</p>	<p><u>Past President</u> Robin Roland City of Farmington 651.280.6880</p> <p><u>At-Large</u> Daryl Sulander LOGIS 763.543.2607</p> <p><u>At-Large</u> Jennifer Vucinovich US Bank 651.466.8750</p> <p><u>State Rep</u> Jim Knutson City of Maple Grove 763.494.6321</p>
--	---

National GFOA Conference in Seattle

We are putting together a list of members attending the annual GFOA conference. If you are going and would like to share with others where you are staying please let us know. We will share the list with members who provide the information. The list has been useful in the past to assist attendees in locating other members from Minnesota. If you would like to provide your hotel information, please send an e-mail to our State Representative, Jim Knutson, at JKnutson@ci.maple-grove.mn.us.

Committee

Executive Committee Update

The 2009 Executive Committee met on May 20 for the monthly board meeting. Discussion included:

- Approval of April 2009 minutes and Treasurer's reports from April 2009
- Discussed Timesavers services
- 990 filing update
- Approval of GTS contract proposal for 2009
- Scholarship awards for Lori Webster AGFI and John Lilja Undergraduate



2009 MnGFOA Golf Outing – July 29

The Annual MnGFOA Golf Outing is booked for July 29 at the Oak Marsh Golf Course in Oakdale. The event will be a shotgun start at 11 a.m. – everyone starts at the same time, so you need to be there on time. All GFOA members are welcome from novice to experienced – it is a great time! Please register by July 9 by sending in the form and \$55 payment to Jim Eichten of MMKR (see form enclosed in this newsletter or available on the website).

Stillwater Boat Cruise on Deck for the August Luncheon Meeting

Please mark your calendars now for the August Luncheon Meeting which will be aboard a cruise boat on the St Croix at Stillwater. This will take place on Wednesday, August 19 with boarding at 11:30 a.m. and cruise from 12 to 2:30 p.m. More information on the luncheon and speaker in the July newsletter.



Plans are underway for the Boat Cruise in conjunction with the MnGFOA monthly luncheon on August 19. More details in upcoming newsletters.

National GFOA Training - Early Registration Deadline is June 19

The National GFOA will be offering a series of trainings from July 20-24, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis. Topics include Evaluating Internal Controls, Introduction to Performance Management, Preparing a CAFR, Advanced Governmental Accounting, and Investing Public Funds. For course descriptions and registration information, please visit their website at www.gfoa.org.

MnGFOA Scholarship Announcements

The Board of the MN Government Finance Officers Association wishes to extend their congratulations to the winner of the Lori Ann Webster Advanced Government Finance Institute Scholarship for 2009. Wilfredo Roman Catala, Director of Business Operations for Olmsted County, was selected as the recipient of the 2009 scholarship. He will attend the Advanced Government Finance Institute in Madison, Wisconsin at the end of July. The scholarship award covers the tuition cost for attending the Institute. Wilfredo has worked in government finance for the past 15 years including 4 years in Puerto Rico. Thank you to Ron Hedberg and Jessie Hart for reviewing and presenting the scholarship applications to the Board.

JOB POSTINGS

St. Croix County is seeking an accounting professional to perform complex accounting and finance functions in the Finance Department. Main areas of work will be in grants, capital projects and internal service funds. Will be assisting with the budget process, yearend financial statements and providing analysis to the labor negotiations team and the Finance Director. Requirements include a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or related field and three to five years of experience, preferably in governmental accounting. Excellent salary and benefits. Application & job description available from Human Resources, Government Center, 1101 Carmichael Road, Hudson, WI 54016 or www.co.saint-croix.wi.us. Phone 715-381-4310 for more information. **Applications must be received by June 5, 2009.** AA/EOE



MGFOA 2009 GOLF OUTING



Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Cost: \$55 per person, includes:
greens fees, golf cart, contests, and prizes.

GPS system including electronic tournament
scoring will be used

Place: Oak Marsh Golf Course,
526 Inwood Ave. No., Oakdale, MN 55128
www.wpgolf.com/oakmarsh

Time: Tee times @ **11:00 am**, - **A SHOTGUN START**,
(a shotgun start is when all golfers start (and hopefully finish) at the same time
with each foursome on a different hole.)

This tournament is for golfers of all skill levels. You do not have to be a good golfer to participate. This is a team event. Just come prepared to have a good time!! To promote the social aspect of this event, entries will be grouped in foursomes, mixing skill levels. After golfing, we will meet in the clubhouse area for the presentation of prizes. The registration deadline is Thursday, July 9, 2009.

We will be having a shotgun start, so all tee times at Noon. Please be at the course at least 30 minutes prior to the tee time. They have a grill available for lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Eichten at Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich at 952-545-0424 (email jeichten@mmkr.com) or Ron Hedberg at the City of Apple Valley, 952-953-2540, or email, rhedberg@ci.apple-valley.mn.us

Golf Outing Registration Form

Name(s) _____

Email: _____

Organization _____

**Make checks payable to MGFOA and mail
your registration form and payment to:**

Average score for 18 holes _____

MMKR
Attn: Jim Eichten
5353 Wayzata Blvd., Suite 410
Minneapolis, MN 55416

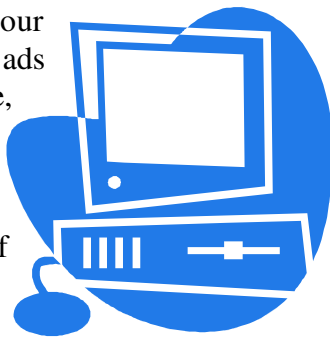
Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ for _____ golfers

Cathy Shuman
City of Monticello
505 Walnut Street
Monticello, MN 55362



Message from the Editor

Please send me any news for our newsletter: job openings, ads related to government finance, career moves, committee updates, or other noteworthy items. You are encouraged to submit general items of interest in any area of government finance. The cutoff date is the 20th of each month, and the newsletter will be emailed or mailed about the first day of the upcoming month. Thanks.



Cathy Shuman, City of Monticello
Cathy.shuman@ci.monticello.mn.us

505 Walnut Street, Suite 1
Monticello MN 55362
Phone: 763-271-3204
Fax: 763-295-4404

MnGFOA WEBSITE-CHECK IT OUT!

Have you seen the new look of the MN GFOA website? Now is the time to check it out! Go to www.mngfoa.org and be ready to browse our great new website. You can register for the monthly luncheon, check out previous newsletters, download forms, send a listserv, and so much more.

2009 MnGFOA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE

The 2009 Membership Directory is now available online. To access the document, you need to use the link provided by email to current members around the middle of May. If you are a paid-up member and you did not get the link or did not save it, please contact Jessie Hart at Jessie.hart@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us for assistance.

The webmaster is working on making the directory accessible via the website. Again, this would be available for members only and would require a user to be logged on for access.