



MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2011

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President

By: Ron Hedberg

I was fortunate to attend the 2011 National GFOA conference in San Antonio this past month. It was my first time in San Antonio and I was quite impressed with the planning that went into the area and the way all the different facilities are so convenient to one another. It is clear the San Antonio Riverwalk area was created to host conventions.

On Sunday night we hosted The Minnesota Welcome Reception at the Hilton Palacio del Rio Hotel it was well-attended and it was great to visit with many of the Minnesota delegation that stopped by.

It was interesting to hear a few of the National GFOA initiatives at the State Presidents and Representatives meeting on Saturday Afternoon. One of their new initiatives is an increase in the web based training opportunities, although they acknowledge that one important part of training programs that is missed in web based training is the sharing of information and methods in use by those in attendance. Another initiative is a program for assessing financial Management. Watch for future announcements OR check out the GFOA website and look for the FM Model or search on Assessing Your Financial Management Practice at the GFOA website.

Stephen Gauthier announced that a new GAFFR will be available this October and training on the new GAFFR will be coming this fall.

There are a number of topics to be on the outlook for; changes to the public pension reporting including restrictions to actuarial assumptions used, one with a huge impact to unfunded liabilities would be the requirement that a "risk free interest rate" be used in calculating projections.

We should all be very proud of the level of participation of several of our MnGFOA members and some nonmembers.

All throughout the conference Minnesota was well represented, MNGFOA Members speaking at the National Conference included: Merrill King (Minnetonka), Sue Iverson (Arden Hills), Dave Macgillivray (Springsted). Moderating sessions: Jeanne Haapala (Shoreview). They all represented our state in an outstanding fashion. Other speakers from Minnesota included: Heather Johnston and LaTonia Green both from Minneapolis.

There were a number of very good sessions on timely topics such as changes coming to the financial advisor relationships, budgeting for outcomes and performance and a number on new technologies.

The national conference is a great opportunity to network with financial officials from across our state, our region and across the county. The National GFOA conference as usual included great general sessions and technical sessions. If you were unable to attend, please remember that that GFOA offers the conference on CD-ROM.

If you weren't able to attend for funding reasons watch for the Robert Ehler's National GFOA Scholarship offered by Ehlers Inc. to offset some of the costs associated with the conference. Information should come out in late 2011 or early 2012 for next year's conference in Chicago.

ITEMS OF INTEREST IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

2011 ANNUAL MNGFOA CONFERENCE UPDATES

DRAFT 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

MONTHLY MEETING



DATE: Wednesday, June 15, 2011
LOCATION: Ramada Plaza, Minneapolis
TOPIC: Legislative Update
SPEAKERS: Gary Carlson, LMC
Jennifer O'Rourke, LMC
TIME: 11:30 am – Speaker
12:00 pm – Luncheon
LUNCH: Penne Pasta and Grilled Chicken (wild mushrooms, bell peppers and onions in a sun dried tomato sauce)
Strawberry Rhubarb Pie
COST: \$15.00

Topic

Legislative Update: Gary and Jennifer will provide an insightful update of recent legislative actions . . . or lack thereof . . . and potential impacts on local governments with a special session and possible state government shut down looming in the distance. You certainly do not want to miss this informative session!

Speaker Bios

Gary Carlson: Gary Carlson has been involved with Minnesota local government finance and taxation issues, including property taxation and local aids, for the past 28 years.

Currently, Gary is the Director of Intergovernmental Relations for the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC). The League is a membership organization representing over 800 cities across the state. For more than 85 years, LMC has provided research, communication, advocacy and insurance services to its members. As Director, Gary works with the Intergovernmental Relations Department to represent the League and its member cities before the State Legislature and other levels of government.

Prior to his employment with LMC, Gary worked for over five years with the St. Paul law firm of Briggs and Morgan concentrating on state legislative affairs, public finance and litigation support. He also worked from 1984 to 1986 for the City of Minneapolis in the Legislative Liaison Office. Gary attended Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter and the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

Jennifer O'Rourke: Jennifer is an Intergovernmental Relations Representative with LMC working in the areas of aid to cities, economic development and redevelopment, general revenue sources for cities, property tax system, TIF and liquor and tobacco. Jennifer has been involved with Minnesota state government and politics since the mid-90's, and has lobbied for the League since 2001.

Before beginning with LMC, Jennifer worked as a legislative staffer with the Minnesota Senate for six years. She served as the committee administrator for the Economic Development Committee under the chairmanship of both former Senator Jerry Janezich and Senator Tracy Beckman. Jennifer completed her undergraduate degree in political science and public administration at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse after growing up on a farm in southern Minnesota.

Reservations: It is preferred that you register on the MnGFOA website (www.mngfoa.org) – there is a link on the home page to register for the luncheon event. You can pay for the luncheon online also!! You could also send an email to Dan Jordet at djordet@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us or leave him a voice mail at (763) 569-3345 **NO LATER THAN Friday, June 10, 2011**. Please remember to pre-register for the luncheon to provide that enough meals are ordered and tables set up for the meeting. Thank you for your cooperation.

National GFOA On-line Training Opportunities



Train without the travel with GFOA's Internet Offerings – ALL courses take place from 1:00 to 3:00 pm (CT) and will earn you 2 CPE credits with your participation. The registration fee for most seminars is \$85.00 for Active/Associate GFOA Members and \$160 for Nonmembers. Upcoming training events include the following:

- Building a Better Budget Document – June 8, 2011
- Equity Revisited: Practical Guidance on How to Report Fund Balance & Net Assets – June 15, 2011

Visit www.gfoa.org for additional information and to register for these and any other training opportunities offered by GFOA.

COMMITTEE

ORNER Executive Committee Update

The Executive Committee met on May 18th and took the following actions:

- Approved meeting minutes from April 2011.
- Approved check registers and Treasurer's report for April 2011.
- Awarded scholarships for three of the four scholarship programs (see related article in this newsletter).
- Heard updates from committees.
- Discussed "social" activities and other aspects of the 2011 Annual Conference in Alexandria.

Annual Conference Update

Happy June – only a few more days (weeks... months...) until it is nice and warm! The Conference Committee is pleased to announce that we have received some GREAT feedback with the survey that was sent out at the beginning of May. Thank you to everyone who participated. After taking into account the responses to the survey, we have compiled a DRAFT schedule for the conference. This DRAFT schedule is included with this month's newsletter. There will likely be a few minor changes before the final schedule is released, but we wanted to give you an idea of what sessions are planned for September.

Watch for the conference registration and lodging forms for this year's conference which will be included in the July and August newsletters. Please keep in mind that rooms at Arrowwood CANNOT be reserved at the negotiated rate without the lodging form that will be provided with the registration information.

If you have any questions about the schedule or how to register for the conference, please feel free to contact Conference Committee Chair Katie Reed at kreed@ci.jordan.mn.us or Conference Committee Vice-Chair Dawn Koenig at dawn.koenig@co.hennepin.mn.us.

We are looking forward to another successful conference and hope to see everyone in Alexandria, September 21 – 23, 2011.

Annual Conference Advertising

The 2011 Annual Conference will be at Arrowwood again this year, September 21 – 23, 2011. The theme this year is "Finding Ways: Excellence Under Pressure."

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 MnGFOA Board has discontinued the printed membership directory and has enhanced this Conference advertising opportunity by printing these ads in color. Note – this is the Minnesota GFOA's ONLY Associate member advertising opportunity! The related costs are as follows:

¼ Page	3 ¼" W x 4 ½" L	\$300
½ Page	7" W x 4 ½" L	\$450
Full Page	7" W x 9" L	\$600

Please adhere to these sizes and orientations when submitting your ads. Email a "clean" color or black and white copy of your ad to George Eilertson at geilertson@northlandsecurities.com by **August 12, 2011**. If you placed an ad in previous years, 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:

Northland Securities, Inc.
Attn: George Eilertson, Sr. Vice President
45 South Seventh Street - #2000
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

NOTE – if you would like to pay for your ad with a credit card please contact George 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

John B. Lilja Undergraduate

Scholarship: The Board of the MN Government Finance Officers Association wishes to extend their congratulations to the winners of the 2011 John B. Lilja Undergraduate Scholarship. Katylynn Martin from St. Mary's University of Minnesota and Rebecca Kiernan of Metropolitan State University were selected for the John B. Lilja Scholarship out of six applications from as many different colleges. You may recognize Rebecca's name, and you are correct, Rebecca is currently employed in the Finance Department at the City of Fridley. Applicants are reviewed on a number of different attributes but one of the key attributes is a demonstrated interest in the governmental accounting field.

Lori A. Webster Advanced Government Finance

Institute Scholarship: The Board of the Minnesota Government Finance Officers Association wished to extend their congratulations to the winners of the 2011 Lori A. Webster Advanced Government Finance Institute Scholarship. Sandy Christensen, Finance Director for the City of West St. Paul and Julie Nordmeier, Accounting Coordinator for the City of Northfield we selected as the recipients of the Lori A. Webster Advanced Government Finance Institute Scholarship out of four applicants.

Sandy and Julie both displayed their dedication to and desire to contribute to the future of government finance. Good luck in Madison and we look forward to a full report at the Annual Conference in September.

Springsted Scholarship (Annual MnGFOA Conference Registration):

The Board of the Minnesota Government Finance Officers Association awarded the 1st Springsted Scholarship for Annual MnGFOA Conference Registration to Heidi Tumberg who is currently the accountant for the City of Mound. While the Scholarship authorizes two awards, Heidi was the only applicant for the Springsted Scholarship.

Heidi currently serves on the Student Conference committee and has indicated her interest in getting involved on the Conference Committee also.

The Board also thanks Springsted for providing this educational opportunity to our members.

Book Roundtable 2011 Annual Conference

Due to the success of the book roundtable at last year's conference, the Conference Committee has decided to again include the roundtable at this year's conference. This year the book to be discussed is "ADKAR: A Model for Change in Business, Government and our Community: How to Implement Successful Change in our Personal Lives and Professional Careers" by Jeffrey M. Hiatt.

Why do some changes fail while others succeed? How can you make sense of the many tools and approaches for managing change? How can you lead change successfully, both in your personal life and professional career? After more than 14 years of research with corporate change, the ADKAR model has emerged as a holistic approach that brings together the collection of change management work into simple, results oriented model. This model ties together all aspects of change management including readiness assessments, sponsorship, communications, coaching, training and resistance management. All of these activities are placed into a framework that is oriented on the required phases for realizing change with individuals and the organization.

The Conference Committee has been able to secure a limited number of copies of this book for those interested in participating in the 2011 book roundtable discussion. If you are interested in the book discussion, please contact either Katie Reed at kreed@ci.jordan.mn.us or Heather Casperson at caspersonoh@pfm.com. The books will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. We would strongly encourage those who receive a free copy of the book to attend the roundtable discussion. Please do not request a copy if you do not plan on attending the discussion at the conference. If we are unable to provide free copies to all members who are interested in this book, it is also available on Amazon.com.



2011 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

<p>President Ron Hedberg City of Apple Valley rhedberg@ci.apple-valley.mn.us 651.458.2540</p>	<p>Past President Cathy Shuman City of Monticello cathy.shuman@ci.monticello.mn.us 763.271.3204</p>
<p>President Elect Jessie Hart White Bear Township jessie.hart@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us 651.747.2760</p>	<p>At-Large Peggy Moeller HLB Tautges Redpath Ltd. pmoeller@hlbtr.com 651.407.5832</p>
<p>Secretary Cory Kampf City of Brooklyn Park cory.kampf@brooklynpark.org 763.493.8150</p>	<p>At-Large Sue Kotchevar City of Eden Prairie skotchevar@edenprairie.org 952.949.8386</p>
<p>Treasurer Dan Jordet City of Brooklyn Center djordet@co.brooklyn-center.mn.us 763.569.3345</p>	<p>State Representative Darin Nelson City of Fridley NelsonD@ci.fridley.mn.us 763.572.3520</p>

2011 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conference Committee	Katie Reed City of Chanhassen	kreed@ci.chanhassen.mn.us 952.227.1144
Education Committee	Tom Kelly City of Monticello	tom.kelly@ci.monticello.mn.us 763.271.3211
Program Committee	Jennifer Vucinovich US Bank	jennifer.vucinovich@usbank.com 651.466.8750
Social Committee	Sharon Kutzke City of Ham Lake	skutzke@ci.ham-lake.mn.us 763.235.1668
Technology Committee	Joe Rueb City of Maplewood	joe.rueb@ci.maplewood.mn.us 651.249.2903
Selection Committee	Greg Sticha City of Chanhassen	gsticha@ci.chanhassen.mn.us 952.227.1100

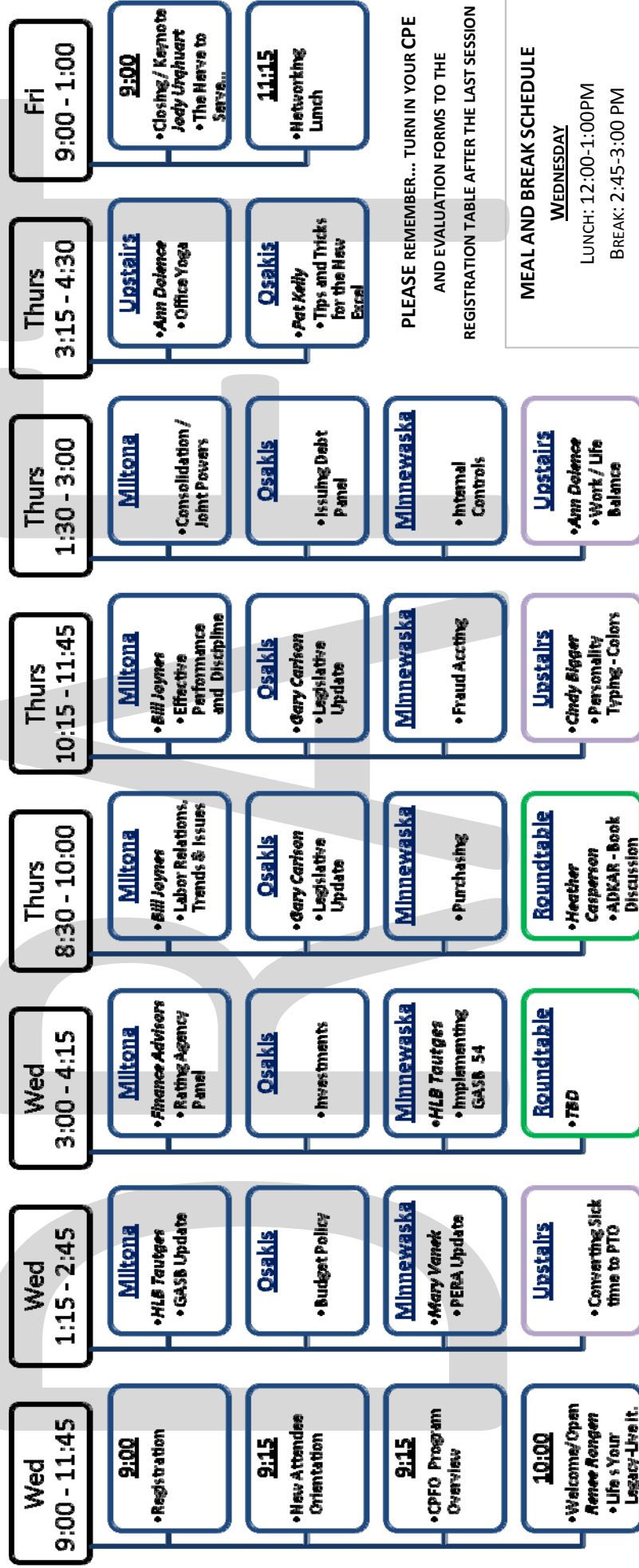
If you wish to know more about or help out on any of these committees, please contact the person(s) listed above.



Finding Ways: Excellence Under Pressure



MnGFOA 48th Annual Conference – September 21 to 23, 2011
 Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center, Alexandria, MN



PLEASE REMEMBER... TURN IN YOUR CPE AND EVALUATION FORMS TO THE REGISTRATION TABLE AFTER THE LAST SESSION

MEAL AND BREAK SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY
 LUNCH: 12:00-1:00PM
 BREAK: 2:45-3:00 PM
 DINNER: 7:00 PM

THURSDAY
 BREAKFAST: 7:30 AM
 BREAK: 10:00-10:15 AM
 BUSINESS LUNCH: 12:00-1:30 PM
 BREAK: 3:00-3:15 PM
 DINNER: 7:00 PM

FRIDAY
 CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST: 7:30 AM
 NETWORKING LUNCH: 11:15 AM

YOUR REGISTRATION FEES COVER THE COST OF THESE SESSIONS, MEALS, AND BREAKS

ADDITIONAL MEAL TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED AT THE REGISTRATION TABLE

Breakfast	\$xx.xx
Lunch	\$xx.xx
Dinner	\$xx.xx

CONFERENCE CONTACT INFORMATION
 KATIE REED, Chair
kreed@ci.jordan.mn.us 952-492-2535

ROOM RESERVATIONS
 USE ARROWWOOD RESERVATION FORM

DAWN KOENIG, Vice-Chair
dawn.koenig@co.hennepin.mn.us 612-348-8837

2011 Important Dates

MONTHLY MEETINGS / EVENTS (event times and locations could change so please check the website or the calendar in the monthly newsletters for updates):

- June 7, 2011 – Training: In-Depth Training – Excel Modeling, the Lodge in Baxter
- June 15, 2011 – Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- July 20, 2011 – Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- August 17, 2011 – Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- September 21 – 23, 2011 – Annual MnGFOA Conference, Alexandria, MN
- October 5 or 6, 2011 – Beginning Governmental Accounting, Marshall, MN area
- October 11, 2011 – Intermediate Governmental Accounting, Hermantown, MN
- October 13, 2011 – Intermediate Governmental Accounting, Mankato, MN
- October 19, 2011 – Monthly Luncheon, Radisson Hotel Roseville
- October 26, 2011 – Advanced Governmental Accounting, Minneapolis/St. Paul area
- November 16, 2011 – Extended Monthly Luncheon Topic: How To Communicate Effectively To The Public, Council and Staff, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- November 16, 2011 – Annual Food Drive in conjunction with November Luncheon
- December 14, 2011 – Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- December 14, 2011 – Annual Toys for Tots Collection in conjunction with December Luncheon

Jessie Hart
White Bear Township
1281 Hammond Road
White Bear Township, MN 55110



Message from the Editor

By: Jessie Hart



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 20th of each month and they will go in the next newsletter. Thanks!

Contact information: Jessie Hart
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White Bear Township, MN 55110
jessie.hart@ci.white-bear-
township.mn.us
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