

MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

March 2003

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: Tom Kelly

Hello again everyone! Only in Minnesota (at least when I started writing this message) can the temperatures be 10 degrees or colder, an inch or more of snow falling and registration for the summer sport season is now under way. At least it gives us something to look forward to, unless you are a winter weather person. Speaking of winter, the GFOA national committees held their annual winter meeting January 23rd and 24th in Washington DC. Attending the meetings from MnGFOA were Al Rolek, Pat Born, Lynne Harrington and myself.

I would encourage you to ask any of these individuals on their thoughts on the meetings and about serving on a committee. For me it has been a great experience. One of the items the Budget Committee has been working on over the last couple of years is the GFOA Digital Finance Library (DFL). The DFL is available online at www.gfoa.org and provides professionals with current sources of information including GFOA research, articles, reports, sample policies, best practices, and links to finance-related data and organizations. The DFL is divided into six sections, which mirror GFOA's committees. This is a work in progress and I would encourage you to take some time to look at the DFL and submit any suggestions, comments, or best practices to the DFL webmaster.

It was wonderful to have the exceptional turnout for the February monthly meeting. The February meeting featured the new State Auditor Pat Awada. Ms. Awada described what she would like to see accomplished in her tenure. Included in her goals were working together with local officials and reorganizing the State Auditors Office. She is already busy revising the TIF Division of the Office. She hopes to publish best practices and easy to understand standards. Ms. Awada is also to update State Statutes in an effort to reduce inefficiencies at both the State and Local level.

As expected, cuts in aids to local governments were contained in the Governor's proposed budget and we expect some form of these cuts will be in revisions the State Legislator arrives at over the next several months. Many, if not all of us, have or will be working on plans to trim our current budget and prepare for tight budgets for 2004. Knowing these cuts are on the horizon the MnGFOA Board discussed and agreed to maintain MnGFOA fees for luncheons, trainings and conferences at current cost levels.

I hope to see all of you at the March meeting, which is the annual CAFR review seminar.

MARCH MEETING NOTICE

Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2003
Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points
Topic: CAFR Review Presentation

Speaker: Mark Gibbs , Partner
HLB Tautges, Redpath, Ltd
Peggy Moeller, Principal
HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd
Meal: Bowtie Pasta Primavera
Time: 10:30AM – Welcome and Program
12:00PM - Lunch & Business Meeting
1:00PM - Executive Committee Meeting
Cost: \$ 20.00 – Register at the Door
(Payment required regardless if staying
for meal)

Reservation: Please leave your reservation with Chris Miller at the City of Roseville at 651-490-2210 or on our website at www.mngfoa.org by THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2003.
(Vegetarian meal choice is available).

MARCH MEETING TOPIC

In order to make this an informative session, Mark Gibbs, HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd., needs your comments received from GFOA for 2001 CAFR's. The more recommendations they receive the more information they can share with us.

Please send copies of your comments along with a 2001 CAFR to Mark Gibbs, HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd., 4810 White Bear Parkway, White Bear Lake, MN 55110. If you are unable to send a complete CAFR please feel free to fax the comments themselves at 651-426-5004.

It is also very important that you call in or use the MnGFOA web site to register for this session on or before March 13th to assure the appropriate number of handouts are made available to attendees.

2003 MnGFOA DATES

Monthly Meeting Dates:

March 19	August 20
April 16	October 15
June 18	November 19
July 16	December 17

Conference/Training:

2003 National GFOA Conference	New York NY	May 18 – 21
2003 Fall MnGFOA Conference	Alexandria MN	Sept. 16 – 19

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NATIONAL GFOA CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK

The National GFOA Conference will be held in New York City, May 18 – 21. Lori Webster is compiling a list who will be attending the conference, where they are staying and arrival dates. Those on the list will receive a copy at the end of April. See contact information for Lori at the end of the newsletter.

GFOA INTERNET TRAINING

Internet Training: Using the GFOA Checklist to Implement the New Model – March 11 (3pm – 5pm EST)

All you need is a speakerphone and a separate Internet connection. For more information, contact

GFOA at 312/977-9700 or check their website at www.gfoa.org.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Highlights from the February Executive Committee include:

- Approved of the minutes for the January 15, 2003 meeting.
- Approval of the Check Register for January in the amount of \$12,839.24 and the Treasurer's report as of January 31, 2002.
- Scholarship criteria for the undergraduate scholarships was discussed. It was also agreed to slightly revise the application form.
- Due to the lack of available sites, the National Conference Hospitality event will be changed this year to a brunch on Sunday morning as a gathering means for attendees.
- The Committee approved the expenditure of \$620 for the Student Accounting and Auditing Conference. This represents MnGFOA's share of shortfall, which was split between the six sponsors.

MAY DAY OUTING AT THE MALL OF AMERICA!

Winter weather got you down? Well, the social committee has organized a fun and exciting outing to the Mall of America on May Day, Thursday, May 1st. We have reserved bowling lanes at Jillian's Hi Life Lanes from 6-7:30 pm so you can strut your bowling stuff in a cosmic bowling atmosphere. We are then going to head over to Knuckleheads Comedy Club at 7:45 for an 8:00 pm comedy show. Cost of this event depends on the number of people attending. Bowling will be approximately \$10-15 per person and the Comedy show will be \$8-9 per person. If you are not in the bowling mood but could use some laughs feel free to come to just the comedy show or vice versa. Please RSVP to Roxanne Matson at 651-490-2215 or by email to roxanne.matson@ci.roseville.mn.us with the number of people and events attending by APRIL 9th. Remember to invite your friends and family. See you there!

ADVANCED INSTITUTE SCHOLARSHIP

Do you know an ambitious and up-and-coming finance person? Or maybe is it time for you to move to the next level? Now is the time for you to apply for the Advanced Government Finance Institute Scholarship. The application form is available on the MnGFOA web site or you can contact Tom Pepper at 651-675-5017.

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

The John B. Lilja Scholarship of \$1,000 is awarded to undergraduate students majoring in accounting or governmental finance at a college or university. John Lilja was an associate member of the MnGFOA, active at state and national levels, enhancing governmental reporting and development. For 2003, the Executive Board has decided to expand this outreach program by offering two scholarships. If you know of anyone who may want to be a candidate, contact Tom Pepper at 651-675-5017. The deadline for applications is March 31, 2003.

STUDENT ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING CONFERENCE

Last October, the MnGFOA participated in the 5th Annual Accounting & Auditing Student Conference at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Nearly 400 students stopped by the MnGFOA's exhibit booth

to talk with members about careers in governmental accounting and finance. The Conference provides an excellent opportunity to visit with prospective employees, and play a role in shaping future finance officers.

Planning efforts for this year's Student Conference begin in April 2003. The MnGFOA is looking for individuals who are willing to help plan the Conference, and to participate on the day of the event. If you would like to help, please contact Chris Miller at 651-490-2210, or by email at chris.miller@ci.roseville.mn.us.

MnGFOA HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Does anyone know where there may be an old brochure or pamphlet containing **historical information** about MnGFOA? According to Lyle Haney (former Coon Rapids Finance Director) one was done in the early eighties. Lyle also has a photo album which he is attaching narrative to the pictures with the help of others (sounds like it was fun getting together). It would be nice to keep this going. So if you know where the brochure is or have pictures that could be added to the album, let Sharon Legg know (she's history now!) at 763-767-6433 or legg@ci.coon-rapids.mn.us. This album and history will be on display at the annual conference.

LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES LISTSERV

Were you aware that the League of Minnesota Cities has a listserv? Sign up by accessing their website www.lmnc.org. Drop down the Quick links menu, and then click on the listserv sign-up. (Or sign onto lmnc.org/forms/listserv.cfm.) The three that may be of the most interest to finance officers probably are:

Clerk/Administrator. Open to Minnesota City Clerks, administrators and related staff such as deputy clerks, assistant administrators for the purpose of sharing information about City government related to their job functions.

Finance Officer. Open to Minnesota City finance officers, city treasurers and related staff such as clerk-treasurers, finance managers, assistant finance directors for the purpose of sharing information about City government related to their job functions.

IGR-General. Open to any City staff or officials interested in periodic legislative updates. Listserv members will receive Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Friday fax via email and requests from IGR to contact their legislators.

And, find out how **jobs can be posted** at no charge in the Cities Bulletin by accessing www.lmnc.org/cityjobs/cityjobpolicy.htm.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY NEEDED

A student in accounting is looking for an internship opportunity for this spring and/or summer. If you would like more information or have an interest, please contact Ed Burrell at www.keburrell@usfamily.net. or call 651-641-1114.

2003 EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

The 2003 MnGFOA Executive Board is as follows:

President	Tom Kelly	651-429-5827
	White Bear Township	
President-Elect	Lori Webster	651-480-2352
	City of Hastings	
Secretary	Tom Pepper	651-675-5017

Treasurer	City of Eagan Chris Miller	651-490-2210
Past President	City of Roseville Sharon Legg	763-767-6433
At-Large	City of Coon Rapids Cathy Shuman	763-271-3204
At-Large	City of Monticello Rosemary Masloski	651-697-8530
State Rep.	Ehlers & Associates Ron Hedberg	651-458-2832
	City of Cottage Grove	

COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2003:

Conference	Michelle Pietrick	612-673-5122
Education	Julie Vogel	952-448-2851
Program	Joe Huss	952-563-4930
Social	Jim Eichten	952-545-0424
Selection	Lori Johnson	763-441-7420

If you have any questions, want to help out, or have suggestions for the Executive Board or for the committees for 2003, please feel free to give them a call.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Greg Sticha (City of Minnetonka) and his wife Becky on the birth of a healthy baby girl, Kirsten Pamela on February 6, 2003.

Belated congratulations to Bruce DeJong (City of Chanhassen) and wife Tracy on the birth of their daughter – Jenna Lynne on October 16, 2002.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

As always, we are looking for information to put in the newsletter of interest to the group. Please contact me with any retirements, job changes, promotions, certifications received or any other items you are willing to share with the group. Please give me a call or e-mail me by the 20th of the month to guarantee publication.

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Hastings, MN 55303

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