
MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

March 2004

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President

By Lori Webster

It was wonderful to have the exceptional turnout for the February monthly meeting featuring Minnesota Commissioner of Revenue Dan Salomone. Commissioner Salomone's speech focused on the 2004 Report to the Minnesota Legislature on Minnesota's Local Sales and Use Taxes. The report studies the role of the local sales tax. Mr. Salomone also talked about the Federal Streamline Sales Tax Project, which involves 35 states banding together to streamline their definitions in an effort to enable them to tap into the Internet and catalog sales market. While Minnesota's rankings in the overall tax burden on a resident have dropped, we continue to be in the top 10 states for taxes overall. The report concludes with several recommendations on the appropriate role of local sales taxes, evaluation criteria, and the approval process. The complete report is available on the Dept. of Revenue's website: www.taxes.state.mn.us

Later this week, the State's February Forecast will be unveiled. While at this writing the report has not been issued, it will most certainly be released by the time you receive this. It seems the growing consensus is suggesting the outlook may be worse than the December forecast. The state's economy has not rebounded as quickly as some economists had earlier projected.

We know that with this in mind, cities are still expected to deliver more with less. One of the best ways we can help one another and ourselves is by taking advantage of the training and leadership offered by GFOA and MnGFOA. This year, the GFOA national conference will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

With our neighboring state hosting this conference, travel expenses should be more affordable. I encourage you to think about attending the conference and/or the pre-conference seminars. Our Minnesota hospitality room this year will be a tri-state effort in that we are looking into joining with the Wisconsin and Illinois GFOA chapters for a joint hospitality event. GFOA is even allowing for partial registrations for those that are only able to attend ½ of the conference. GFOA is also working on setting up some training sessions in Minnesota in August, although I have not received confirmation of the dates as yet. With the next newsletter I'll give you an update and a teasing taste of what our Minnesota Conference and Education committees are planning for you yet this year. Please try and take advantage of these training opportunities!!

March Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2004
Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points
Topic: GFOA Certificate Review Session
Speakers: Mark Gibbs, Partner
HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd.
Peggy Moeller, Principal
HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd.
Meal: Broiled Salmon
Time: **10:30 a.m. – Review Session**
12:00 noon – Lunch & Business Mtg
1:00 p.m. – Executive Committee Mtg.
Cost: **\$20.00** – register at door
(Payment required regardless if staying for meal)

Reservations: Please leave your reservation with Liz Berger at the City of Minnetonka at 952-939-8252 or on our website at www.mngfoa.org by Thursday, March 11. (Vegetarian meal choice is available.)

Committee corner

March Meeting Certificate Review Session: CAFR Comments Wanted!

The Education Committee is pleased to announce that Mark Gibbs and Peggy Moeller, HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd., will be conducting the annual Certificate Review session in at the March meeting.

Note the early start time of the meeting! This is a popular session, but requires preparation and assistance. Mark and Peggy are collecting CAFR comments received from GFOA for 2002 Annual Financial Statements. **Please send copies of your comments and a 2002 CAFR to:**

Mark Gibbs, HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd.,
4810 White Bear Parkway,
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

2004 MnGFOA DATES

Monthly Meetings:

April 21	May 19	[no June mtg]
July 14	August 18	[no Sept mtg]
October 20	November 17	December 15

Conference/Training:

GFOA Annual Conference	
Milwaukee, WI	June 13-16, 2004
MnGFOA Annual Conference	
Alexandria, MN	Sept 21-24, 2004

Award Nominations Solicited

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) is now accepting nominations for the 2004 AICPA Outstanding CPA in Government Award. This award recognizes the achievements of individual CPAs employed by Federal, State or local governments. The award is made to only one level of government each year on a rotating basis. This year, the AICPA is taking nominations for CPAs working at the **State** level only. The deadline for nominations is April 2. Contact Emanuela LiMandri at the AICPA at 212-596-6157 or elimandri@aicpa.org for details.

Executive Committee Update

At its February 18 meeting, the Executive Committee approved the January 21 meeting minutes, which included the following:

- The unaudited Treasurer's Report for 2003 was received. The report showed revenues of \$101,291 and expenditures of \$91,409, for a net income of \$9,882. The year-end cash balance was \$75,250.
- Representatives from the secretarial service that distributes the MnGFOA newsletter and maintains MnGFOA's website were present to discuss problems related to both. A number of members have not been receiving their newsletters electronically in recent months, and some formatting and other problems exist at the website. Possible solutions were offered and will be investigated in the next month. A Technology Committee is being formed to work on these issues.
- A proposed Past President/Retiree gathering spearheaded by Lyle Haney, Norm Werner, and Gary Norstrem was endorsed. The event is scheduled for April 22 at Jax Café in Minneapolis. The MnGFOA will assist in publicizing the event, but was not asked to subsidize the costs. The charge to those attending has not been determined as yet.



Play Ball!

When the snow gets good for snowballs, baseball must be just around the corner. Set aside July 29 for the annual St. Paul Saints game/tailgating outing organized by the Social Committee. Details will follow in an upcoming newsletter.

2004 Executive Board and Committee Chairs

President	Lori Webster City of Hastings	651-480-2352
President-Elect	Tom Pepper City of Eagan	651-675-5017
Secretary	Chris Miller City of Roseville	651-490-2210
Treasurer	Greg Sticha City of Minnetonka	952-939-8254
Past President	Tom Kelly White Bear Township	651-429-5827
At-Large	Dan Maiers City of New Brighton	651-638-2102
At-Large	Terri Heaton Springsted, Inc.	651-223-3022
State Rep.	Ron Hedberg City of Cottage Grove	651-458-2832
Conference	Robin Roland	651-463-1880
Education	Bonnie Burton	952-474-3236
Program Co-chairs	Michelle Pietrick Joe Huss	715-381-4304 763-717-2677
Social	Lynn Cornwell	612-667-9874
Selection	Steve Hauer	763-494-6334

If you have questions, want to help out, or have suggestions for the Executive Board or for any of the committees for 2004, please feel free to give them a call.



JOB POSTING

Audit Seniors

Due to practice growth, LarsonAllen is seeking experienced audit seniors in its Minneapolis office. The focus of these positions will be governmental accounting and auditing, including K-12 public education. We operate in a paperless environment so an interest in technology is helpful. Candidates should have two to five years of relevant experience. Interested parties should contact Dennis Hoogeveen, Principal, at 612-397-3063 or via e-mail at Dhoogeveen@larsonallen.com for additional information.

Message from the Editor

The phone isn't exactly ringing off the hook at the editor's desk. Surely some of you have news of a new job, a promotion, or some other life event! Maybe you'd like to share with the 580 MnGFOA members how many pounds you've lost on your low-carb diet? ...and maybe not. ☺ But think of *something*, and share the good news with your colleagues. We want to recognize career moves and important achievements!

Send newsletter items to Tom Pepper, City of Eagan, by fax 651-675-5012 or email tpepper@cityofeagan.com.

Tom Pepper
City of Eagan
3830 Pilot Knob Road
Eagan, MN 55122



