



MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

March 2007

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President

By Greg Sticha

Are we getting smarter? Everyday we come to work and occasionally most of us attend a training seminar or conference. The question becomes is that enough to further our knowledge and careers?

At our February Lunch meeting Roger Israel, from Metro State University, discussed several good reasons for obtaining a masters degree. Many of us have either pondered the idea or may have even pursued the degree, and some of us have even obtained a masters degree (yours truly excluded).

As Dr. Israel pointed out a masters degree is not for everyone, but my thoughts are, continuing education in some format is highly recommended for most of us, even those that graduated from the "Harvard" of the Midwest (St. Cloud State University). Whether that continuing education is a master's degree, undergraduate degree, associates degree, professional certification, or just a one day seminar, the choice is up to us on what makes the most sense for each of our career paths. So with that in mind I would like to quote Dr. Israel, noting that I am in complete agreement with the following statement "Luck favors a prepared person". I would like to thank Dr. Israel for being able to inform us on this topic.

I would also like to mention that it is that time of the year again to talk about how the GFOA graded us on our 2005 CAFR's. The March meeting will once again be the CAFR review, and our friends at HLB Tautges Redpath have once again graciously volunteered to lead the session. Please get your CAFR comments to them if possible, and make sure to join us for this well attended session in March.

2007 Meeting Dates

Monthly Meetings:

April 18 May 16 – Quarterly training
No June Meeting July 18 August 15

Annual Conferences:

GFOA – Anaheim, California June 10-13
MnGFOA – Alexandria, MN Sept. 19-21



March Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points

Topic: CAFR Review

Speakers: Peggy Moeller and David Blumberg from HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd.

Time: 10:30 a.m. – CAFR Review Presentation
 12:00 p.m. – Lunch & Business Mtg.

Menu: Home-style Lasagna

Cost: \$20.00

Speaker Bios...

Peggy Moeller is an officer with HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd. and specializes in audit and management advisory services for local governments. She has assisted organizations with quality financial reporting and special projects such as debt studies, cash flow projections, arbitrage calculations and utility rate studies. She is a national reviewer of the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting program and has presented numerous seminars.

Committee

Executive Committee Update

The following are highlights of the February 21st meeting:

- Approved minutes, check register and treasurers report from January.
- Approved GTS training agreement for two all day trainings in October.
- Discussed and approved revisions to the 2007 annual budget including increased spending for Annual Conference speakers
- Reviewed and approved an update to the Advertising Policy.

Peggy received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Minnesota and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Minnesota Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Minnesota Government Finance Officers Association. She lives in Lake Elmo, Minn. with her husband Bill and two children.

David Blumberg is a Senior Manager with HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd. He specializes in audit and management advisory services for local governments. He is a Special Review Committee member of the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting program. Dave received his Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Wisconsin, River Falls and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Minnesota Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Minnesota Government Finance Officers Association. He also is an active committee member with current roles on the MNCPA City Audit Task Force and GFOA Special Review Committee; and former roles on the MGFOA Conference Committee and the MNCPA City Audit Task Force. Dave lives in Cottage Grove with his wife, Jennifer and 2 children.

Reservations: You may leave your reservation on our website at www.mngfoa.org or e-mail Cathy Shuman (cathy.shuman@ci.monticello.mn.us) by Thursday, March 15th. (*Vegetarian meal choice available.*)

Scholarship Deadlines

The **Lori A. Webster Advanced Government Finance Institute Scholarship** deadline is March 30th. The Advanced Institute is at the University of Wisconsin – Madison from July 29th to August 3rd. Application forms are available on the MnGFOA website or in the Membership directory. Send your completed application to Larry Jacobson @ City of Plymouth.

The **John Lilja Undergraduate Scholarship** application deadline is April 15th. This Scholarship is for any undergraduate student of accounting or government finance at a college or university located in the State of Minnesota. The amount of each scholarship is \$1000 and the MnGFOA awards at least one – and possibly up to four scholarships each year. Applications are available on the MnGFOA website.

JOB POSTINGS

FINANCE DIRECTOR - CITY OF BROOKLYN PARK

The City of Brooklyn Park is accepting applications for the position of Finance Director. This position is responsible for all activities related to finance, accounting, financial reporting and budgeting, debt management, and treasury. Minimum qualifications: Bachelor's degree in accounting or finance; 7 years supervisory experience in a local government financial management position; strong written and verbal communication skills. Anticipated hiring range: \$6,665 to \$7,840/month, plus full-time benefit package. Position will remain open until filled, with first consideration given to applications received by 2/28/07. Send resume and City application form to the Human Resources Division. Additional information and job application forms are available from the city's website, or from the address below:

City of Brooklyn Park, 5200 - 85th Ave North Brooklyn Park, MN 55443 Phone: 763-424-8000 Fax: 763-493-8391. Equal Opportunity Employer.

www.ci.brooklyn-park.mn.us

CONTROLLER CITY OF WINONA

Winona has annually received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from GFOA, has an AA+ rating, and takes pride in its financial accounting management system. Salary range: \$68,000 to \$72,000. This position assists the Chief Financial Officer with supervising and overseeing the daily operations and staff of the City's Finance Department. Responsibilities of this job include planning, coordinating and preparing the annual financial report and the annual operating budget.

Assists with maintaining the financial accounting systems and in the implementation, review and update of financial policies and procedures and internal audit functions. Accounting Degree from a College or University in at least a four year program plus five years experience in management of a municipal finance department or other governmental unit or in a CPA firm that provides services in auditing governmental units is required. Completion of a City of Winona Application is required.

Applications must be postmarked by Midnight, Friday, March 16, 2007, and are available from the City Manager's Office, 207 Lafayette, PO Box 378, Winona, MN 55987; e-mail molson@cityhall.luminet.net 507/457-8234. EOE



2007 Membership Books

Watch your mail towards the end of the month for the new 2007 Membership Directory. Please note that the new member database is now in effect. As always, feel free to contact Cathy Shuman with the City of Monticello, should you need to make a change in your membership information.



2007 Executive Board Members

President	Greg Sticha City of Chanhassen	952-227-1149
President Elect	Robin Roland City of Farmington	651-463-1880
Secretary	Larry Jacobson City of Plymouth	763-509-5320
Treasurer	Cathy Shuman City of Monticello	763-271-3204
Past President	Chris Miller City of Roseville	651-792-7031
At-Large	Fran Windschitl Rice County	507-332-6122
At-Large	Joe Rigdon KDV Ltd.	763-569-5774
State Rep.	Bruce DeJong City of St. Louis Park	952-924-2511

New Committee Chairs for 2007:

Conference	Cory Kampf	763-531-1215
Education	Cindy Rollins	952-563-4702
Program	Michelle Pietrick	715-381-4304
Social	Judy Moll	651-747-2759
Technology	Joel Merry	651-792-7036

If you have any questions, want to help out, or have suggestions for the Executive Board or for any of the committees for 2007, please feel free to give them a call.



Robin Roland
City of Farmington
325 Oak Street
Farmington, MN 55024



Message from the Editor

Beware the Ides of March! *I'd* like you to send me your job openings/ads, career moves, or other items of note, by the 20th of this month and *I'd* put them in the next newsletter.

Thanks!

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