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MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

**MnGFOA NEWSLETTER**

May 2005

*Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance*

[www.mngfoa.org](http://www.mngfoa.org)

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## Message from the President

By Tom Pepper

**Q:** What do the Papal conclave and baseball have in common?

**A:** Besides the Cardinals ... not much. But both seem to offer apt metaphors for the current legislative session.

At our April luncheon, Gary Carlson of the League of MN Cities touched base with us on the game in progress at the Capitol. Gary is on the ball, and while he didn't talk in baseball terms, he did recap the Reps vs. Dems contest to this point. Right off the bat, he summarized the lineup of issues legislators are now taking a swing at, as well as ones that are still on deck. We're seeing many of the same players stepping up to the plate with many of the same issues: levy limits, extensions of aid cuts, and (surprise!) stadium proposals, to name just a few.

On top of that, some are making pitches for ideas that came out of left field—or was that right field?—this year, like turbo-charged truth in taxation. With its taxpayer satisfaction survey, turbo-charged truth in taxation would be a whole new ballgame for cities and counties.

While bills on levy limits and continued aid cuts (twin bills?) may soon be rounding second, it's possible turbo-charged truth in taxation won't make it to first base. But then again, that's the beauty and mystery of baseball and the legislative process ... we're at the seventh inning stretch and the game could still go either way on any issue.

On the subject of aids to local jurisdictions, Gary indicated legislators seem to be focusing their minds and monies on schools. Cities and counties may feel like they're caught in a rundown this session as the State tries to balance its budget.

Unlike the cardinals at the Vatican, our legislative conclave has a history of blowing black smoke for weeks on end. Even if the session goes extra innings, let's hope and pray we see some white smoke coming from the chimney of the Capitol this year. Let's hope our legislative leadership learned some leadership lessons from the cardinals. Let's hope, after the last out, there will be more stories written about the Legislature in action than the Legislature inaction.

Until then, as baseballer Yogi Berra would remind us, it ain't over 'til it's over ... and to that, I imagine Pope Benedict XVI might say, "Amen!"



## May Meeting



Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2005  
Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points  
Speaker: Jim Nobles, MN Legislative Auditor  
Topic:  
Meal: Caesar salad with grilled chicken  
Time: 11:30 a.m. – Welcome & Program  
12:15 p.m. – Lunch & Business Meeting  
1:00 p.m. – Executive Committee Meeting  
Cost: \$15.00

**Reservations:** You may leave your reservation with Robin Roland at the City of Farmington at 651-463-1880 or on our website at [www.mngfoa.org](http://www.mngfoa.org) by Thursday, May 12, 2005. (Vegetarian meal choice is available.)

# Committee

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## Executive Committee Update

At the April 20th meeting, the minutes of the March 16th meeting were approved. Highlights of those minutes include:

- Approval of the check registers and Treasurer's Report for March. Robin reported that revenues and expenditures for the year have continued as expected
- The Executive Committee received a presentation from the Membership Services Task Force. Among the suggestions was to consider using the Government Training Services (GTS) to assist in expanding our education and training efforts, and to consider changing the format and location of the regular meetings to better serve the membership in Greater Minnesota
- The Conference, Social, and Education Committees all reported updates on their planned activities for the year
- The Executive Committee awarded the MNGFOA Internship Grant to the City of Chanhassen.
- The Executive Committee agreed to extend the application deadline for the Advanced Government Finance Institute scholarship to April 30, 2005

## Speaker Bio ...

Jim Nobles is the Legislative Auditor for the State of Minnesota, a position he has held since 1983. He is appointed by and reports to the Legislative Audit Commission, a bipartisan group of sixteen legislators. As Legislative Auditor, Jim directs a staff of 60 professionals. They conduct about 50 financial audits and 6 evaluations each year, focusing primarily on state agencies and state-funded programs. His office also conducts investigations in response to allegations against state officials or employees.

Jim earned a BA in political science and MA in public affairs from the University of Minnesota. He lives in St. Paul, is married, has three children, and two grandchildren.

## 2005 Meeting Dates

### Monthly Meetings:

January 19	February 16	March 16
April 20	May 18	[no June mtg]
July 20	August 17	October 19
November 16	December 14	

### Annual Conferences:

GFOA	San Antonio, TX	June 26-29
MnGFOA	Alexandria, MN	September 21-23

### Upcoming Events:

Cinco de Mayo – May 5<sup>th</sup> at Ol' Mexico Restaurant  
 Golf Outing – July 14<sup>th</sup> at Baker National  
 Saints Game – August 11th at Midway Stadium



## Lilja Undergraduate Scholarships

At the April 20<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting, the Committee awarded three (3) Lilja Undergraduate Scholarships. The scholarships were awarded to students attending three different schools; St. Cloud State, Gustavus Adolphus, and Dakota County Technical College. Each scholarship is in the amount of \$1,000, and is awarded to undergraduate students pursuing a degree in accounting or related field, and who have expressed an interest in pursuing a career in governmental accounting.



Happy Mother's Day

## Cinco de Mayo Social Outing

Don't forget to mark May 5<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for a Happy Hour Get Together on 05-05-05 at 5. Whew - that's a lot of fives! This also happens to be Cinco de Mayo Day. This is the day that celebrates the Mexican victory over the French in their quest for independence.

The place is the Ol' Mexico Restaurant in Roseville. Happy Hour goes from 4-6:30 p.m. Cash Bar, with tap beer specials and free appetizers. The location is 1754 Lexington Ave. (Lexington/Larpenteur). Guests are welcome and no reservations are needed. For more information, call Larry Jacobsen at the City of Plymouth at 763-509-5320.

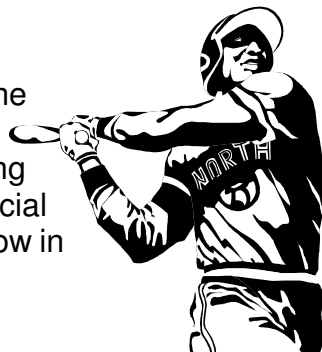


## Tee it Up

This year's golf outing will be on Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at Baker National Golf Course, located at 2935 Parkview Drive, Medina. The registration form will be available very soon at [www.mngfoa.org](http://www.mngfoa.org) under Outings. Please contact Ron Hedberg at the City of Cottage Grove at 651-458-2832 or Jim Eichten at MMKR & Company at 952-545-0424 for more information. Registration deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Play Ball!

Set aside August 11<sup>th</sup> for the annual St. Paul Saints game/tailgating outing organized by the Social Committee. Details will follow in an upcoming newsletter.



## MGFOA Budget Library

The MNGFOA needs current award winning budget documents to update our budget library. Please mail a copy of your budget document to Tom Kelly at White Bear Township, 1281 Hammond Road, White Bear, MN 55110. The budget library is available by request to members looking to improve their entities budget documents. To request the budget library or if you have other question please contact Tom Kelly at (651)-429-5827.

## MNGFOA Logo Contest

*(“ . . . For the times,  
they are a-changin”)*

Many of you might recollect those lyrics from a certain Minnesota native. And while I'm certain He had something different in mind when he wrote it, the general theme applies to the MNGFOA as well.

We've been talking a lot lately about making some changes to stay relevant and purposeful to the membership.

Some of those changes are underway, and others are yet to come. This got many of us thinking about our Logo. The current logo was modeled after the one used by the National GFOA – a logo that has since changed. So to paraphrase the aforementioned songwriter . . . “Come gather 'round people wherever you roam and admit that the MNGFOA has grown”.

With that inspiration in mind, the MNGFOA is sponsoring a contest for designing a new logo. The contest is open to all members and the winner will receive a free conference registration at the Annual Conference. Members are free to select any design and color scheme they wish.

Designs should be submitted by email to Chris Miller at: [chris.miller@ci.roseville.mn.us](mailto:chris.miller@ci.roseville.mn.us), or by mail at the address noted on the back of this newsletter.

A rough sketch or rendition will suffice, but you're welcome to submit a more elaborate drawing if you like. The deadline is Friday, July 15, 2005. The winner will be notified by late August, and a new logo will be unveiled at the Annual Conference.

## Message from the Editor

As always, if you have any job openings, career moves, or any items of note, please forward them to me by the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month so I can put it in the next newsletter.

Thanks

Chris Miller  
City of Roseville  
2660 Civic Center Drive  
Roseville, MN 55113  
651-792-7031  
[chris.miller@ci.roseville.mn.us](mailto:chris.miller@ci.roseville.mn.us)

Chris Miller  
City of Roseville  
2660 Civic Center Drive  
Roseville, MN 55113





## MGFOA 2005 GOLF OUTING



Date: Thursday, July 14, 2005

Cost: \$45 per person, includes: greens fees, golf cart, contests, and prizes.

Place: Baker National , Medina, MN  
[www.threeriversparkdistrict.org/golf/baker](http://www.threeriversparkdistrict.org/golf/baker)

Time: Tee times beginning at 1:00 p.m. (Not a shotgun start)

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 June 30, 2005.

We will not be having a shotgun start, so tee times will begin at 1:00 p.m. and go off every 8 minutes after that. If you have a preference for a tee time, let us know and we will try and accommodate everyone. We will fax or email back a confirmation of your tee time. Please be at the course at least 20 minutes prior to your tee time. They have a grill available for lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Eichten at Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich at 612-545-0424 or Ron Hedberg at City of Cottage Grove, 651-458-2832.

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### Golf Outing Registration Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax # \_\_\_\_\_  
(So we can fax back your tee time)

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Average score for 18 holes \_\_\_\_\_

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

Preferred Tee Time \_\_\_\_\_

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

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ golfers