

MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

November 2002

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: Sharon Legg

Hi, everyone! Hope you are enjoying this fall, or is it winter? I remember the year of the Halloween storm, thinking it was so early for snow. Yet today, even earlier, the ground and trees are covered. It is beautiful! Colorful leaves against a blue sky might be even more beautiful, though.

At our last luncheon, we hear Sara Schlauderaff, Assistant Commissioner of Public Safety, talk about homeland security and how the State is working with counties to have plans in place. She talked about what the state agency was most worried about and how they would prepare for an event. A Homeland Security Advisory Council has been created to work on a plan and to develop grant criteria that is fair, equitable and consistent for the use of anticipated \$100 M in Federal funds. Counties, as a critical element of the plan, are required to develop a terrorism response plan, identifying critical infrastructure assessments, determining where they are vulnerable, what resources are needed and who would respond to a crisis. The Department of Public Safety is planning around sixteen items identified by the legislature.

The State is also in charge of disseminating information using the alert system. Communicating with law enforcement agencies is easier using the colors. Examples, the red alert being severe, orange high, yellow elevated, blue guarded and green low. Each of the alerts carries recommended actions for individuals, families, neighborhoods, schools and businesses. Local law enforcement agencies must decide what they should do when going to a different color.

In addition to the 100 M in Federal funds, the Department of Justice has allocated \$5.2 M for equipment. Twenty percent of this has been allocated to State agencies and \$1 M for decontamination trailers for local agencies. The balance, \$3.2 M has been allocated to counties, with no match required.

Also allocated is \$3.75 M from the State Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management for equipment and \$7.3 M for training. Ten percent of these funds have been withheld for a special project fund, which will be competed for by first responders (fire, law enforcement and emergency medical service). Counties should be meeting with cities to gather input regarding the equipment needs of the departments along with input on training ideas for the use of these funds. A 25 percent match is required for the funds.

Ms. Schlauderaff talked about the possible budget cuts at the state. The Department of Public Safety has an annual budget of \$250 M. A ten percent cut would translate into laying off 100 of the 525 state highway patrol. It would mean longer processing for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, and possibly not processing some cases. There has been conversation to determine what core services should they be doing. She also talked about the CrimNet system (the integrated state-wide

computer). There has been much effort to get this system going, and it will definitely be useful to agencies, allowing them to share information, but at what price? Who pays for the system?

The positive with the homeland defense issue for Minnesota is the weather! We have such wild weather here that there has already been a lot of planning done. Other states are coming to us, using Minnesota as a model. And, we work together. We have an excellent FBI team, who is willing to share information.

What needs to be improved? There needs to be money for staff rather than just equipment. We need to develop more accountability. What is a good purchase, what is a best practice? The State needs to be able to trust that good decisions are made. And, what are the public's expectations? The Department of Public Safety is meeting with stakeholders to be sure they have the right information and that there concerns are being addressed. She did invite interested persons to contact her with concerns.

Again, it was a very informative luncheon, exposing us to information that I, for one, did not have a clear understanding of. Our thanks to Ms. Schlauderaff for taking time to talk to us and again, the Program Committee for lining up these great luncheon speakers.

NOVEMBER MEETING NOTICE

Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2002.
Special Event: *Please bring non-perishable food items as part of our annual food drive*
Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points.
Topic: Taxpayers Perceptions
Speaker: Dan Salomone, Executive Director MN Taxpayers Association
Meal: Lasagna.
Time: 11:30 AM – Welcome and Program.
12:15 PM – Lunch & Business Meeting.
1:00 PM – Executive Committee Meeting.
Cost: \$15.00.

Reservation: Please leave your reservation with at the City of Eagan switchboard operator at 651-681-4600 or on our web site at www.mngfoa.org by **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2002.** (Vegetarian meal choice is available).

SPEAKER BIO AND TOPIC

Does the information you distribute resonate with taxpayers? What is the taxpayer's perception of the value they receive from their local governments? Dan Salomone, Executive Director of the Minnesota Taxpayers Association (MTA) will share his thoughts on theses and other subjects of interest to finance officers. Dan's views promise to be very intriguing, especially during this time of year, when many of us are preparing for truth in taxation and budget hearings.

Dan Salomone is Executive Director of the MTA, a position he has held since 1991. Dan has extensive experience in dealing with tax issues both on a local level as well as the state level, and is a well-respected voice on tax issues. Prior to his work with MTA, Dan served a Director of Counsel and Research for the Minnesota Senate and as Director of Tax research for the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

2002 MGFOA DATES

Monthly Meeting Dates: November 20 December 11

Conferences/Training: November 7 GFOA Satellite teleconference –
GAAP Update

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The August 21st minutes of the Executive Board were approved at the October 16, 2002 meeting. A summary of the minutes is as follows:

- The Check Registers for August and September in the amounts of \$3,333.19 and \$19,919.00 respectively and the Treasurer's Report as of September 2002 were approved.
- The Executive Board received committee updates from the College Connection, Education and Scholarship Committees.

• The Board discussed a newsletter policy regarding acceptance and publication of editorials.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Remember, at the November luncheon, the Social Committee will sponsor the FIFTH ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE. Please bring non-perishable food items to the luncheon and they will see that the collection is distributed to designated food shelf locations.

And, the TOYS FOR TOTS collection will take place at the December luncheon, which will be December 11. Please bring an unwrapped toy, which will be donated to the Twin City Toys for Tots program.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The 2003 National GFOA Conference will be held in New York, May 18th through the 21st.

The 2003 MnGFOA Fall Conference is scheduled for September 16th through the 19th.

GFOA SATELLITE TELECONFERENCE **GAAP UPDATE**

The National GFOA will hold its annual GAAP Update satellite teleconference on November 7, 2002 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. EST. Current Minnesota sites are Blue Earth and Washington Counties. Please check the GFOA web site (www.gfoa.org) for registration and an updated list of downlink sites.

SMALL COMMUNITIES **PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT PROGRAM**

Mr. Mike Lawson of ICMA's Center for Performance Measurement (CPM) presented information at the MnGFOA fall conference on its current comparative performance measurement program, which is open to all general-purpose local governments. He stated that some smaller communities have asked for a somewhat streamlined program and that he was willing to test such a program in Minnesota. Participation criteria for jurisdictions are as follows:

- Must have a population of less than 25,000;
- Designate a single point-of-contact between the chief administrator's office or budget/finance department and CPM staff;
- Provide desktop WWW and Internet e-mail access to primary coordinator;
- Join in a block of at least 15 jurisdictions from a common state to share program cost;

- Cost based on 15 jurisdictions for the first year would be \$2,200 with an annual participation fee of \$2,000 after the first year.

If you are interested in participating or for more information on this possible opportunity, please e-mail Tom Kelly no later than December 13th 2002 at tom.kelly@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us.

NUMBER LOVING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Account Ability Minnesota (a non-profit organization) is looking for volunteers! If you are a number lover and enjoy filling out your own tax forms, you may enjoy making the process easier for others. Account Ability Minnesota is looking for individuals interested in helping provide free tax preparation to low-income taxpayers in the metro area. Training provided. Free CPEs available for completed training. For more information call Kurt Zilley, 651-287-0187, e-mail kzilley@accountabilitymn.org or visit www.accountabilitymn.org.

OLD FRIENDS AT A NEW COMPANY

Northland Securities, Inc. is pleased to announce that six professionals have joined the company as partners. The Northland Public Finance 10-member team includes Steve Mattson, Dick Asleson, Paul Donna, Monte Eastvold, George Eilerson, and Nick Skarich. Lori Giampaolo, Scott Miles, Jeff Lotz and Viney Hase complete the roster of fiscal industry veterans at Northland. Collectively they have over 80 years of experience in public finance, specializing in the structure and issuance of municipal bonds, long-range capital and debt planning, economic development finance, and investment management. Northland Public Finance group can be contacted at 800-651-2920 or 612-851-5900.

JOB POSTING

**TCF NATIONAL BANK
GOVERNMENT/NON-PROFIT BANKER**

TCF National Bank is seeking an aggressive, self-motivated individual to develop business in the public unit and non-profit arenas. The ideal candidate will be familiar with most common cash management practices and have established Minnesota contacts in these fields. This individual will be responsible for the direct and indirect solicitation of depository and cash management products and service sales to public units and non-profit organizations in an effort to achieve business development goals in the communities surrounding TCF's 85 Minnesota branches.

Preferred Work Experience includes knowledge of investment instruments and practices commonly utilized by public units and non-profit organizations; familiarity with most popular bank products and service utilized by public units and non-profits to manage their cash; two or more year's direct exposure to cash management services; and knowledge of investment restrictions for public units as described in state statutes.

Send resumes to: TCF Bank, Gail Swenson, Human Resources, 001-01-E, 801 Marquette Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55402, Fax 612-661-8277 or e-mail gswenson@tcfbank.com.

2003 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Committee Chairs for 2003 are as follows:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
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 would like to help or have any suggestion for these committees for 2003 please contact them. They would love to hear from you.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

As always, we are looking for information to put in the newsletter of interest to the group. Let me know of retirements, job changes promotions, certifications received or what ever else you are willing to share with the group. Give me a call or e-mail me. If it is to get into the next newsletter, have it to me by the 22nd of November.

Contact: Tom Kelly, White Bear Township
1281 Hammond Road
White Bear, MN 55110

E-Mail: tom.kelly@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us

Fax: 651-426-2258

Phone: 651-429-5827

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