
MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

November 2004

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President(-Elect)

By Tom Pepper

Timing is everything.

After putting me off for several (nice, dry) weeks, the concrete contractor finally shows up yesterday to fix a problem I have with rainwater occasionally leaking into my basement. He tears up the old concrete in the morning, but before he can pour the new concrete, a torrential downpour begins that afternoon. So now I don't have a basement leak, I have a basement *lake*—with two tributaries flowing into it. His timing couldn't have been worse. (That waterfall effect on the wall was kinda cool though.)

I'm hoping my timing is better. We've wrapped up our annual conference, and our fall training happens this week. So now we begin planning for 2005. That means it's time to put our planning teams together. And that's where you come in! If you're one who has been waiting for the right time—and a personal invitation!—to step forward and be involved on one of the MnGFOA committees, consider this it!

We are blessed with great people serving on our various committees right now. At the same time, we seek fresh ideas and new perspectives for the betterment of the organization. And we know your involvement will enable you to develop professional and personal friendships for the betterment of you!

Pick a committee! ...

- *Conference* – help plan the annual Arrowwood conference.
- *Education* – help organize training opportunities for 2005.
- *Program* – help arrange speakers/programs for our lunch meetings.
- *Social* – help organize social events throughout the year and evening activities at the annual conference.
- *Technology* – help enhance our website and communications.

We've been a little light lately on the Program and Education committees. We would welcome your help here!

In addition, we're forming a task force to evaluate the survey results and make recommendations on alternative training/meeting formats and locations. We need perspectives from staff at all levels and from municipalities of all sizes—both in the Twin Cities metro area and Greater Minnesota.

If you're interested in any of these opportunities, email me at tpepper@cityofeagan.com or call me at 651-675-5017. I will help you get connected with the appropriate people. Thanks in advance for your continuing efforts to make MnGFOA a valuable organization for all of us!

Now seems like the right time for *us* to put out the call. I hope now's the right time for *you* to respond!



November Meeting



Date: Wednesday, November 17, 2004
Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points
Topic: "Metro Area Transportation Framework"
Speaker: Natalio (Nacho) Diaz, Metropolitan Council

****Remember to bring your canned food items for the Food Shelf! ****

Meal: Grilled Chicken Breast
Time: 11:30 a.m. – Welcome and Program
12:15 p.m. – Lunch & Business Meeting
1:00 p.m. – Executive Committee Mtg.
Cost: \$15.00

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 Wednesday, November 10. (Vegetarian meal choice is available.)

Committee o r n e r

About Our Speaker ...

As Director of Metropolitan Transportation Services, a division of the Metropolitan Council, the regional planning organization of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, **Nacho Diaz** is responsible for directing the Council's long-range planning activities for three major regional transportation systems: highways, transit and airports. As such, Nacho and the Metropolitan Transportation Services Division oversee a number of functions, including:

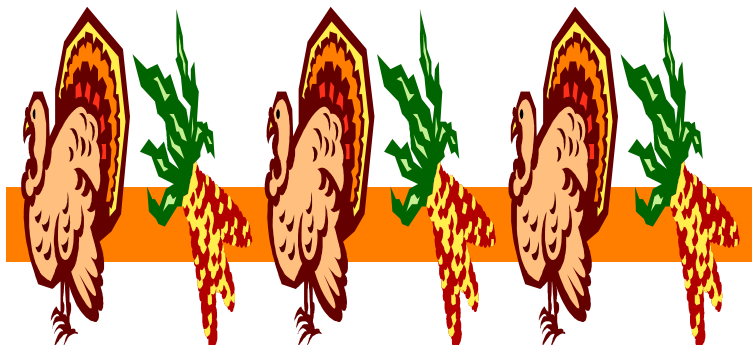
- ❖ Defining the policy direction for metropolitan transportation investments, setting overall priorities for regional facilities and services, and actively participating in the development of major transportation projects.
- ❖ The oversight of transit contracts throughout the region including transit private providers, Metro Mobility and community based transit services.

A dynamic and entertaining speaker, Nacho holds a Civil Engineering degree from the University of Madrid (Spain) and a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Minnesota. A frequent guest speaker at colleges and universities, his experience includes regional transportation planning activities in both the United States and Spain since 1974.

2004 MnGFOA Dates

Monthly Meetings:

November 17 December 15



Executive Committee Update

At the October 20 meeting, the Executive Committee approved the minutes of its August 18 meeting. Highlights include the following:

- Updates from the Conference and Social Committee Chairs about the Arrowwood annual conference were presented.
- The July check and activity register reflecting cash inflows of \$15,380.00 and expenditures of \$6,900.44 was approved.
- The July Treasurer's report showing revenues and expenditures generally on plan was approved.
- An update from Decision Resources on the progress of the membership survey was received.
- The agenda for the Arrowwood annual business meeting was reviewed.



7th Annual Food Drive

Remember, at the November luncheon, the Social Committee will sponsor the 7th 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, make a note for next month ... the "Toys for Tots" collection will take place at the December 15 luncheon. Please bring an unwrapped toy, which will be donated to the Twin Cities "Toys for Tots" program.

Connecting with Students at the ...

... Student Accounting Conference

On September 28, the MnGFOA participated in the 7th Annual Accounting & Auditing Student Conference at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Over 500 students stopped by the MnGFOA's exhibit booth to talk with members about careers in governmental accounting and finance. One hundred twenty-five resumes were collected and are available on the MnGFOA's website at www.mngfoa.org. Many of these students are nearing graduation and have impressive GPAs and relevant work experience. Members are encouraged to consider these students for internships and entry-level positions.

Planning efforts for next year's Student Conference will begin early next year. The MnGFOA is looking for active members willing to participate on the Planning Committee and help play a role in shaping future finance officers. If you would like to help, please contact Chris Miller at 651-792-7031 or by email at chris.miller@ci.roseville.mn.us.

... St. Cloud State Career Fair

On October 6, Greg Sticha from Minnetonka and Brenda Davitt from Roseville attended the St Cloud State University Career Fair Day. The event was a large success with a high number of students attending. Greg and Brenda talked to a number of bright, energetic students about the possibilities of a career in government finance and other government opportunities. Many students were intrigued about the possibility of working in government and had not really considered the career prior to talking with Greg and Brenda. They accepted resumes from the students and informed those eligible about the John B. Lilja undergraduate scholarship. The resumes of these students will be made available on the website to those of you interested in these sharp minds, either for full-time employment or for internship opportunities.

JOB POSTINGS

AUDIT SENIORS - LARSON ALLEN

Due to practice growth, Larson Allen 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 email at dhoogeveen@larsonallen.com for additional information.

As always, visit the www.mngfoa.org website for a complete list of current openings.

Symposium on November 18

The annual Springsted Symposium will be held Thursday, November 18 at the Holiday Inn Select in Bloomington. This year's theme is "At the Helm in Changing Seas...Let's Stop Bailing and Build a Better Boat!"

The full-day event will focus on ways to lead your organization—from financial, management, and economic development perspectives. Featured speakers include Representative James Oberstar (keynote); Minnetonka City Manager and former Minnesota Finance Commissioner John Gunyou ("Straight Talk on State Finances"); and Bloomington Port Authority Administrator Clark Arneson ("Redefining Redevelopment—Bloomington's Central Station").

There will also be ideas from private sector partners on managing change and information from three major credit rating agencies on ways to secure your jurisdiction's credit quality in an unsettled environment.

If you would like to attend, please register online at www.springsted.com. For more information, please call Springsted offices at 651-223-3000. The Holiday Inn Select is located on 34th Avenue South at I-494 near the Mall of America. The event will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Message from the Editor

Here is a journal update from Lori Webster, our President, on the Caringbridge website dated October 29. I thought you might be interested in reading it:

Well, I was originally supposed to start my 2nd round of chemo last week, Monday (10/18) but was running a slight temp again and had a few other symptoms so the doctor felt I should take a full two week break and let the old body rest up. - Kind of a nice break.

Anyway - started up this Monday (10/25) with the first of four chemo sessions - each will be on a Monday. Your positive thoughts and prayers will be needed and appreciated for the week of Thanksgiving and the following week as that is when I will have the CT Scans and tests and then follow-up with the doctor to see how well the chemo has been going - we definitely want good news!

In the midst of all this - Ryan's football team won the 6th grade championship - and Kris is now a licensed driver!

Thank you once again everyone for checking on me, for the positive thoughts and the prayers - My faith keeps me going and I truly believe in the power of prayer everyone is sending me!

*Sincerely,
Lori and family*

Tom Pepper
City of Eagan
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