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# MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

# MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

November 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

*"Technological progress is like an axe in the hands of a pathological criminal."*

- Albert Einstein

I wonder if he'd stand by those words today. In the end, I bet he would.

No doubt, technology today is astounding. In minutes, I can Google my way to expertise on a subject I knew nothing about, translate it to a language I can't speak, then share it with a bunch of people I don't know. (I haven't really found a need to do all of that at the same time yet, but I'll be up to the challenge when the situation arises.)

Yes, I can find answers to so many questions using only the keys on my keyboard. But sometimes the answers only come when I use another key—the one in my pocket that starts the car.

My daughter, Lindsay, and I jumped in the car over MEA to go look at several colleges in Iowa. You can read up on a school and take a virtual tour online, but until you actually do a walk-and-talk through the campus, you can't really tell if it's the place for you ... or if there's anything to all those Iowa jokes you hear. ☺

I think the same is true for us in our work as finance professionals. While listservs, for example, have opened the doors to a whole new world of information sharing, they can't fully replace those face-to-face meetings where people from different entities with similar goals and diverse experiences come together and, through conversation, generate creative ideas and new solutions.

In most industries, such meetings don't occur, lest someone forfeit their competitive advantage, but government is unique in that there is a general absence of competition. We do not compete against other local

governments for business, so we have no reason to keep business secrets from one another.

On the contrary, in the name of efficient and effective government, we should feel compelled to do just the opposite—get together with colleagues to trade "secrets" to success.

There are very few Einsteins among us—zero, if we're honest—but take the best ideas/processes/solutions from each of you, put it all together, and I'd say it would add up to an Einstein. And we could all lay claim to it. Then we'd have an Einstein in every city and county. (I know that sounds like a bad Halloween ghost story, but don't be scared!)

I'm not exactly sure how we get from here to Einstein. At the state GFOA level, we've had limited success in our limited attempts to facilitate roundtables. But they can be successful, I'm sure. Perhaps we all need to start smaller and closer to home—with a few colleagues in the communities near us, and with a focused agenda. Perhaps you have a better idea. And maybe now is the time to try it.

Whatever it takes, I'm pretty convinced we can't reach the Einstein level solely from our desktop. We'll have to reach for our car keys.

## November Meeting



Date:	Wednesday, November 16, 2005
Location:	Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points
Speaker:	Dan McElroy, Sr. Advisor to Governor Pawlenty
Topic:	Dealing with Changing Fiscal Environments
Meal:	Roast Beef & Cheddar
Time:	11:30 a.m. – Welcome & Program 12:15 p.m. – Lunch & Business Meeting 1:00 p.m. – Executive Committee Mtg
Cost:	\$15.00

**Reservations:** You may leave your reservation with



call Tom Kelly at White Bear Township.

## JOB POSTINGS

### City of Maple Grove

Congratulations to Shelly Peterson for being named the Assistant Finance Director for the City of Anoka. Shelly was previously an Accountant with the City of Maple Grove. Shelly began her new duties in September. Good luck in your new position Shelly!

### City of Minneapolis Directory of Treasury

The City of Minneapolis is currently accepting applications for a senior management position in the Finance Department, Director of Treasury. This position reports to the City's Chief Finance Officer. The Treasury Director is responsible for utility billing, investments, cash management, banking relations, and receivables/collections. The City of Minneapolis makes extensive use of e-commerce for utility billing, banking, and other cash management purposes.

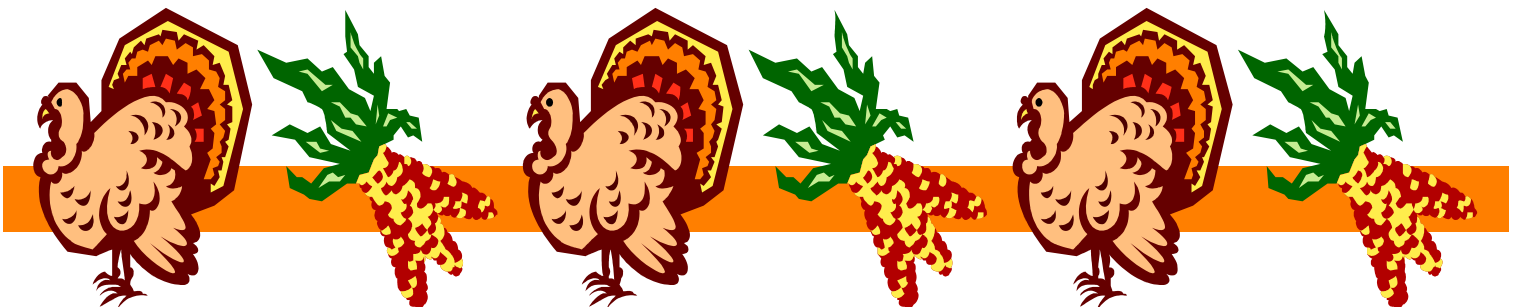
For more information about this opportunity or to apply please send a cover letter and resume by Friday, November 18, 2005 to: Jill Petty, Human Resources, City of Minneapolis, 250 S. Fourth St, #100, Minneapolis, MN 55415. Or send to: [jill.petty@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:jill.petty@ci.minneapolis.mn.us) or visit us at [ci.minneapolis.mn.us](http://ci.minneapolis.mn.us). AA/EO employer

### City of Victoria - Finance Clerk

The City of Victoria seeks qualified applicants for the position of Finance Clerk. Minimum qualifications: Associate's degree in accounting, 3+ years of accounting and customer service experience, proficiency with word and excel. Preferred qualifications: governmental fund accounting experience. Applications and additional information can be obtained by calling (952) 443-2363 or at [www.ci.victoria.mn.us](http://www.ci.victoria.mn.us). Application and resume must be received by 4:30 p.m. November 14, 2005. EOE

### 2005 Executive Board Members

President	Tom Pepper City of Eagan	651-675-5017
President-Elect	Chris Miller City of Roseville	651-792-7031
Secretary	Greg Sticha City of Minnetonka	952-939-8254
Treasurer	Robin Roland City of Farmington	651-463-1880
Past President	Lori Webster City of Hastings	651-480-2352
At-Large	Ruth Wipper City of St. Cloud	320-650-3377
At-Large	Lynn Cornwell Wells Fargo	612-667-9874
State Rep.	Bonnie Burton City of Shorewood	952-474-3236



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



## **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)

