

MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

October 2002

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: Sharon Legg

What can I say? The annual conference was a great success, if I say so myself! We had about 255 attendees at the conference this year as compared to 270 last year. The record attendance was over 300 people in 2000. Apparently, budget concerns kept some away. Hope all of you felt it was worthwhile and that you will come again.

For those of you that were there, I think you will agree, the opening speaker, Mark Scharenbroich, was totally inspirational. His message was simple.

- Take initiative. Be a leader.
- Listen. "It is more important to be interested than interesting."
- Dream. "Design your life. Make your dream list." (For those of you who were at the conference, have you looked at a fast food menu lately?!)
- Laugh. That we did!
- Value. "Share rather than compare. Stop counting crayons, start drawing pictures."

He got us off to a good conference start. I truly wish all of you could have heard him speak. It was one of those great opportunities our organization offers.

There were sessions that addressed the issues we need to be concerned with such as GASB 34, the new permit reporting form, the budget situation at the state level as well as other topics of interest.

The annual board meeting went smoothly, no need to get out Robert's Rules, thank goodness. Chris Miller was selected as the MnGFOA Treasurer for 2003. Terms begin January 1. And, the Thomas J. Moran award was presented to Ed Burrell, a well-deserving recipient. Congratulations Ed and Chris!

There is one last function that I would like to organize before my term ends. There has been interest expressed in having a social function (probably dinner) for past presidents and retirees of MnGFOA. If you have the name and address of a retiree, and you suspect we don't, please call or email me with that information as soon as possible. Thanks!

Once again, thank you Cathy Shuman and the Conference Committee, and Brenda Davitt and the Social Committee. You all did great!! I heard tons of positive comments about the conference!

OCTOBER MEETING NOTICE

Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2002.

Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points.

Topic: Homeland Security in Minnesota – One Year After 9/11
Speaker: Sarah Schlauderaff, Asst Commissioner of the MN Depart. Public Safety
Meal: Minnesota Meatloaf.
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, OCTOBER 10, 2002.
(Vegetarian meal choice is available)

SPEAKER BIO AND TOPIC

What's really going on when it comes to terrorism in Minnesota? Are we prepared? What is the nature of the threats? How are we protecting our citizens at the State level? What can we expect in the near future to be required of local government in this effort? Are all agencies talking to each other to provide a unified effort? If these are questions you would like answers to, plan to attend this session. Assistant commissioner Sara Schlauderaff will share the latest developments and the latest initiatives in the war against terrorism. Find out how this could impact your entity and how it may affect your finances.

As Assistant Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Ms. Schlauderaff has a key role in the leadership of the diverse department, consisting of 1,900 employees and an annual budget of over \$254 million. Ms. Schlauderaff oversees all legislative activities, Driver and Vehicle Services, the Minnesota Center for Crime Victim Services, the Office of Drug Policy and Violence Prevention, the Office of Traffic Safety, as well as all the department's internal support divisions such as Fiscal and Administrative Services and Human Resources.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Schlauderaff served as the director of the Crime Victim and Witness Advisory Council, where she led the state's efforts to coordinate services for crime victims, coordinated a number of crime victim research projects and developed policy beneficial for crime victims. She received a leadership award in 1994 for her work on behalf of crime victims. Her public service career began at the Hennepin County Attorney's Office, where she worked to advocate for the rights of crime victims in the criminal justice system. Her work continued in Chisago County, where she was the Director of a victim assistance program for more than seven years. Ms. Schlauderaff's educational accomplishments include a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters of Arts from Hamline University. She is a certified arbitrator and mediator, and has served on a number of boards and task forces in her home community of Forest Lake.

2002 MGFOA DATES

Monthly Meeting Dates: October 16 November 20 December 11

Conferences/Training:

October 25 & 28 Intermediate Government Accounting
November 7 GFOA Satellite teleconference – GAAP Update

INTERMEDIATE FUND ACCOUNTING COURSE

The Education Committee of the MnGFOA is sponsoring two one-day intermediate fund accounting courses on October 25th in Inver Grove Heights and October 28th in St. Cloud. See the enclosed flyer or contact Fred Espe at 651-490-4622.

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TREASURER SELECTION FOR 2003

Chris Miller has been selected as the MnGFOA Treasurer of 2003. Chris is currently the Finance Director for the City of Roseville. Chris is currently serving MnGFOA as the State Representative and MnGFOA's representative for the Accounting and Auditing Student Conference. He has served as the Social Committee chair in 1999 and served on that committee before that.

Chris will be starting a 5-year process, which includes moving to the Association's presidency in 2006. Congratulations, Chris, we know you will be a great leader for MnGFOA!

2002 THOMAS J. MORAN AWARD TO ED BURRELL

Congratulations also to Ed Burrell, Retired Finance Director for the City of Roseville, who was presented the 2002 Thomas J. Moran Award at the Annual Conference.

Based on his past accomplishments as a past president and officer, Teacher and mentor to many of us, being one of the first in Minnesota to implement GASB 34, being instrumental in positioning the MnGFOA as one of the sponsors of the Accounting and Auditing Student Conference and currently working on building relationships with MnGFOA and colleges and universities to broaden the awareness of governmental finance as a career. In addition to his work with MnGFOA, Ed has represented the profession on committees with the League of Minnesota Cities and the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities and not only represented the city of Roseville as a professional, but also as a concerned citizen.

Ed joins a select group of ten other members who have received the award since it was established in 1981.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC FINANCE OFFICER (CPFO) TEST SITE

The Education Committee of the MnGFOA will sponsor a test site for the fall CPFO exam. This year the exam will be held Friday October 25th in the council chambers at the City of Shoreview. For more information or directions to the City of Shoreview call Fred Espe at 651-490-4622.

FIFTH ANNUAL ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING STUDENT CONFERENCE

The MnGFOA is sponsoring the Fifth Annual Accounting and Auditing Student Conference along with groups such as the Minnesota Society of CPAs and Association of Public Accountants.

The purpose of the conference is to introduce accounting and auditing students to what to expect when they enter their chosen profession.

As a co-sponsor, the MnGFOA will be gathering resumes from student's interest in both full-time positions and internships. MnGFOA members will provide students with information on the opportunities available in the field of government finance. The Student Accounting Conference will be held on October 24th 2002 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

If you have specific questions or would like to work in the MnGFOA booth, please contact Chris Miller, MnGFOA representative for the conference, at the City of Roseville, at 651-490-2210.

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.

JOB POSTING

CONTROLLER & DIRECTOR OF THE TREASURY DIVISION **CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS**

The City of Minneapolis' Finance Department will soon begin a search process for two division directors: Controller and Treasury. These positions lead the two largest divisions in the Finance Department and report to the chief financial officer. Both positions are appointed by the CFO, outside of civil service.

The controller directs the Accounting Division and is responsible for accounting operations, accounts payable, financial system administration, and financial reporting (managerial and external). Minneapolis is well along in preparing for GASB 34 compliance, but this position will lead the balance of this major undertaking. We are upgrading our accounting system in the fourth quarter of 2002. Candidates should have a CPA, managerial experience, and be well grounded in municipal accounting practice and theory.

The director of the Treasury Division is responsible for utility billing, investments, cash management, banking relations, and receivables/collections. Minneapolis makes extensive use of e-commerce for utility billing, banking, and other cash management purposes. Candidates should have appropriate educational and career experience in municipal finance along with management experiences.

While not part of the formal position description each of the incumbents of these positions have been City representatives to our local police and fire relief association boards.

To learn more about Minneapolis and the Finance Department visit:
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/citywork/city-coordinator/finance/index.html>.

ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR **DETENTION FACILITY - STEELE COUNTY**

Steele County is accepting applications for Assistant Finance Director, Detention Facility. Located in Owatonna, MN. Starting salary \$45,000 to \$55,000. Newly created position reporting to the County Finance Director/Treasurer. The new 160-bed County Detention Center is under construction and will be completed by fall 2003. Responsibilities include directing all fiscal activities, accounting, payroll, vendor contracting, working with the Sheriff to lease bed space to other governmental entities, and coordinating and participating in the hiring process. Experience in budgeting and accounting practices, computer technology, personnel and contract negotiation. Position Profile available by mail or online at www.brimgroup.com. Deadline for application is 10/23/02. Send resume to The Brimeyer Group Executive Search, Fifty South Ninth Avenue, #101, Hopkins, MN 55343, phone: (952) 945-0246, fax: (952) 945-0102, e-mail brimgroup@aol.com.

CFO/DIRECTOR OF FINANCE **CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS**

Pilot City Health Center – Minneapolis is seeking a CFO/Director of Finance. Requires Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, Business Admin., or related field, and 5 years of experience in accounting/finance. Advanced degree or certification preferred (MBA, CPA, FHFMA). Experience in all aspects of health care finance - - patient accounting, cost reporting (FQHC), reimbursement, general accounting, accounts payable, contracting with third party payers, ad hoc report writing, management reports, financial analysis, and supervising professional and office support staff.

Apply online at www.co.hennepin.mn.us/jobs/jobs.htm by 10/13/02. For more information please contact Chara Blanch at Chara.Blanch@co.hennepin.mn.us or 612-348-7581.

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 October.

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