
MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

October 2005

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President

By Tom Pepper

Swimming. Cycling. Running.

I get tired just writing those words. I'm no triathlete—unless you count the times I'm swimming upstream, cycling through the same problems over and over, and running out of time—but I've always admired triathletes, thanks largely to NBC-TV's Al Trautwig, who each year fills his narration of Hawaii's Iron Man Race with incredible stories of participants' personal triumph over adversity.

Why is it that triathletes seem to have more than their share of these stories of triumph? Those of us that attended the Friday session at the Annual Conference in Alexandria a week ago have new insight into this question. Our speaker, Twin Citian Tony Schiller, the reigning World Master's Triathlon champion, suggested the key to experiencing personal triumph is in how we run the race of life, and not in what place we finish.

Tony talked to us about having a BreakAway mentality. Breaking away from the pack takes courage. Why do we refuse to set outrageous goals for ourselves? We get caught up in the rest of life, hanging back with the pack, just getting to the finish.

His first step in achieving BreakAway results is acceptance of where you are, or letting go of the outcome and focusing on the process. It's being in the moment. Next, trust your ability; every BreakAway starts with blind faith. And then, break away from the pack—ask yourself, where do I go from here?

Of course, to make a change—or take the lead—in life, it helps to be motivated. Each participant in a road race wears a race number. The number 1 is reserved for the defending champion or favorite to win the race. Tony gave each of us a race number 1 to wear, and asked, "What race number do you put on each day? ... Number 1 may not always be THE best, but let it be your best."

And then he said something that made a lot of us finance/accounting-types cringe: "We're at our best when we're out on the edge, in more of a dangerous place, and less of a safe place." Some of us cringed because we fear being out on the edge. Others of us cringed because we knew he was right, and we weren't there yet.

So where are you breaking away to? Where am I going out on the edge in my life? (Don't worry, I won't start with investment management.) Time for all of us to put our number 1 on, and go swimming, cycling, running ... or whatever it is we know we should do.

My personal thanks to Conference Co-chairs Sue Iverson and Tom Kelly and the entire Conference and Social Committees for their Maximum Effort in putting together a fabulous conference with Maximum Results! Great job!



October Meeting



Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2005
Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points
Speaker: To be announced – Please visit the MnGFOA website for more details
Topic: To be announced
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 Mtg
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 by Thursday, October 13, 2005. (Vegetarian meal choice is available.)

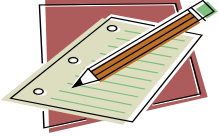
Speaker Bio ...

A speaker bio was not available at this time. Please visit the MnGFOA website for more details.

2005 Meeting Dates

Monthly Meetings:

October 19 November 16 December 14



Fall Training Schedule Announced

The Education Committee of the MnGFOA will be offering the following one-day training sessions:

- Intermediate Governmental Accounting—Wednesday, October 26, 2005—St. Cloud, Minnesota; and
- Advanced Governmental Accounting — Thursday, October 27, 2005—Bloomington, Minnesota

A registration form with further details is available on the MnGFOA website. If you have any questions, please contact either Jylan Johnson, City of Victoria at 952-443-2363 or jjohnson@ci.victoria.mn.us, or Cindy Rollins, City of Bloomington at 952-563-4702 or crollins@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

SCSU Career Fair Help Needed

On October 6, 2005, the MnGFOA will be sponsoring a booth at St. Cloud State University's Career Fair Day. Greg Sticha is looking for volunteers to staff the booth and/or assist with preparing for the event. This is a great opportunity to connect with students and share your career experiences with them. If you're interested, please contact Greg at 952-227-1149.



Committee

Executive Committee Update

Due to last month's Annual Conference, there is no update for this month.

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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

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 20th 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

Tom Kelly Receives Moran Award

When people noticed at the 2004 Annual Conference that Tom Kelly showed up in the background of almost every photo taken at MnGFOA gatherings, he was immediately dubbed Waldo, as in the "Where's Waldo?" books. He's taken a lot of ribbing about that, but there's a reason he's in all those photos: Tom has been a leader in almost every area of our organization.

Appropriately enough, Tom got one more photo op at this year's conference when he was awarded the prestigious Thomas J. Moran Award. The award recognizes extraordinary service rendered to advance the quality of public financial administration, promote the development and education of governmental accounting, and promote high standards in the field of government finance in Minnesota.

Tom has served in almost every official MnGFOA capacity, from Conference chair, to Education chair, to Treasurer, Secretary, President-Elect, and President. Tom also currently serves on the National GFOA Committee on Governmental Budgeting and Fiscal Policy. For over ten years, he's been a reviewer for (and recipient of) the GFOA Distinguished Budget Award. This year, he volunteered to serve a second year as MnGFOA Past President and, if that wasn't enough, he co-chaired the Conference Committee. On top of that, he's truly a nice guy with a servant's heart!

No one in recent memory can touch his record of service to the MnGFOA. And no one at the conference could have been more deserving of the standing O that he received. Congratulations and our thanks to you, Tom Kelly!

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



