
MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

October 2006

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President

By Chris Miller

Shortly after I was selected to be the next MnGFOA Treasurer (oh so long ago), it occurred to me that when it came time for me to serve as the President, I would get the opportunity to write a monthly message to the membership – as I'm doing now. After a few moments of reflection, I concluded that this would be a great opportunity to opine about our profession, make pithy comments, and entertain the masses. A few moments later it occurred to me that while talking about our profession comes easy to me, I've never tried to entertain the masses. And I had to look up what the word 'pithy' meant.

In the end, writing a monthly article came easier than I thought. It helped knowing that I was writing to friends and colleagues. This probably goes a long way in explaining why I've made references to the likes of SpongeBob Squarepants, Lance Armstrong, Charles Darwin, and Bob Dylan over the past year. I'm pretty sure those names have never made it into our CAFR or Budget Book. But the MnGFOA newsletter; no problem!

A special thanks to the Conference and Social Committees for organizing an outstanding Annual Conference last month. As always, the Conference featured a terrific balance between technical and professional development sessions. And the evening and networking activities were top notch as well. Even though I chickened-out, I especially liked the Karaoke. I had no idea we had so much musical talent in our group. On the other hand, I'm still trying to get that Madonna impersonation out of my mind. HA!

Oh yeah, almost forgot . . . Go Twins!

October Meeting



Date: October 18, 2006
Location: Minneapolis Sheraton 4 Points
Topic: Investments and Collateral for Governments
Speaker: Bill MacLean, Vice President, US Bank Corporate Treasury Division
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Cost: \$15.00
Meal: Oriental Chicken Salad

Reservations: You may leave your reservation with Larry Jacobson, City of Plymouth at 763-509-5320 or on our website at www.mngfoa.org by Thursday, October 12, 2006. (Vegetarian meal choice is available.)

2006 Meeting Dates

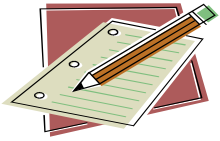
Monthly Meetings:

November 15 (Quarterly Training) December 13

Annual Business Meeting Update

At the annual conference, the following highlights took place:

- Approved minutes from last years business meeting.
- Approved treasurer's report.
- Approved Audit Report.
- Update from Conference Venue Task Force.
- Updates from Standing Committee's.
- Amended By-Laws to include a student membership and fee for a student membership.
- Announced 2007 Treasurer to be Cathy Shuman. (Congrats Cathy!!)



Fall Training Schedule

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

Beginning Governmental Accounting

Wednesday, October 18, 2006

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Bloomington Civic Plaza

1800 W. Old Shakopee Road

Bloomington, MN 55431

952-563-8700

Thursday, October 19, 2006

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

75 S. 37th Avenue

St. Cloud, MN 56302

320-253-9000

This seminar provides an introduction to basic governmental accounting. This is a great class for staff who have limited exposure to governmental accounting and need, or want, to understand more. For more details on the speaker, content and registration information go to www.mngts.org where you can view or download a brochure and registration information and register on-line.

If you have any questions about this training, please call Cindy Rollins at 952-563-4702.

MnGFOA Internship Grant

Each year, the MnGFOA provides a matching grant up to a maximum of \$3,000, for active member organizations for the purposes of hiring an accounting or finance intern.

We're currently accepting applications from active member organizations for the 2007 fiscal year. The application deadline is October 31, 2006.

The Internship Grant will be awarded in December or January. Application forms may be downloaded from the MnGFOA website at: www.mngfoa.org by clicking on the link 'Forms'. Applications should be directed to Chris Miller by email at: chris.miller@ci.roseville.mn.us or by mail to his address listed in the MnGFOA directory.

Committee

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Executive Committee Update

There was no Executive Committee meeting for September due to the Annual Conference.

Special Message From Past President Dan Faust

After 35 years in government finance I have decided to make a career change! October 31 will be my last day of employment as Finance Director at the City of Maplewood. I made this decision in order to spend more time with my insurance and financial planning businesses. I will be working with other agents at Newman Long-Term Care Insurance Company to help people protect their retirement assets. Also, as a Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor at my other business, I will be helping people plan for their retirement. I plan to make both of these new jobs part-time and will have a very flexible schedule.

My work as the chief financial officer at Shakopee, Wayzata and Maplewood during the past 35 years have been trying at times but rewarding. It was a special privilege to be President of the MGFOA in 1989. While I look forward to the freedom and flexibility my new jobs will bring me, I will miss the many personal and professional relationships that I have developed over the past 35+ years. I wish all of you the best in your careers.

JOB POSTINGS

Brooklyn Park Accountant

The City of Brooklyn Park is seeking applications for a part-time Accountant . Duties include accounting, financial reporting, budgeting, tracking capital project expenditures and maintaining 50 year capital plan. Minimum qualifications: 4 year degree in Accounting; 5 years experience in accounting and financial planning; 2 years experience in the use of software programs, **such as** Microsoft Word, Excel, & Access. Anticipated hiring range: \$2,195 to \$2,582/month, depending on qualifications, plus part-time benefit package. Closing date: 5 p.m., Friday, October 20, 2006.

Greg Sticha
City of Chanhassen
7700 Market Blvd, PO Box 147
Chanhassen, MN 55317



Brooklyn Park Accountant (Continued)

All applicants must complete a city application form, plus a city supplemental application form, which are available from the city's website, or from the address below:

City of Brooklyn Park
5200 - 85th Ave North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443
Phone: 763-424-8000 Fax: 763-493-8391
www.brooklynpark.org
Equal Opportunity Employer

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,

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