



MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

October 2007

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President

By Greg Sticha

So we have just finished our 44th annual conference and once again the conference committee out did themselves. This year's theme of "Riding the Highway of Change" may have been fitting for most of us, but most likely in slightly different ways for each of us.

Wednesday morning's session got off to a terrific start with a very energetic Dr. James Bensen. Dr. Bensen's program was inspiring to me for a few reasons. He quoted Joseph Campbell who said "You either claim your destiny or someone will hand you one". I am as guilty as anyone of letting my destiny happen to me, rather than make my destiny at times. As Dr. Bensen said, being creative about partnerships and having the understanding that knowledge drives change are key elements in identifying ways to claim your own destiny. He also stated that shattering old ideas and ways of doing things is critical to making an impact on your own destiny. I know when we are in our offices on a daily basis, sometimes attempting to do things radically different than we have in the past does not seem logical. But I also think that sometimes "logical" drives our destiny in too many cases.

The rest of the conference was filled with excellent topics and speakers. Whether you went to a session on investment portfolio strategies, transportation funding, or a legislative or GASB/SAS update, I am positive you found the speakers and materials informative.

We closed the conference with what most people have said was an eye opening discussion of how we live our lives. "Enjoy the Ride", presented by Steve Gilliland, reminded each and everyone one of us that as we go through life, we need to enjoy those special moments we have with our loved ones.

He mentioned how he was always planning for the rest of his day or week rather than living in the moment. This hit home really hard on someone like me who has basically his entire day planned either on paper or in mind by 8am. It was just a simple reminder of how the important things in life don't always take place on an agenda or on a calendar.

This year's conference again exceeded everyone's expectations including my own. I would like to specially thank Cory and his committee for all their hard work before and during the conference. You guys put on a great conference and should be very proud of all your hard work. I would also like to thank Judy Moll and the entire social committee who kept us all entertained with some really fun activities while we were there. Hope to see you on October 17th at our monthly luncheon!!!

October Meeting



DATE: Wednesday, October 17, 2007
LOCATION: Minneapolis Sheraton Four Points
TOPIC: Bridge Management for Local Agencies
SPEAKERS: Gary Morien, PE &
Matt Jensen, PE Bonestroo
TIME: 11:30 Meeting & Program
12:15 Luncheon
LUNCH: Minnesota Meatloaf
COST: \$15

Reservations: Please register on the MnGFOA website (www.mngfoa.org) or send an e-mail to Cathy Shuman (cathy.shuman@ci.monticello.mn.us) by Thursday October 11th.

Speaker Bio... Bridge management programs are an integral, required component of our transportation infrastructure program. They are administered at the local, regional, and State government levels. While municipalities regularly inventory and inspect their bridge assets, often necessary preventative and corrective bridge maintenance is delayed. As a result, municipalities must replace their bridges at a greater frequency, diminishing tight financial resources.

The presentation will explain the requirements of the bridge inspection program within Minnesota, demonstrate how to prioritize bridge maintenance, and discuss how bridge funding applies to local governments.

Gary Morien is an Associate with Bonestroo and leads the firm's Transportation Bridge Group. His 27 years of experience ranges from trail bridges, pedestrian overpasses, single-span bridges over creeks, to multiple-span grade separation over major freeways and railroad bridges. Gary holds a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering from the Milwaukee School of Engineering and Master of Civil Engineering from the University of Minnesota. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the Minnesota and Wisconsin. Gary has two grown boys and lives with his wife Karen in Shoreview, MN.

Matt Jensen is a structural engineer with Bonestroo and specializes in bridge design, inspection, and construction services for municipalities. He assists communities with identifying structure deficiencies and planning, funding, and implementation of bridge replacements. Matt received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Michigan Technological University and his M.S. in Infrastructure Systems Engineering at the University of Minnesota. He is a licensed professional engineer in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Matt lives in Blaine with his wife Shannon.

Committee

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Executive Committee Update

The Executive Committee very briefly met in September and took the following actions:

- Approved contract with Bitwise Logic, Inc. for Website services.

TRAINING

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

Intermediate Governmental Accounting

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

St. Cloud Civic Center

10 Fourth Ave. South

St. Cloud, MN 56301

320-255-7272



Advanced Governmental Accounting

Thursday, October 25, 2007

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Haeg Conference Room, Bloomington Civic Plaza

1800 West Old Shakopee Road

Bloomington, MN 55431

952-563-8700

Intermediate Accounting will cover GAAP, fund accounting, capital assets, basis of accounting, budgetary accounting and financial reporting.

Advanced Accounting will cover fund classifications, interfund transactions, budgetary reporting, debt issuance, capital assets and financial reporting. For this session, participant exercises form the basis of the discussion with limited instructor lectures.

Please see the Government Training Services website for a brochure and on-line registration (www.mngts.org). Paul Glick will be teaching these sessions. Please consider whether this training would be beneficial for you and/or your staff. Cost for each session is \$125 which includes lunch, breaks and class materials.

2007 Meeting Dates

Monthly Meetings:

October 17 – Monthly luncheon, Sheraton Four Points

November 14 – Quarterly training: *Internal Control*

December 19 – Monthly luncheon, Sheraton Four Points

Training Opportunities

Intermediate Fund Accounting – October 24, St. Cloud

Advanced Fund Accounting – October 25, Bloomington

Annual Conferences:

GFOA – Fort Lauderdale, FL June 15-18, 2008

MnGFOA – Alexandria, MN Sept. 23-26, 2008

Congratulations to:

Ron Hedberg, Finance Director of Cottage Grove who was chosen as the MnGFOA Treasurer for 2008. Ron will serve as President in 2011. *Many thanks to Sharon Legg and the selection committee for their deliberations.*

JOB POSTINGS

Assistant Finance Director City of Baxter

The City of Baxter (pop. 7,600+) a growing, progressive, regional center in the heart of the Brainerd Lakes Area is accepting applications for the position of Assistant Finance Director. Successful candidate will assist the Finance Director in providing direction and leadership for all finance functions including monthly financial statements, analyzing financial questions, accounting for city and private developer projects, and preparing special, non-standard reports. The position will review department financial situations and assist with preparing and monitoring budgets, including the development of the Capital Improvement Plan and the annual budget. Assists in preparation of annual audit, CAFR, and oversees and supports other finance functions as needed.

Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance or closely related field. Three or more years of related accounting experience with two or more years of public sector accounting and supervisory experience in a similar position desired. Proficiency with MS Excel and computerized accounting is required, along with excellent writing, verbal, and analytical skills. Starting 2007 Salary \$49K - \$57K DOQ with excellent benefits. Visit www.ci.baxter.mn.us for job description and application packet. Completed City application and resume must be received by Friday, October 19, 2007. EOE



Account Clerk City of Chanhassen

The City of Chanhassen is seeking applicants for the position of account clerk. This position is responsible for preparing Minnesota Sales & Use Tax and Fuel Tax returns, reconciling monthly bank statement and cash to the General Fund, and reconciling City VISA accounts. Prepares accounts payable and provides general assistance to the finance department. This position also supports the Fire Department, with duties including payroll, preparing letters and reports, and filing monthly fire reports with the State Fire Marshall's Office. Prefer two-year college degree and one year of accounting experience or 5 years of accounting experience. Starting pay range is \$17.00 - \$19.00 per hour with excellent benefits.

Application deadline is October 5, 2007. Send resume and application to Laurie Hokkanen, Assistant City Manager, P.O. Box 147, Chanhassen, MN, 55317. Job descriptions and applications are available at City Hall, on the City's website at www.ci.chanhassen.mn.us or by calling City Hall at (952) 227-1100.

Accounting Technician City of Vadnais Heights

The City of Vadnais Heights is seeking an Accounting Technician to prepare and maintain a variety of financial records including processing of accounts payable claims; accounts receivable; utility billing; assisting in preparing annual financial report and annual budget; processing vendor payments for sales tax, income taxes and withholding; and maintain computerized records system.

Requires: Two years of formal training beyond high school and one year of related work or experience. Expected hiring range is \$18.64 - \$19.89/hr., plus benefits. EOE

Visit the City's web site at www.cityvadnaisheights.com and click on News & Events/ Job Postings to obtain a City application and job description. City application, resume and cover letter must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, October 8, 2007.

Robin Roland
City of Farmington
325 Oak Street
Farmington, MN 55024



Finance Director City of Fairmont

The City of Fairmont, Minnesota (pop. 11,000) is seeking a Finance Director to direct its financial affairs and manage the operations of the Finance and Administration Department. 2007 budget for all funds is \$25 million.

Requires a Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business or public administration and 3 years of responsible municipal finance experience.

CPA or CPFO a plus. Salary range: \$60,736 to \$75,290 DOQ. Resume, cover letter, salary history, and professional references to Sharon Klumpp, Springsted Incorporated, 380 Jackson Street, Suite 300, St. Paul, MN 55101; 651.223.3053, fax 651.223.3002 or e-mail, fairmont@springsted.com.

Deadline: 10/5/07 EOE

Message from the Editor

It's Fall! Leaves are turning and falling. Why don't you "Fall"- ow through with your job openings, ads, career moves, or other items of note by sending them to me by the 20th of this month and I'll put them in the next newsletter. Thanks.

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