



MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

October 2008

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President

The 45th Annual Minnesota Government Finance Officers Association Conference has come and gone. And what a Conference it was! A record setting 310 attendees enjoyed three days of fabulous sessions and socializing. From Dr. Alan Zimmerman's "Relationship Recipe" to Chris Heeter's "What sled dogs know", from great food and great company to Twins games on portable TV's, Casino night and Comedians, we were together learning, sharing and enjoying.

Julie Vogel, Dan Jordet and the rest of the conference committee deserve a round of applause for a job very well done. Our membership continues to be our own best resource for ideas and instruction on a variety of topics. And it was really nice of Wall Street and the President to provide additional discussion topics during the course of the conference. It made the sessions that much more timely.

I tried Dr. Zimmerman's 'Positive thinking' experiment with several other individuals on Wednesday night as we were watching the Twins and White Sox game. It was so close and scary but our combined telepathy caused the 3-2 Twins victory, I just know it! (OK, maybe something else was working there but it sure was fun.)

This was my 16th conference and I think they just get better and better. I may not stay up as late as some or provide the 'entertainment' that some presidents have (yes, I mean you Greg) but I always take away at least one idea or experience that makes the whole conference worthwhile. I hope those of you who were at Arrowwood did the same. And I hope those of you who didn't attend this year will be able to join us for the 46th Annual Conference next September.

Congratulations to Jessie Hart who was chosen as the MnGFOA Treasurer for 2009. As she pointed out to me after her appointment was announced, Jessie will begin her stint on the Executive Committee the same year as she celebrates her 30th year in the organization. (She must have been a toddler when she joined.)

The month of October offers two training opportunities (Beginning and Intermediate Fund Accounting) and our monthly luncheon. Further information on all of these is included with this newsletter. Be sure to take a look.

I said it in Alexandria and I will say it again here: **Together**, we make a difference in our profession and in each other's lives. We are stronger and better with the respect, rapport and recognition of our friends and colleagues in MnGFOA. In these tough, scary times, it's good to know we have each other.

Robin



October Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, October 15, 2008
LOCATION: Minneapolis Sheraton Four Points
TOPIC: **Fundamentals of Workplace Planning**
SPEAKER: Laura Kushner
League of Minnesota Cities
TIME: 11:30 Meeting & Program
12:15 Luncheon
LUNCH: Grilled Pork Chop
COST: \$15

Reservations: Please register on the MnGFOA website (www.mngfoa.org), send an e-mail to Ron Hedberg (rhedberg@cottage-grove.org), or leave a voice mail for Ron at 651-458-2832 by Thursday October 9th.

Please remember to register for the meeting to provide that enough meals are ordered and tables are set up for the meeting.

Speaker Bio ~

Laura Kushner is the Director of HR & Benefits for the League of Minnesota Cities. Her department coordinates HR training, benefits consultation and assistance to cities struggling with union issues and all types of employment-related questions. Laura came to the League ten years ago, after having worked in human resources for the cities of Roseville, Crystal and Maple Grove.

MnGFOA Educational Workshops

The Education Committee of the MnGFOA is offering two one-day training session, October 22 & 23. Paul Glick will be the instructor.

Beginning Governmental Accounting

Wednesday, October 22 – 8:30am – 4:30, at the Best Western Kelly Inn in St Cloud.



Intermediate Governmental Accounting

Thursday, October 23 - 8:30am – 4:30, at the City of Monticello.

Information is available at the MNGFOA website (www.mngfoa.org) or register on line at Governmental Training Services at www.mngts.org.

2008 Meeting Dates

Monthly Meetings

November 19 – Quarterly Training, Sheraton Four Points
December 10 - Monthly luncheon, Sheraton Four Points

Education Training Dates:

October 22 – Beginning Gov. Accounting – St. Cloud
October 23 - Intermediate Gov. Accounting – Monticello
November 19 – Topic to be determined

Annual Conferences:

MnGFOA – Alexandria, MN Sept 23-25, 2009
GFOA – Seattle, Washington June 28 – July 1, 2009

o r n e r Committee

Executive Committee Update

- The Executive Committee did not meet in September.



~ Website News ~

The new website is live. The web designers are working on a couple of final items. When the site is ready for your full use a list serve will be sent out. Thanks for your patience.

Congratulations To...

Jesse Hart, Finance Officer at White Bear Township who was chosen as the MnGFOA Treasurer for 2009. Jessie will serve as President in 2012. *Many thanks to Tom Kelly and the selection committee for their deliberations.*

Congratulations to Sandy Christensen, the new Finance Director of West St. Paul. Sandy started there in August after a brief departure from the public sector. She was previously at Dakota County. And Welcome back Rusty Fifield! Rusty is back in the Financial Advising arena as of October 1st, this time with Northland Securities. Years ago Rusty was at Ehlers and before that at Publiccorp (or was it Springsted?) Best wishes and good luck to both Sandy and Rusty.

Membership Information

Membership information can be updated on line at the MnGFOA website. You will need your username and password. If you have forgotten your username and password, select member, login and you can have the website send it to you.

Larry Jacobson
City of Robbinsdale
4100 Lakeview Avenue N
Robbinsdale, MN 55422-2280



Message from the Editor

The annual MnGFOA annual conference is behind us for one more year. Hope everyone learned much, established some good network resources and had a chance to enjoy the social events. Take a few moments and send me any news you have to share with other members, job openings, career moves, or other items of note; to me by the 20th of each month and they will go in the next newsletter.

Thanks!

Larry Jacobson, City of Robbinsdale
4100 Lakeview Avenue North
Robbinsdale, MN 55422-2280
Phone: 763-531-1215
Email: Ljacobson@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us



JOB POSTINGS

Job posting are also made to the MnGFOA web site and you can check there on a continuing basis for new posting.

