



MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

October 2009

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President

By Larry Jacobson

First off, I'd like to thank the many people to who contributed to making the 46th Annual Minnesota GFOA Conference a success.

Dan Jordet and Bruce DeJong did an excellent job steering the conference committee on toward a hugely successful event. Each member of that committee works very hard through the year planning and making everything happen. Sometimes there are the unexpected short notice changes that make things interesting.

Tina Lannes and Dennis Sonneck did a great job along with the social committee once again putting together a fine package of social interacting activities for the members. The Casablanca Orchestra certainly was high energy and entertaining. The comedian entertainment was once again enjoyable and how come I always get picked on?

Thanks for a great job to everyone on those committees.

The conference is always an enjoyable time. I got to learn several new things, reconnect with several people and got meet a whole lot of new members. I took my own advice and made sure to meet two new people every day, including several new members.

This year's attendance of approximately 260 was down from prior years. There were several members whose attendance was a victim of the budget ax.

Congratulations to Tom Pepper who was the recipient of the MnGFOA Thomas Moran award. As John Norman stated, this is the MnGFOA version of a lifetime achievement award. Tom is another one of our members that does great things even though they appear the normal response to themselves. Thanks Tom for the leadership and example you have provided to me and other members of our organization.

Congratulations to Cory Kampf who was chosen as the MnGFOA Treasurer for 2010. Cory was selected by the members of the Treasurer Selection Committee. I look forward to working with Cory on the executive board and to his perspective and originality.

As the theme to the conference stated, "It's a Whole New Ballgame". I am hopeful that we will all have a few new tools available to get us through the rest of the game and the season. The game isn't over yet and there will more work for us to do.

I know that we will be successful by working as a professional group to make the tasks easier for all of us, take our turns at leadership and support those that take their turn in the lead.

Remember our slogan: "Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance".

Larry



MONTHLY MEETING

2009 Important Dates

MONTHLY MEETINGS/EVENTS:

DATE: Wednesday, October 21, 2009
LOCATION: Ramada Plaza, Minneapolis (formerly Sheraton Four Points)
TOPIC: “*Best Practices in Accounts Receivable Processes*”
SPEAKER: Rob Ryan, Transworld Systems, Inc
TIME: 11:30 am – Speaker
12:00 pm – Luncheon
LUNCH: Northwoods Chicken Salad
COST: \$15

- October 21, 2009 – Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- October 2009 – Beginning Governmental Acctg, St Cloud MN
- October 2009 – Intermediate Governmental Acctg, Metro Area
- November 18, 2009 – Quarterly Training (topic TBD), Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- December 9, 2009 – Monthly Luncheon & Holiday Social, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis

Reservations: It is preferred that you register on the MnGFOA website (mngfoa.org) – there is a link on the home page to go to register for the luncheon event. You could also send an email to Jessie Hart (jessie.hart@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us) or leave a voice mail for Jessie at 651.747.2760 no later than Friday, July 10th.

PLEASE NOTE – The **Ramada Plaza Minneapolis** is the new affiliation, replacing the Sheraton Four Points effective May 28, 2009. Same place – new name!!

CHANGED JOBS OR CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGED?

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

Topic: Rob’s topic is how to incorporate best practices in your accounts receivable processes. Areas covered will include billing, creating internal procedures, effective follow up and third party collections.

Speaker: *Rob Ryan ~Transworld Systems, Inc.*
Rob Ryan has been an Accounts Receivable Consultant with Transworld Systems, Inc. for 10 months. His responsibilities include consulting with business and governments to help them improve internal processes in order to maximize cash flow, and helping speed up slow pay/past due accounts through a two-phase collections process. Prior to joining Transworld Systems, Rob spent 14 years at Ameriprise Financial in a variety of roles including leading the retirement services call center and as a marketing manager in the client acquisition area. In between stints at Ameriprise Financial, he ran his own housing restoration business for a couple of years.

Have you changed jobs or has your contact information changed recently? If so we would encourage you to update this information directly on the MnGFOA web site in the Members section under “Update Members Information.” If you do not remember your login information (user name and/or password) there is a link on the home page to make a request for that information to be emailed directly to you. The web site data base is the official member data base and should be current so to ensure you receive timely information from the organization; please keep your information current.
THANKS!



Committee

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Executive Committee Update

The Executive Committee did not meet in September.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

A special thank you to Conference Chair Dan Jordet and his committee for all their work on putting together a great conference with a variety of sessions and excellent speakers. Also, many thanks go to Tina Lannes and the social committee for arranging the entertainment and activities that we enjoyed at the conference.

Congratulations to...

TOM PEPPER on receiving the prestigious Thomas J Moran award at this year's Minnesota GFOA Annual Business Meeting. Tom accepted the award in his usual humble manner with a standing ovation and great appreciation from the membership. The GFOA organization is proud to honor Tom with this award for his leadership and mentoring over the years. Following is an excerpt that explains the Tom Moran award:

“The Thomas J. Moran Award is given by the Minnesota Government Finance Officers Association to recognize extraordinary service rendered by an individual to advance the quality of public financial administration and the principles of governmental accounting, to promote the development and education of governmental finance and accounting personnel, and to promote high standards in the field of government finance in Minnesota. The award is given annually whenever, in the opinion of the Executive Committee of the Minnesota Government Finance Officers Association, an individual has clearly demonstrated by outstanding effort that he or she is dedicated to the improvement of public financial administration as best exemplified by Thomas J. Moran.”

CORY KAMPF, Finance Director at Brooklyn Park, for being named the MnGFOA Treasurer for 2010. Cory will serve 4 years on the Executive Board moving from Treasurer to Secretary to President Elect and then President. Cory's background and experience in the GFOA made him an excellent candidate and choice for the Board. Congratulations, Cory!

JOB POSTINGS

The City of Rochester Finance Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Principal Financial Analyst to perform a variety of complex accounting functions; supervise technical and clerical staff; oversee the City's payroll, debt management, mass transit, federal grant, and tax increment financing (TIF) programs; develop and implement payroll processing systems and procedures; assist with the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR); monitor and implement new pronouncements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board; advise City departments on accounting policies and technical procedures; prepare and maintain various financial and statistical reports; and maintain the integrity of the City's financial system general ledger and perform other duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Bachelor's degree in Accounting or related field and three to five years professional accounting experience including one year supervisory experience. Working knowledge and experience with computerized accounting systems required.

Applications available at www.rochestermn.gov - accepted until the position is filled. Applications received by September 25, 2009 will be given priority consideration. Mail to: City of Rochester, Human Resources Dept, 201-4th St SE, Rochester, MN 55904. Call 507-328-2555 or FAX 507-328-2565.

October Educational Workshops

Beginning Governmental Accounting (\$125)

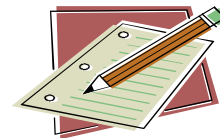
Wednesday, October 21, 2009

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Best Western Kelly Inn

100 Fourth Avenue South, St. Cloud, MN 56301

320-258-8406



This seminar provides an introduction to, and an understanding of basic governmental accounting concepts and systems. It is designed for entry level accounting personnel and other staff from smaller local governments including: accounts payable clerks, accounting technicians and clerk-type personnel. This seminar assumes participants have limited experience with governmental or commercial accounting, and offers an opportunity for them to gain an understanding of why they are doing what they are doing. The Agenda includes:

- Basic accounting theory
- Double entry accounting
- Fund accounting
- Accounts & coding
- Accounting records
- Basics of accounting

Intermediate Governmental Accounting (\$125)

Thursday, October 22, 2009

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus

Continuing Education and Conference Center

1890 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108

612-624-3275

This seminar discusses GAAP and legal compliance, fund accounting, capital assets and long-term debt, the basis of accounting, budgetary accounting, classification and terminology, and financial reporting. The workshop is designed for governmental personnel wanting an overview or review of current GAAP. The Agenda includes:

- The GASB
- Classification of transactions
- Governmental, proprietary & fiduciary funds
- Fund accounting
- Financial reporting

Credit Information

8.0 CPE credits are available to workshop attendees for each workshop.

Instructor

Paul Glick is founder and principal in Glick Consulting Group. In this role he conducts financial management training courses nationwide for representatives of state and local governments, as well as providing consulting and technical assistance to government clients. Before establishing his own firm, Mr. Glick served as lead instructor for governmental accounting and financial reporting training programs for the Government Finance Officers Association in Chicago, Illinois. He is author/editor of fourteen GFOA publications including the Financial Reporting Series and was contributing author of GFOA's 1988 Government Accounting and Financial Reporting publication. Mr. Glick has a B.A degree in economics and a M.A. degree in school district management from Northern Illinois University.

Registration

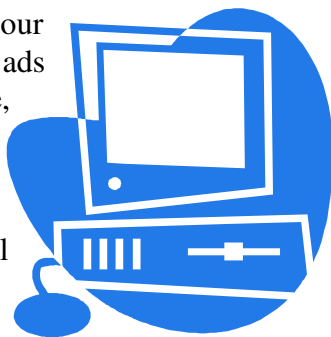
To register, go to <http://mngts.org>.

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Message from the Editor

Please send me any news for our newsletter: job openings, ads related to government finance, career moves, committee updates, or other noteworthy items. You are encouraged to submit general items of interest in any area of government finance. The cutoff date is the 20th of each month, and the newsletter will be emailed or mailed about the first day of the upcoming month. Thanks.



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