
MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

September 2005

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President

By Tom Pepper

Do you long for the good ol' days? I'm not thinking about when gas was \$1.99 a gallon, though that seems like a long time ago now ... no, I'm thinking even farther back than that.

Remember when, at the end of a hot summer, you couldn't wait to get back to school in September to see friends you hadn't seen in months? Remember that you even *enjoyed* being in the classroom again? Remember standing in the lunch line with your lunch ticket in hand, smelling all the good food in front of you? (OK, scratch the word "good" if it helps you remember.) Remember getting together with your buds to play games or hang out after the first day of class because there was no homework?

Well, guess what ... the good ol' days are here again! We're going back to school this September. Classes at Arrowwood College and Resort in Alexandria start on the 21st. And it's all there—classes you'll enjoy, friends, lunch lines and lunch tickets, games after class—and no homework!

Conference Co-chairs Sue Iverson and Tom Kelly and their committee have signed up a great group of teachers for this school. There's a math class, a gym class ('scuse me, Minnesotans, I mean Phy Ed), and a whole slew of finance and management classes.

And let's not forget another great component of this school's curriculum: late-Thursday afternoon, weather permitting (and it just might), we get to go outside for recess!

If it's not already in your plans, keep in mind Arrowwood College and Resort has open enrollment, and plenty of seats remain for each class. Learn a lot from the teachers; learn a lot from your friends. Come join us in Alex and sing those old Carly Simon lyrics in the car on the ride up: "... These are the good ol' days! ..."

September Meeting

Due to the Annual Conference, there will be no monthly program.

2005 Meeting Dates

Monthly Meetings:

October 19 November 16
December 14

Conferences & Training:

MnGFOA Annual Conference
Alexandria, MN Sept 21-23

MnGFOA Fall Training Event

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



Committee o r n e r

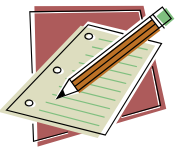
Executive Committee Update

At the August 17th meeting, the minutes of the July 20th meeting were approved. Highlights of those minutes include:

- Approval of the check registers and Treasurer's Report for June. Robin reported that revenues and expenditures for the year have continued as expected
- The Membership Services Task Force presented the findings of the secondary survey that was conducted with the assistance of the Government Training Service (GTS). It was agreed that representatives of the Executive, Education, and Program Committees would meet at the Fall Conference to draft an implementation schedule to carryout the new initiatives that were requested by the Membership
- The Standing Committees all provided updates on upcoming activities
- The Executive Committee agreed to continue serving as a sponsoring organization for the Annual Accounting & Auditing Student Conference, held each year at the Minneapolis Convention Center
- The Executive Committee agreed to rename the Advanced Government Finance Institute (AGFI) Scholarship to the Lori Ann Webster AGFI Scholarship in recognition of Lori's contribution and dedication to the MnGFOA and the profession
- The Executive Committee selected a new logo concept design that had been submitted by Tom Pepper as part of a new logo contest. The concept design will be forwarded to a graphics arts company for greater refinement

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.



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, MN; and
- Advanced Governmental Accounting —Thursday, October 27, 2005—Bloomington, MN

A registration form with further details will be e-mailed to members, and will be available on the MnGFOA website next month. If you have 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.

Job Postings / Career Moves

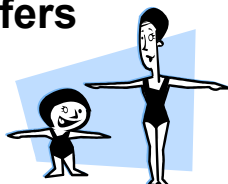
Congratulations to Margaret Egan, who has accepted a position with the City of St. Paul as the Chief Budget Analyst for the City Council. She started her new position in mid-August and can be contacted at margaret.egan@ci.stpaul.mn.us. Margaret was most recently Finance Director for the City of Vadnais Heights. Good luck in your new job Margaret!

Annual Conference

There is still time to register for the 2005 Annual Conference "Maximum Effort – Maximum Results" to be held at Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria from September 21 to 23. The registration forms for the conference registration and for the hotel reservation are available at MnGFOA.org. The conference schedule is also available on the web site. From Wednesday's opening session to Friday's closing session – this year's conference offers a wealth of information on a variety of topics. In addition the Social Committee has plan evening activities that are sure to provide fun and great networking opportunities for every one. Plan now to join approximately 200 of your friends and colleagues at this year's conference. The conference committee and the social committee look forward to seeing you there.

Any questions about the conference? Contact Sue Iverson: siverson@ci.mahtomedi.mn.us or 651-426-3344; or Tom Kelly: tom.kelly@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us or 651-429-5827.

Annual Conference Offers Introduction to Pilates/Core Strengthening Session



At this year's conference on Thursday from 1:30-3:00 pm there will be an Introduction to Pilates/Core Strengthening session taught by Christi Nordby. This will be hands on session, which will require attendees to wear workout/comfortable clothing and to bring a workout mat or towel to sit/lay on.

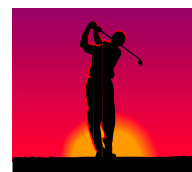
Annual Conference Roundtable Discussion on Outreach Efforts

Nearly a decade ago, the MnGFOA initiated a new effort to reach out to prospective government accountants and finance officers. The purpose was to inform and educate individuals about career opportunities in government. At the time, it was recognized that a void existed within most career and student centers, which primarily directed individuals to private firms. Over the past decade,

members of the MnGFOA have participated in the annual Student Conference, attended on-campus career fairs, and visited local colleges and universities to talk directly with students.

At this year's Annual Conference, a roundtable discussion will be held on Thursday morning from 8:30 – 10:00am in the Lake Le Homme Dieu room. Members are encouraged to stop by and share your thoughts and suggestions on how we can enhance these outreach efforts. We're also looking for individuals whom are willing to actively participate in these outreach efforts first-hand.

Annual Conference Social Activities



The Social Committee has several fun activities planned during the conference. Tuesday night, there will be "Night-glow" golf on the executive putting course on the front lawn at Arrowwood. It will be dark and lots of fun.

Wednesday there will be a Casino Night with a Caribbean theme. Bring your Caribbean (Tropical) attire/costume for Casino Night. You never know, it may be worth your while (prize?) to be creative. The Caribbean theme can include anything tropical, pirates of the Caribbean, Jamaican, dreadlocks, steel drums, beachwear, etc.

Thursday night will have a comedian followed by a DJ so bring your humor and dancing feet. New this year will be the Texas Hold'em tournament on Thursday afternoon and discounted access to the "Big Splash Water Park" which will be on your own. Other activities will include general socializing, cribbage, ping-pong, walking, shopping, golfing, wine tour, tennis and volleyball among the offerings. The Social Committee looks forward to seeing you there.

The MnGFOA is Working to Attract Tomorrow's Financial Leaders

Over the past seven years, the MnGFOA has remained a sponsoring organization and exhibitor at the annual Accounting & Auditing Student Conference. In this role, the MnGFOA has an opportunity to visit with over 500 students from area

colleges and universities who are interested in learning about careers in governmental finance and accounting. We need your help in getting the message out! The MnGFOA is looking for members from governmental organizations that are willing to spend some time planning the event, and/or helping out during the event at the registration desk, as a conference ambassador, or in the exhibit booth.

This year's conference is Thursday, September 29, 2005, and runs from 9:30 – 3:30pm. We could use your help especially in the morning hours, but if you can stay the whole day, there will be a free lunch plus a motivational speaker during the break!

----- **Also** -----

Has your organization recently hired employees that have recently completed a degree program? At the annual Accounting & Auditing Student Conference, a forum is provided where students interested in careers in governmental finance and accounting can visit with employees that have recently completed a four-year or two-year degree program, and have gone on to work for governmental agencies. This has proven to be extremely popular as the sessions are held 'behind closed doors' which gives the students a chance to find out what it's like to work in government, and how rewarding it can be.

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



We need your help in introducing students to careers in governmental finance and accounting. If you are a recent grad or your organization has hired a recent grad in the past three years, we would like to extend an invitation to the conference so that they can share their success stories with our future hiring prospects.

If you are willing to help us out on these important efforts, please contact Chris Miller at 651-792-7031, or by email at chris.miller@ci.roseville.mn.us.

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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