
MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

September 2006

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance
www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President

By Chris Miller

I hope all of you are looking forward to this month's Annual Conference. The agenda is full with timely topics on governmental accounting and finance, as well as a variety of personal and professional development sessions. Once again, the Conference Committee has done a stellar job in crafting what will surely be an outstanding Conference. A note of appreciation also goes to our Social Committee, which has planned a number of activities to keep us entertained and engaged with our fellow colleagues.

Our August monthly meeting was held on the St. Croix River aboard the Anastasia Paddle Boat. Over 60 members attended this new and unique event. This meeting combined both an educational and training experience with a social and networking opportunity. By most accounts, the event was a success. A special thanks to our speaker, Ms. Nancy Zielke. Ms. Zielke is a former National GFOA President and current Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Finance at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Ms. Zielke spoke to us about leadership in government finance and her experience on serving on the GFOA's Executive Board and other various Committees.

I'm looking forward to connecting with you all at this year's Annual Conference.

2006 Meeting Dates

Monthly Meetings:

October 18

November 15 (Quarterly Training) December 13

Annual Conference:

MnGFOA – Alexandria, MN

Sept 20-22

September Meeting

Due to the upcoming Annual Conference, being held from September 20th-22nd, there will be no monthly meeting for the month of September. See you all in October!

Annual Conference Annual Conference Advertising

"The Times, They Are A Changin'!"
"The Changing Face of Government Finance"

There is still time to register for the 2006 Annual Conference, which will be held at Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria from September 20 to 22. 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 website. 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 planned evening activities that are sure to provide fun and great networking opportunities for everyone. Plan now to join approximately 250 of your friends and colleagues at this year's conference. The conference committee and 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 Cory Kampf: ckampf@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us or 763-531-1215.

P.S. Don't forget your "Gilligan's Island Themed" attire for Thursday evening's activities.



The theme for Thursday evenings' events is Gilligan's Island. After the comedians we will be holding our 2nd Annual Minnow Races, Costume Contest and Karaoke.

Don't forget the Castaways had many visitors to the island; be creative and have fun picking your favorite character "the Professor and Mary Ann....." The Social Committee would like to remind everyone to check out the other activities that are planned throughout the conference. It's a great way to network!

The MNGFOA is Working To Attract Tomorrow's Financial Leaders

Over the past eight 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 helping out during the event as a conference ambassador, or in the exhibit booth.

This year's conference is Thursday, September 28, 2006, and runs from 9:00 – 3:00pm. 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 just 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.

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 five 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.

Committee

o Executive Committee Update

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At the August meeting, the following highlights took place:

- Approved July Meeting Minutes.
- Approved July treasurers report and check registers.
- Discussed Award of John B. Lilja Scholarships.
- Discussed conference venue task force recommendations.
- Reviewed preliminary audit report.
- Reviewed annual conference agenda.

Congratulations!!

Congratulations goes out to Murtuza Siddiqui who has accepted a new position, here are a few outgoing comments from Murtuza:

I have accepted a position as the Associate Vice President of Finance at the Metropolitan State University. I will be heading the business operations of the University. The start date is August 14, 2006.

Although my stay at Arden Hills, as well as the city government, was rather short - 2 1/2 years, I have gained enormous knowledge of city government and had the opportunity to implement significant improvements in the financial operations of the City, not to mention the discovery of fraud! It was a pleasure serving Arden Hills' residents and the City Council.

I plan to continue my membership with the GFOA. I believe my e-mail address will be: murtuza.siddiqui@metrostate.edu

Proposed Bylaw Change

The Executive Committee recently agreed to bring forth a proposed bylaw change for consideration at the upcoming Annual Business Meeting. The proposed change reflects the view that the MnGFOA should pursue student outreach opportunities in an effort to create greater awareness of the government finance profession. Among these opportunities is to offer a discounted MnGFOA membership for students. A bylaw change is required in order for this membership category to be established.

A detailed summary of the proposed bylaw change will be included in your Conference Book. A vote by the membership on the proposed bylaw change will take place at the Annual Business Meeting.

Honoring a Colleague, Friend... and Mother

A little more than a year has passed since 2004 MnGFOA President Lori Webster was taken from this world by cancer, yet she continues to live on in the hearts of her family and friends. And now, with the help of so many of you, and the dedication and determination of Lori's son, a tangible and living memorial to Lori's life has been created.

For his Eagle Scout project, Kris Webster enlisted the resources of 37 volunteer workers and, coupled with more than \$1,100 donated by about thirty MnGFOA members, built a walkway with garden area and benches in a lovely wooded area on his church's grounds. MnGFOA member donations covered the cost of two of the three benches installed.

"The project was a success," Kris said. "It fulfills my mother's desire to give something back to the church and those suffering with a terminal illness or the loss of a loved one—it's a place for reflection, peace and quiet.

The living memorial came about from discussions with my mother before she died, with some changes to the original idea." "My mother also wanted me to accomplish the rank of Eagle Scout, and I feel that this is the way I honor her," Kris added.

The garden/walkway is tucked away in a grove of trees behind the church and borders on the cemetery. Two entrance points lead into a circular path, along which the three benches are placed.

Later, an arbor and trellis with climbing flowers and some bird feeders will be added. "This will bring in the birds that my mother could see out in our back yard during her last days," Kris said.

Kris and his dad, Mike, want to thank the MnGFOA members immensely for their words of encouragement and financial contributions. In addition to the MnGFOA contributions, the Webster family logged over 200 hours on the project, and others provided an additional 200 volunteer hours, \$1,200 in cash, and many in-kind contributions.

Kris pointed out something the family discovered on the benches after they were installed: they have heart shapes on the ends. How appropriate that so many of you with big hearts would dedicate heart benches to the memory of our colleague who had such a big heart for her family and all of you, her friends!

Fall Training Schedule

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

- Beginning Governmental Accounting – Wednesday, October 18, 2006 – Bloomington, MN; and
- Beginning Governmental Accounting – Thursday, October 19, 2006 – St. Cloud, MN.

Paul Glick will be the instructor for these two trainings. Information about this training will be posted on the MnGFOA website by mid-September. A registration form will be available on the MnGFOA website through a link to Government Training Services (GTS). This training will be a great course for those just entering government service or a refresher for those who need the background, but don't work with accounting every day.

JOB POSTINGS

ACCOUNTANT II – Job Opening #19539

Starting salary: \$45,602 to \$66,178 annually

There are currently three (3) vacancies in the Controller's Division of the Finance Department. These positions will be responsible for all aspects of the accounting function including developing and maintaining financial accounts, budget preparation and analysis, closing fiscal month/year-end accounting records, and internal audit functions. Requires: Two years of professional-level accounting experience which has included developing/monitoring budgets, monitoring grant expenditures/reimbursements, preparing financial statements, general ledger, or cost, utility or fund accounting; Bachelors Degree in Accounting, Business Administration, Finance or a closely related field; criminal background check. An equivalent combination of related education/experience may be considered. Transcripts must be submitted with application.

You may submit your resume along with your official City application. Applications accepted 8/21/06 through 9/08/06. For more information, visit city's website: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us. City of Minneapolis, 250 South 4th Street, Suite 100 Minneapolis, MN 55415 612/673-2282, 612/673-2508 Fax. An AA/EOE

Staff Accountant - Polk County, WI

Polk County is seeking a Staff Account to assist in the development, implementation and administration of the County's accounting, statistical records, and financial systems, and providing assistance in all other aspects of financial activities as directed by the Finance Director.

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



Polk County is a growing, progressive, rural community of 45,000 located in west central Wisconsin 50 miles northeast of the Twin Cities metropolitan area

A Bachelor's degree (B. A.) from four-year college or university in accounting, financial management, or a degree in business or public administration with major courses in accounting. Must have a minimum of three years progressively responsible experience in auditing or accounting with preference given to public sector auditing or accounting. Must be knowledgeable of and have experience using and implementing Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and principles of municipal finance. A master's degree may be substituted for one year of the work experience requirement.

For complete job description, salary information, and application visit www.co.polk.wi.us or call 715-485-9270. Deadline to apply: September 15, 2006.

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,

Greg Sticha
City of Chanhassen
7700 Market Blvd, PO Box 147
Chanhassen, MN 55317
952-227-1149
gsticha@ci.chanhassen.mn.us



Minnesota Government Finance Officers Association
2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

"The Times, They Are A Changin!"

"The Changing Face of Government Finance"

<u>WHEN:</u>	September 20 – 22, 2006
<u>WHERE:</u>	Arrowwood Resort Alexandria, Minnesota

CONFERENCE [9/20-22/06]	BY	AFTER
<u>REGISTRATION FEE</u>	<u>August 25</u>	<u>August 25</u>
Member	\$ 200.00	\$ 225.00
Non-Member	\$ 260.00	\$ 285.00

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Minnesota GFOA

MAIL OR FAX REGISTRATION/PAYMENT TO: Cory Kampf, Finance Director
City of Robbinsdale
4100 Lakeview Ave. N.
Robbinsdale, MN 55422
Fax (763) 537-7344

Note: Faxed registrations require payment by credit card (MC / Visa only).
Please fill out credit card information on bottom of registration form.

NEW MEMBER POLICY: You may join MGFOA at the time you register. Rates are \$40 for regular members and \$60 for associate members. New members may remit membership dues with the conference registration fee. Please note that membership dues paid are for a 2006 membership.

LODGING: YOU MUST make separate arrangements by completing the attached lodging registration form for Arrowwood Resort by August 21, 2006. YOU MUST MAIL OR FAX YOUR RESERVATION FORM. Reservations are on a first-come first-served basis and overflow lodging reservations WILL BE made for you by Arrowwood. You are encouraged to make arrangements to share a room.

REFUND POLICY: The registration fee (less expenses) will be refunded if written notice of cancellation is received anytime through September 14, 2006. Written notice of cancellation received on or after September 15, 2006 will be refunded after deducting expenses including meals. Requests for refunds will only be considered up to October 2, 2006

***THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE INVITES ALL PARTICIPANTS TO DRESS
CASUALLY AND ENJOY THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE***

REGISTRATION FORM
[PLEASE RETURN WITH PAYMENT]
MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
“The Times, They Are A Changin!”
"The Changing Face of Government Finance"

YOUR NAME WILL APPEAR ON YOUR NAME TAG AS SUBMITTED BELOW!!!

LAST NAME _____ **FIRST NAME** _____

POSITION _____

EMPLOYER _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

PHONE _____ **E-MAIL** _____

MEMBERSHIP FEE (2005 MEMBERSHIP): **REGULAR [\$40]** _____

ASSOCIATE [\$60] _____

CONFERENCE [9/20-22/06]

<u>REGISTRATION FEE</u>	Member	<u>Non-Member</u>	
By August 25	\$ 200.00	\$ 260.00	_____
After August 25	\$ 225.00	\$ 285.00	_____

TOTAL PAID REGISTRATION _____

IS THIS YOUR FIRST MGFOA CONFERENCE? **YES NO**

IDENTIFY SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS: _____

[SOMEONE WILL CONTACT YOU BY PHONE OR EMAIL REGARDING YOUR NEEDS]

FAXED REGISTRATIONS REQUIRE PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD

MC / VISA CREDIT CARD NUMBER : _____

EXPIRATION DATE: _____ **CVVS NUMBER:** _____

(3 digit number on back of card)

Signature: _____

MN Government Finance Officers Conference
Conference Lodging Reservation Form
September 19-22, 2006
Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center

PREFERRED LODGING HELD UNTIL
August 21, 2006

Company _____

Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

Street _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Day Phone (____) _____

Special Requests: (i.e. Room accessibility, dietary, etc.)
Explain: _____

All of our lodging is non-smoking.

Method of Payment:

_____ Check-Send with form

_____ Credit Card - Card Charged Upon Receipt of Form
Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover accepted.

Card # _____ Exp. ____/____

Cardholder's name: _____

Signature: _____

CANCELLATION POLICY

LABOR DAY - MEMORIAL DAY

Our cancellation policy is 72 hours. We will charge your credit card one night's lodging for any cancellations made within 72 hours of your arrival. If payment is made by check, we will refund your money if cancellation is made before 72 hours of your arrival. We will keep deposit if cancelled within 72 hours of your arrival.

MGFOA requests that all cancellations be made as soon as possible to make rooms available for other conference attendees.



SPECIAL GROUP RATES

_____ \$102.00 Standard accommodations/ Per night + tax

_____ \$145.00 Suites Per night + tax (Suites are limited)

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Total Room Nights: _____

ROOMMATES:

If you are sharing a room, each person must complete a separate reservation form.

List name of the roommate you've selected:

If you are selecting roommates, reservation forms must be mailed or faxed together. If not received together, specific roommate requests cannot be guaranteed.

Overflow lodging is being held at the Country Inn & Suites. Once Arrowwood Resort is full, attendees will be notified that their reservation has been made at the Country Inn & Suites.

The Country Inn & Suites cancellation policy is as follows: Individual reservations cancelled within 72 hours of scheduled arrival will be charged one night's lodging on the date of cancellation. **Once the reservation has been made at Country Inn & Suites, YOU are responsible for any changes that would need to be made. Country Inn & Suites phone number is 320-763-9900.**

MAIL OR FAX ENTIRE FORM TO:

Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center

2100 Arrowwood Lane NW

Alexandria, MN 56308

FAX: 320-762-0133

Phone: 320-762-1124

****NO RESERVATIONS TAKEN
WITHOUT FORM.****

***HOTEL CHECK-IN TIME IS 4 P.M.
HOTEL CHECK-OUT TIME IS 12 NOON***