



MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

# MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

September 2008

*Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance*

[www.mngfoa.org](http://www.mngfoa.org)

## Message from the President

Alas, Governor Pawlenty and his “no new taxes” platform did not get him far enough with the national Republican Party to get him a shot at a new job. But Minnesota is in the national spotlight at least for a little while – maybe a couple days longer than “Gustav”. And who knows where Governor Tim may go if Mr. McCain goes to Washington. In the mean time, our days as city finance officers are filled with levy limits, special levies and questions about how to fill out the State PT 280 form. Our county friends are sick of us calling for tax capacity values and fiscal disparity numbers. We could ALL use a break.

The August luncheon meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> was a great break for all those who attended. Lake Minnetonka was positively glistening that day, Jacque Larson and Joyce Lorenz reminded us to NEVER say “no comment” and the food and companionship was wonderful. Thanks to both of them for their time and presentation.

Of course, the big break we have been looking forward to since last year – “Together Everyone Achieves More” - our annual state conference is scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>. We will all be done with the preliminary tax levy hullabaloo by then and can relax and enjoy the wealth of great speakers and topics packed into those three fabulous days. As this is written, over 250 people have registered for the conference and Arrowwood is booking overflow accommodations.

Make sure you bring your best “tropical attire” for Thursday night. Flowered or Hawaiian shirts will do. It’s not quite the “Gilligan’s Island” theme from two years ago, but we have some party favors “lei-ing” around and (due to budget cuts of course) should use them up.

Thanks so much this month to our advertisers and sponsoring organizations – not just for the conference but also for the social event at the Marriott City Center on Wednesday August 27<sup>th</sup> after the National GFOA Training. Greg Sticha helped organize and host the event. It was great fun for all who attended.

Arrowwood isn’t the RNC (thank goodness!) but it’s our spotlight event for the year. I can’t wait to see you there!

Robin



**“TEAM - Together  
Everyone Achieves  
More”**

## 2008 MnGFOA Conference

**SEE YOU IN ALEXANDRIA THE 24<sup>TH</sup> – 26<sup>TH</sup>**

If you have any questions about the conference please contact Julie Vogel at 952-563-4930 or [jvogel@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:jvogel@ci.bloomington.mn.us) or Dan Jordet at 763-569-3345 [djordet@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us](mailto:djordet@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us)

Information is also at the website: [www.mngfoa.org](http://www.mngfoa.org).

## 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.

## MnGFOA Educational Workshops

The Education Committee of the MnGFOA is offering two one-day training sessions, 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](http://www.mngfoa.org)) or register on line at Governmental Training Services at [www.mngts.org](http://www.mngts.org).

## 2008 Meeting Dates

### Monthly Meetings

October 15 – Monthly luncheon, Sheraton Four Points  
November 19 – Quarterly Training  
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 24-26, 2008
GFOA – Seattle, Washington	June 28 – July 1, 2009



## ~ Website News ~

The new website has gone live. On line registration and payment is available for the annual conference. The web designers remain in the process of working to resolve some items and get the site running at 100%. When the site is ready for your full use a list serve will be sent out. Thanks for your patience. Some of the new features will be added later, so check it out and let us know what you think. Many thanks go to Joel Merry for his hard work in getting the website setup.

# Committee

## Executive Committee Update

**O** The Executive Committee met on July 31<sup>st</sup> and took the following actions:

- r**
- Approved May meeting minutes
  - Approved check register for May and June
  - Approved the Treasurer's Report for May and June
  - Received an update from the Technology committee on the new website
- e**
- Discussed the Accounting and Auditing Student Conference and the need for MnGFOA to appoint a new member to replace Chris Miller.
- r**

## Golf Outing Update

Fun was had by all at the golf outing held August 14<sup>th</sup> at Oak Marsh Golf Course with over 40 members attending. The day witnessed a rare golf event and congratulations are due for **George Eilertson** who marked a "Hole in One". After a 1 ½ hour rain delay the team of **Bruce DeJong, Mike Hueller, Paul Donna** and **Jesse Hart** came in first place with a score of 57 – 15 strokes under par – congratulations. A tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a score of 63 goes to the teams of **Brian Grimm, John Styrbicki, George Eilertson** and **Tim Johnson** and the team of **Brady Hoffman, Dennis Sonnek, Jim Zelinski** and **Cathy Shuman**.



## CPFO Testing

The MNGFOA will be hosting the Certified Public Finance Officers Program (CPFO) test in Alexandria on Tuesday September 23rd, 2008 from 1-5 pm.

For more information about the CPFO Exam, visit <http://www.vgfoa.org/cpfo/dates.html>

## Congratulations To...

Congratulations to Bob Sundberg on his new position with the City of Vadnais Heights as the Finance Director. Congrats and good luck in your new position!

**The MNGFOA is Working  
To Attract Tomorrow's**

## Financial Leaders

Over the past ten 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 Tuesday, September 30, 2007, 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 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.

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](mailto:chris.miller@ci.roseville.mn.us).

## LGA Summits: Your

Larry Jacobson  
City of Robbinsdale

## Chance to be Heard

The 2008 Legislature created a local government aid (LGA) study commission to develop reforms to the LGA program. The League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) wants to make sure cities have a voice in this process.

To prepare for the legislative study, the League's Board has directed staff to hold three LGA Summits this fall, where participants will have an opportunity to discuss the local government aid (LGA) program and develop ideas to reform it. Don't miss this chance to voice your concerns and share your ideas about this important topic.

The 2008 Legislature increased funding for LGA and enacted formula modifications to address some of the issues with the current system. However, these formula changes are only temporary. The Legislature's LGA study commission is required to make recommendations on permanent LGA reforms to the Legislature by 2010. The League will bring recommendations from the LGA Summits back to the full LMC Board of Directors, and then to the study commission.

Dates and locations for the free LGA Summits are:

- Sept. 4—Jacks House Family Entertainment Center in Brainerd
- Sept. 16—Independence City Hall
- Oct. 1—Community Bank in Northfield

Each summit will run from 1 to 4 p.m. Registrants will receive background information on the LGA program prior to the summit. League staff will also describe some of the program's history and walk through the mechanics of the formula at each summit. In addition, participants will brainstorm and develop recommendations, which will be brought to a League-created LGA working group as well as the legislative study commission.

To learn more and reserve your spot at one of the three free forums, visit the League web site at [www.lmc.org/page/1/LGA-Summits.jsp](http://www.lmc.org/page/1/LGA-Summits.jsp).

For more information, contact **Gary Carlson**, LMC, at [gcarlson@lmc.org](mailto:gcarlson@lmc.org) or (651) 281-1255; or **Rachel Walker**, LMC, at [rwalker@lmc.org](mailto:rwalker@lmc.org) or (651) 281-1236.

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## JOB POSTINGS

**ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR**—Come join our Finance team at the City of Maplewood as the full-time Assistant Finance Director. Performs supervisory and professional work overseeing daily operations and staff of the Accounting and Payroll Divisions; assists with preparation of the annual financial report, budget, and five-year capital improvement plan; assists Finance Director as needed. Starting salary: \$67,224/year; full range: \$67,224 - \$89,501/year plus great benefits! Min. quals: Bachelor's degree in accounting or related field; 3 years accounting experience using an automated system; 1 year of supervisory experience. Prefer experience with Eden Systems, Crystal Reports software, and municipal accounting. Must complete a city application & questionnaire. Contact Maplewood City Hall, 1830 County Road B E, Maplewood, MN 55109; (651) 249-2000; or visit [www.ci.maplewood.mn.us](http://www.ci.maplewood.mn.us). **Deadline: 9/19/08.** EOE

## Message from the Editor

It's back to school...get that levy set...finalize the budget...close up the cabin... back to Arrowwood. September is all sorts of fun. Take a few moments from your busy month 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 20<sup>th</sup> of each month and they will go in the next newsletter. See you in Alex! Thanks!

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