



MnGFOA Newsletter

April 2024

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

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President’s Message

By: Mary Kaye Wahl

Happy Spring! Can’t believe April is here already. I remember back in my younger days - months would drag, and summer seemed so far away. Now, I’m just trying to hold on as I feel like I just flipped my calendar over...

Special thanks to the Education committee for another very successful ACFR Review session. As always, I walk away with notes on what I want to fix in this year’s ACFR, in hopes to avoid future comments - and let’s be honest, fix a couple current ones too.

I hope you were able to escape, or will be escaping, for a relaxing spring break!



If not, or if you want to take another one, the Program committee has you covered. In response to feedback about wanting more opportunities for in-person meetings, we’ve decided to offer “Spring Break” out sessions this year for our April monthly meeting. More information on the four topics and four locations is provided within this newsletter and on the website’s event calendar. And if you attend the Rogers location, or if you love a good meat raffle, the Social Committee has their 9th annual meat raffle on the 17th as well.

As nature blossoms around us, so too does the opportunity to cultivate knowledge and growth. Thanks to Nate Reinhardt, our recent past president, the organization is hosting

a Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) and GFOA Leadership Academy informational session on the 24th. Further details are later in this newsletter and on the website, but I wanted to give a shoutout to Nate for coordinating this. Did you know that both programs have scholarship opportunities!?

April showers bring financial empowerment – here at the county, we’re gearing up for budget season, marking our own version of ‘spring cleaning’ for our finances. As we prepare for the upcoming budget cycle, we’ll be conducting reviews, strategizing for a balanced budget, and infusing our plans with a touch of financial finesse. Here’s to a successful budget season and a fantastic month ahead!



“SPRING BREAK” Out Sessions

Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024
Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Location: Multiple – Participants capped at 20 per location
Cost: Free

Ride the financial wave at MNGFOA’s Spring Break Out Sessions! Multiple in-person offerings featuring the next best thing to fun in the sun! Join us rain or shine for sessions on GASB, investing, automated payments, and excel. Whether you’re a financial beachcomber or just dipping your toes in the tide, these sessions are your ticket to a more refreshed you!

1. **Subject:** GASB

Title: Ditch the Swimsuit for SBITA

Overview: GASB 96 overview. Discuss what will likely be audited when implementing GASB 96. Discuss best practices in implementing GASB 96. Round table discussion on implementation of GASB 96.

Speaker(s): Mary Kaye Wahl, Brandon Zabel, and Troy Gabler

Location: Paradise Commons – Sun Room
8170 Paradise Lane
Waconia, MN 55387

2. **Subject:** Investing

Title: Beaches and Bonds: Surfs Up and Bond Yields are Catching the Wave

Overview: The Investment Session will begin with a review of fixed income fundamentals and basic principals in order to provide a refresher to experienced investors and a solid base of knowledge for those newer to the investment process. We will then discuss the current interest rate environment, yield curves, and the economic components and data that may affect the future path of interest rates.

Speaker(s): Brian Johnson & Chris Sullivan

Location: Eagan City Hall – First Floor Training Room
3830 Pilot Knob Rd
Eagan, MN 55122

3. **Subject:** Automated Payments

Title: Sunny Solutions in Payments: Springing Towards Automation Excellence

Overview: As we embrace the energy of spring, it’s the perfect time to explore how we can revitalize our financial processes through payment automation. Just like spring break symbolizes a refreshing break from the norm, we’ll dive into how payment automation can bring transformation to your financial operations.

Speaker(s): Jen Vucinovich & Chris Styring

Location: Maplewood’s North Fire Station – East County Line Community Room
1530 County Rd C E
Maplewood, MN 55109

4. **Subject:** Excel

Title: Spring into Excel Mastery

Overview: Learn how to simplify everyday work and improve council presentations with Excel formulas, automation, and charts.

Speaker(s): Bonnie Schwieger

Location: 21st Century Bank Event Center
12716 Main St
Rogers, MN 55374

Please visit the [EVENTS CALENDAR](#) on the MNGFOA website to register for the specific session/location.

9th Annual MNGFOA Meat Raffle
Don't be a chicken, join us! There's a lot at steak!



Feeling like it's far pasture time to meat-up with MnGFOA cowleagues? It's no cowincidence the Social Committee has raised the steaks again with another hoofing of that friendly Tenderloin and Cure you're looking for. On **Wednesday, April 17th** join the herd at the seventh Annual MnGFOA Muni Meat Raffle!

It'd be an udder shame if you didn't attend. We promise it won't be a boar. So amooooose yourself and join the herd at the Rogers Muni Bar. It'll be great to ketchup with Grade A colleagues and friends. Seating will be penned off and a stable of appetizers and pizza will be provided by the Social Committee. The Muni is located just off I-94 at the Rogers exit, no wurst than a drive to Maple Grove. And there's plenty of space to pork your car!

Date: Wednesday, April 17th

Where: Rogers Muni Bar

21400 John Milless Drive Rogers, MN 55374

Time: Guests can start to arrive at 5:00 PM.

Meat Raffle will begin at 6:30 PM and finish by 9:00 PM

RSVPs are encouraged for table reservation sizing, but not required. Please let Bonnie Schwieger at bonnie.schwieger@abdosolutions.com know if you plan on attending.

It'll be a vealy good time, we're sure it will meat your axepectations

Membership Renewals

Annual Memberships expired at the end of February.

All renewals must be done online at

www.mngfoa.org. You may still pay by check by following the renewal steps online and then sending your check made payable to MNGFOA to the 2024

Treasurer:

Gina Foschi, MNGFOA Treasurer

803 Old Highway 8 NW
New Brighton, MN 55112

Gina may be contacted at:
651-638-2105

**RENEWAL
REMINDER**

And so the adventure begins...

Ann Remold is retiring from the City of Faribault. After 44 ½ years, Ann has logged over 11,160 workdays of dedication and hard work, thousands of meetings, countless projects, and outstanding service. She has seen several bosses come and go and has made tons of friendships along the way! She will soon begin her 7-day weekends; the fun begins after wrapping up her time on May 31st. Cheers to retirement Ann – you have earned it!

GFOA Leadership Academy and CPFO Program Information Session

Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2023
Time: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Location: Wherever you are
Cost: Free
Please register online at www.mngfoa.org



Topic: GFOA Leadership Academy and CPFO Programs (Informational Session)

Please join us for an information session on the National GFOA's Leadership Academy and Certified Public Finance Officers program. The administrators of the program will provide you with what you need to know if you are considering these programs now or in the future and past participants will share their experiences.

GFOA Leadership Academy - Enhance your leadership skills and advance your career trajectory with participation in the immersive GFOA Leadership Academy at Arizona State University or the College of Charleston. This weeklong training session provides ambitious public and government finance professionals an opportunity to bolster their leadership and management skills to better serve their communities.

Application for the program is completed through the National GFOA website at <http://www.gfoa.org/leadershipacademy>. Visit the national website for more information.

GFOA's Certified Public Finance Officers (CPFO) program - is designed to **prepare individuals for leadership positions** in state and local governments by **enhancing fundamental skills** and **increasing knowledge** of best practices and standards in public finance. Individuals will be equipped to participate in decision-making efforts related to their government and community and lead projects and professionals in a substantive and significant manner.

The CPFO program supports the core beliefs of GFOA, including ethics, leadership and competencies in various finance matters and recognize members who have made the commitment to both obtain necessary knowledge and skills and remain current with industry best practices.

For more information on the CPFO program including the candidate guide, please visit: <https://www.gfoa.org/cpfo>

Scholarships!

We are excited to announce that we will be able to provide funding for three members to participate in the CPFO program (\$1,200 each) and two members to participate in the Leadership Academy (\$3,400 each). For more information or to apply visit the MNGFOA website.

Speakers: Chris Morrill, Government Finance Officers Association (Executive Director), Eric Roach, Government Finance Officers Association (CPFO Program Manager), Rob Voshell, Sartell (CPFO), Pa Thao, Edina (Leadership Academy Graduate)

Student Outreach Committee

Brandon, Jeanette & Josh from the Student Outreach Committee recently attended the Minnesota Private Colleges and Internship Fair and met with hundreds of college students. They collected over 50 resumes that have been posted to the MNGFOA website for all members to view if they are looking for any potential entry-level candidates. Click [HERE](#) to visit the website.



Call for Neighborhood Captains

The MNGFOA is looking for volunteers willing to be a host site for the 2nd annual MNGFOA Day to Unite on August 21st. We are hoping to add more locations and build on last year's success! Please reach out to Nate Reinhardt nreinhardt@shakopeemn.gov.

Nate has graciously offered free high fives to the first five volunteers.

Congrats!

Congratulations to Matt Burt on his new position as the Director of Finance for the City of Savage! Prior to this, Matt had worked for the City of Chaska for just under 5 years.

Scholarships

Dalton Larson, City of Plymouth, was awarded the Lori A. Webster MNGFOA Scholarship! This scholarship covers a portion of the costs related to attendance at the GFOA Leadership Academy.

2024 MN GFOA Networking Events



April 17, 2024

Meat Raffle in Rogers



May 2, 2024

Cinco de Mayo Celebration at El Loro in Eagan



July 17, 2024

MN United Soccer game at Allianz Field St Paul



August 27, 2024

MN Twins Baseball game at Target Field Minneapolis



September 25-27, 2024

Annual Conference in Alexandria, MN - Fun networking events are being planned!



November 7, 2024

Tie Blanket Event - Autumn Grove Park Building 1365 Lydia Ave W, Roseville, MN Make blankets for metro area charitable organizations that serve at-risk teens.



Nov - Dec 2024

Second Harvest Heartland On-Line Food Drive

JOB POSTINGS

Summary of Job Openings:

Position Title	Entity	Closing Date
Assistant Finance Director	City of Faribault	Sunday, April 7, 2024
Finance Director	City of Golden Valley	Sunday, April 7, 2024
M365 Engineer	LOGIS	Monday, April 8, 2024
Environmental Program Assistant/Analyst	State of Missouri	Friday, April 12, 2024
Information Technology Director	City of Crookston	Tuesday, April 30, 2024
Accounting Technician	City of Owatonna	Tuesday, April 30, 2024
Accountant	City of Cambridge	Friday, May 3, 2024

Links and further details can be found on the [Jobs & Volunteering](#) page



2024 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President

Mary Kaye Wahl
Carver County
952.361.1511

At-Large

Kristen Vipond
Otter Tail County
218.998.8034

President-Elect

Mark Ebensteiner
City of Becker
763.200.4250

At-Large

Chris Knopik
CliftonLarsonAllen
612.397.3266

Secretary

Tina Lannes
City of Albertville
763.496.6802

State Representative

Joel Merry
City of Minnetonka
952.939.8254

Treasurer

Gina Foschi
City of New Brighton
651.638.2105

Past President

Nathan Reinhardt
City of Shakopee
952.233.9326

DID YOU KNOW?

That if you have changed e-mail addresses you need to subscribe to the ListServ with your new email address. We have had a number of inquiries as to why members may not be receiving the ListServ e-mails. Since the ListServ is managed by a different platform than our membership renewals and newsletters, changes to e-mails need to be changed in both locations. The ListServ tab is at the top of the homepage.

2024 Committee Chairs & Vice Chairs

Conference Committee – plans and coordinates topics, speakers, and all other aspects of the annual fall conference

Co-Chairs Melissa Schlingman, City of Shakopee and 952-233-9329
Jackie Heinz, City of Montrose 763-575-7435

Social Committee – plans and organizes social activities for the membership through the year

Co-Chairs Kari Carlson, City of Bloomington and 952-563-8725
Michelle Hoffman, CliftonLarsonAllen 612-397-3269

Program Committee – plans and coordinates topics and speakers for the monthly meetings

Co-Chairs Hannah Lynch, City of Lino Lakes and 651-982-2405
Jennifer Vucinovich, US Bank 651-466-8750

Education Committee – plans and coordinates October accounting classes and other training sessions during the year other than the fall conference

Chair Joe Starks, City of Fridley 651-277-5230

Student Outreach Committee – The Student Outreach Committee is responsible for connecting with students to introduce them to career possibilities in government finance. Committee members attend career fairs and on-campus events, and also promote the John B. Lilja Undergraduate Scholarship.

Chair Justin Juergensen, City of Hutchinson 320-234-4256

Technology Committee – operate and improve the organization’s website and other technology

Co-Chairs Jeanette Boit-Kania, Ramsey County, 651-266-8057
Joe Rotz, City of Apple Valley and 612-986-4722
Janice Brandt, City of Coon Rapids 763-767-6442

Mentorship Committee – The committee helps engage our members in developing our future and the future of local government finance in Minnesota

Co-Chairs Cory Kampf, Anoka County, 763-324-1751
Lynn Cornwell, Moreton Capital Markets and 952-777-3227
Nate Reinhardt, City of Shakopee 952-233-9326

Please contact any member of the Board of the Committee chairs directly if you are interested in participating on any of the committees. Committee participation does not require a lot of time and is a great way to meet people and share ideas.

Message from the Editor

This is YOUR newsletter. If you wish to share items of interest with the membership, such as job openings, career moves, or retirements, please email them by the 21st of the month for inclusion in the next newsletter. Thank you!

Mark Ebensteiner
MNGFOA President Elect
763-200-4250

