



# MnGFOA Newsletter

March 2024

*Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance*

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## President’s Message

By: Mary Kaye Wahl

I may be giving it away when I am writing this newsletter, but I just got back from a refreshing, and surprisingly warm walk. It felt so good to feel a touch of spring. It makes me wonder where this weather was last Saturday, when the wind's chill and the icy water challenged every step of our plunge. 🧊 But thanks to the brave souls who took the plunge, donated, and/or sent their best of luck, MNGFOA surpassed its goal and raised a whopping \$2,775 for Special Olympics! And I can affirm, Bonnie kept her commitment, her hair is indeed blue. My first plunge left me with chilly memories but lasting warmth in my heart. Despite our small crew, the energy was nothing short of "láidir" - strong and vibrant.

In the spirit of our Irish theme, let's delve into the age-old debate of luck versus vigilance. Huge thanks to our presenters at the February

Monthly meeting for shedding light on Fraud Trends. The turnout was impressive, emphasizing the importance of not relying solely on luck to avoid fraud. They offered invaluable tips and proactive measures to protect our entities. If you missed the program, we got you. The presentation slides are now posted on our [website](#).

And speaking of luck, mark your calendars because the highly anticipated ACFR Review is happening this month! Comments are pouring in, the presentation is taking shape, and registration is now live!

As we gear up for the month ahead, let's embrace the luck that comes with PI Day! Join us for a special celebration featuring Pickleball & Axe Throwing. It's time to get your game on and channel all that financial prep stress. Get ready to lace up your shoes and join us for some friendly competition and good craic!

And finally, coming from a wee-bit Irish person, I wish you all a Happy St. Patrick's Day and a wonderful March!



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# MARCH MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024  
Time: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Location: Wherever you are  
Cost: Free  
CEU: Available upon request  
Speakers: Andy Grice and Dustin Opatz (Creative Planning)

## Topic: ACFR Review Session

The Education and Program Committees invite you and your staff to attend the Annual ACFR Review Session on Wednesday, March 27th. The session will be presented by Andrew Grice and Dustin Opatz from Creative Planning (formerly BerganKDV), and cover submitted certificate review comments and suggested changes.

Please visit the [EVENTS CALENDAR](#) on the MNGFOA website to register online so we can send you instructions on how to tune in to the session.

## ACFR Comments Needed!

In preparation for the ACFR Review Session in March, we are asking for any comments received from GFOA submissions. Please send your comments received to Dustin Opatz ([dustin.opatz@creativeplanning.com](mailto:dustin.opatz@creativeplanning.com)).

Comments were due Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, but will still be accepted going forward and the presenters will do their best to incorporate them into the presentation.

## Membership Renewals

Annual Memberships expire at the end of February each year. All renewals must be done online at [www.mngfoa.org](http://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**

# *Pi Day Pickleball & Axe Throwing Networking Event!*



*What do Finance Officers call their Significant Others on March 14<sup>th</sup>?*

*Sweetie Pi*

Date: Pi Day!! Thursday, March 14

Time: 2:00pm-4:00pm – Pickleball & Axe Throwing with Happy Hour to follow

Location: ***Smash Park – 1721 County Road C West, Roseville, MN 55113***

*Cost: \$10! Covers Pickleball/Axe Throwing PLUS snacks and appetizers*

What better way for GFOA members to celebrate Pi Day than Pickleball and/or Axe Throwing? We couldn't think of a better way either! Join us for a couple hours of activities and stay for social hour immediately following!

Click [here](https://smashpark.com/) to register at MNGFOA.org  
<https://smashpark.com/>



## “SPRING BREAK” Out Sessions – SAVE THE DATE!

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 Road  
 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 Road 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:** 21<sup>st</sup> Century Bank Event Center  
 12716 Main Street  
 Rogers, MN 55374

## GFOA Training Scholarship

The MNGFOA will be offering two training scholarships for the GFOA Trainings held in Bloomington in April 2024.

Training Classes:

Budget Analyst Training Academy – April 8-11, 2024

Overview of Public Procurement – April 8–9, 2024

Intermediate Governmental Accounting – April 8–9, 2024

Advanced Governmental Accounting – April 10–11, 2024

Best Practices in Debt Issuance and Management – April 10–11, 2024



Each scholarship is for up to \$500. Please complete the online application at the following link [GFOA Training Scholarship](#)

Link to national training site: [Minneapolis In-Person Training, April 8-11, 2024 \(gfoa.org\)](#)

*Registration for courses must be completed through National GFOA.*

## Annual National GFOA Conference – Scholarship Opportunity

Registration is now open for the National GFOA Conference, which will be held June 9-12 in Orlando, Florida. The MNGFOA, along with Ehlers will award a scholarship to a MNGFOA active member for the purpose of funding their registration to the annual national conference. The scholarship will reimburse the registration fee for the recipient, it does not include coverage of items such as lodging, mileage or other out-of-pocket costs not covered by the registration fee. Applications are accepted on the MNGFOA website.

[Robert L. Ehlers, Sr. MnGFOA Scholarship Program - National Conference - Scholarship Information - Minnesota Government Finance Officers Association](#)

Applications are accepted through March 31, 2024, and the scholarships will be awarded before April 30, 2024.



## 2024 MN GFOA Networking Events



March 14, 2024

Smash Park in Roseville - Pickleball and Axe throwing



April 17, 2024

Meat Raffle in Rogers



May 2, 2024

Cinco de Mayo Celebration (Location TBD)



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
Service Delivery Manager	LOGIS	Friday, March 8, 2024
Systems Group Supervisor	LOGIS	Friday, March 8, 2024
Collaboration Group Supervisor	LOGIS	Friday, March 15, 2024
Principal Accountant	Washington County	Monday, March 25, 2024
Senior Accountant	City of Faribault	Friday, March 29, 2024
Accounting and Finance Director	Washington County	Sunday, March 31, 2024
Director of Finance	Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority	Sunday March 31, 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 & 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

