



# MnGFOA Newsletter

December 2024

*Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance*

## *Included in this Issue:*

- **Monthly Meeting – December 11<sup>th</sup>**
- **Member Area - Forum**
- **MNGFOA Food Drive**
- **Congrats!**
- **November Networking Event**
- **Job Postings**
- **Did You Know?**

## President's Message

By: Mary Kaye Wahl

As we wrap up the Diamond Year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the highlights that truly made 2024 shine:

- **Cash Basis Accounting Training** collaboration with the League of Minnesota Cities
- **MNGFOA's 1st Polar Plunge**
- Collaboration with National GFOA on the **Leadership Academy and CPFO Program**
- Added an extra in-person connection opportunity with **"Spring Break" out sessions**
- The first full year for the revamped **Student Outreach Committee**, which connected students to government finance through **five career fairs** in 2024
- **Launch of a new website** to better serve our members
- Another record-breaking **annual MNGFOA conference**, **370** registered

- The **highest number of mentor/mentee pairings** in the history of our Mentorship Program, **35** pairings

And these are just the highlights!

None of this would have been possible without the incredible dedication of our committees, members, and the Executive Board. Your contributions of time, talent, and expertise are what make MNGFOA the thriving, impactful organization it is today. Whether you served on a committee, volunteered at events, or participated in programs, your efforts helped us achieve new milestones and foster stronger connections within our MNGFOA community.

It has been an honor to serve as your 2024 President. This year has been a remarkable

experience, filled with opportunities to meet so many of you and build relationships that I know will extend beyond my time on the Board. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the committee chairs and Executive Board members for your support, guidance, and teamwork—not just this year but throughout my journey on the Board. I couldn't have done it without you.

As we look ahead to 2025, I am excited to hand over the gavel to Mark Ebensteiner. I know his leadership will guide MNGFOA into the next chapter of growth and continued service to our membership.

Thank you for an incredible year, shine bright!



# DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024  
Time: 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
Cost: Free  
Location: Wherever you are  
CEU: 1.0 on request. Please complete the online form to request an emailed certificate: [CEU Request Form](#)



**Topic:** The Future of Compensation: Adapting Pay Structures to Modern Demands

Catherine Thorp will provide participants with an update on the current environment surrounding compensation, retention, and staffing is characterized by heightened competition for talent, driven by an evolving workforce landscape. Focus will be on the pressure organizations across sectors are facing to adjust their pay structures and benefits to retain top talent amid inflation, economic uncertainty, and shifts in employee expectations.

**Key Points:**

- Increased Competition for Talent
- Shift in Employee Expectations
- Focus on Pay Equity
- Hybrid Work Models
- Sustainability of Compensation Structures

**Speaker:** Catherine Thorp, Gallagher

Catherine Thorp is a Senior Consultant with 15 years of experience in leadership support and compensation strategies. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. Prior to joining Gallagher, Catherine served as Senior Global Compensation Manager at Dun & Bradstreet and held progressive roles, from analyst to senior manager, at McLane Company, Inc. Her expertise spans market analysis, salary structure design, pay equity, career competency development, strategic planning, system integration, and process optimization.

## MEMBER AREA - FORUM

Here, you can engage in discussions, ask questions, share information, and interact with others on similar topics. You can start new threads, reply to existing ones, and [subscribe](#) to threads to get notified (via email) of new comments.

We've added categories to help organize conversations. Dig in, give it a try, and don't forget to subscribe!



# MNGFOA FOOD DRIVE

Our MN GFOA Food Drive for Second Harvest Heartland is back again! We are committed to making sure local families have food on their tables this year. Thank you for making a difference for the more than half a million people in our region who are living with the daily uncertainty of where their next meal will come from. With your support, we can help families meet the moment.

**We have set up a special MN GFOA team donation page with a goal of raising \$2,000. Last year, MN GFOA members raised \$1,200!**

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)

- \$10 can provide 1 month of healthy breakfasts for a senior.
- \$25 can provide 75 meals for kids in school.
- \$50 can provide 1 month of medically-tailored meals for patients with diabetes.
- \$100 can provide 1 month of produce, proteins, and dairy for a family of 4.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH IF YOU CAN HELP OUT**



## CONGRATS!

## HAPPY Retirement

Please join us in congratulating Ron Hedberg on his upcoming retirement in January 2025, after 30 Truth in Taxation hearings, and over 38 years working with local governments. Over the years Ron has served as a past president on the MNGFOA Executive Board, as the MNGFOA state rep and over 20 years on the social committee in addition to several years on the mentorship program. Look for an upcoming job posting for the City of Apple Valley!



# NOVEMBER NETWORKING EVENT



To kick off the season of giving, a group of MNGFOA members gathered and made warm and fuzzy Tie Blankets for Tree House, a charitable organization that serves at-risk teens! A total of 15 blankets were donated.

## JOB POSTINGS

Summary of Job Openings:

Position Title	Entity	Closing Date
Finance Director	City of Credit River	Friday, December 20, 2024
Director of Finance	City of Grand Rapids	Friday, December 20, 2024
Accountant	Kanabec County	Until filled

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 952-563-8725  
Michelle Hoffman, Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority 612-335-3513

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 952-953-2547  
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

