



MnGFOA Newsletter

July 2024

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

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President’s Message

By: Mary Kaye Wahl

“Stars, Stripes, and Strong Financial Strategies!” July is here!

Last month, I attended the National GFOA conference in Florida. It was a bit warm, but the conference and events more than made up for the heat. It was great seeing familiar faces amongst the large crowd of attendees and visiting during the Sunday MN reception.

I hosted a little voluntary activity during the MN reception where attendees placed flags on a map to

show where they were coming from. I think a few pranksters added Canada flags, but the Texas pin was legit. It was wonderful to see some former MN colleagues.

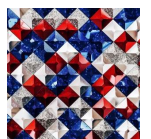


AI was definitely a topic covered in various ways throughout the conference, and I tried to attend as many sessions as possible to gather insights that could be applied back here on some scale. One session that particularly caught my eye focused on bots and their use in replacing repetitive tasks. It reminded

me of macros in Excel but on steroids, capable of functioning across multiple platforms and environments. This concept is super intriguing, but I am still in the awe-but-practical stage—it's incredibly cool, but I remain skeptical about the effort required to get it up and running and to manage it effectively.

(Note: Top heading, I asked ChatGPT for a “catchy saying for the 4th of July to start a message that could be used in a government financial organization newsletter” and presto.)

Other exciting news: The new website is live! All members and contacts loaded from the old website should have received an email with login or membership information. The technology committee is diligently ironing out any wrinkles that come with something new, but there's no denying that the site looks fabulous!



Gatherings –
Grilling –
Fireworks,
I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable 4th!



JULY MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2024

Time: 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Location: Wherever you are

Cost: Free

CEU: 1.0 on request. Please complete the online form to request an emailed certificate: [CEU Request Form](#)

Please register online at www.mngfoa.org

Topic: Legislative Update

League of Minnesota Cities staff will provide a local government perspective on a historic legislative session with several significant policy and budget changes affecting local governance, budgets, and residents.

Speakers: Anne Finn, Craig Johnson, and Nathan Jesson

Anne Finn is the Intergovernmental Relations Director for the League of Minnesota Cities. Since 2000, she has represented the League and its member cities before the state legislature and other levels of government on issues involving public safety, transportation, public pensions, and local decision-making authority. Anne's background includes a combination of legislative and local government experience. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government from the College of Saint Benedict and a Master of Arts degree in Public Administration from Hamline University.

Craig Johnson is a Senior Intergovernmental Relations Representative with the League of Minnesota Cities. He primarily handles issues related to environmental, energy, and land use policy and has been in this role with LMC since 2003. Prior to working for the League, Craig has been a Policy Manager for Governor Ventura, the Legislative Coordinator for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Legislative Director for two state-wide environmental organizations in Minnesota. Showing the flexibility of a liberal arts background, Craig graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter with a BA in Classics and Philosophy.

Nathan Jesson is an Intergovernmental Relations Representative with the League of Minnesota Cities. He advocates on behalf of member cities before state lawmakers and agency officials on the issues of taxes, state aids, and other public finance issues. Prior to joining the League, Nathan worked at the Minnesota House of Representatives and the Department of Revenue. Outside the Capitol, Nathan enjoys going to Twins games and playing tennis.



JULY SOCIAL EVENT MN United Soccer Game



Do you like sitting outside while enjoying a cold beverage and networking with your colleagues?

Come join us at the MN United Soccer game and cheer on our Loons as they take on the Colorado Rapids!

Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2024

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Allianz Field, 400 Snelling Ave N, St. Paul, MN

Cost: \$20.00

Please register/RSVP on the MN GFOA website at the link below, tickets will be electronically transferred to you. Note that traffic and parking around the stadium can be busy, so plan enough time or consider taking the light rail, which stops right next to the stadium.

Please contact Michelle Hoffman at Michelle.Hoffman@claconnect.com with questions.

Click [HERE](#) to register!



MNGFOA Day to Unite – August 21st (11:30 to 2:00 p.m.)

The Executive Board and the Program Committee are excited for the 2nd annual **MNGFOA Day to Unite**. Neighborhood Captains have volunteered throughout the state to host neighboring or overlapping communities to network and participate in discussions.

These sessions will follow similar agendas on the same day at various locations scattered across the State of Minnesota and include lunch. We are continuing to finalize the agenda, but will include topics such as budgeting, employee retention and recruitment, legislative impacts and an opportunity for attendees to submit topics. Please reach out to Nate Reinhardt nreinhardt@shakopeemn.gov if you have any questions.

Register by selecting a location on the [MNGFOA website](#). The cost will be \$8 (if you are getting a lunch). Locations this year are Alexandria, Carver County (Chaska), Champlin, Faribault, Lino Lakes, Orono, Shakopee, Springfield, St. Michael, and Virtual.



August Social Event – MNGFOA Twins Game Take me out to the ball game!

MN Twins vs. Atlanta Braves

Date: Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Time: 6:40 pm

Location: Target Field, Minneapolis, MN

Cost: \$20.00



Join us for an exciting summer evening at the ballpark. Register online, then pick up your ticket from will-call at the box office under "Minnesota GFOA" before the game that night. Questions? Contact Bob Cafarelli robert.cafarelli@zionsbancorp.com

Click [HERE](#) to register!



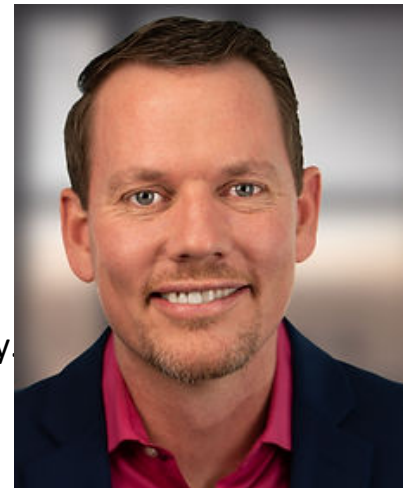
MNGFOA 2024 60TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

You won't want to miss this year's milestone conference! We have another amazing speaker that you will see at this year's conference featured below. We also have a sneak peek at the sessions scheduled so far! As more sessions are finalized, we will provide an updated schedule and descriptions.

Mark your calendars – registration opens in July! Watch your inbox for the email!

JASON HUNT

Jason A Hunt makes it easier for people to like and follow their leaders. He is the founder and CEO of Eye Squared Leadership and he has had the pleasure of working with over 23,000 people in organizations large and small. Jason's first major leadership role was to run a branch of 100 church members in outer Siberia when he was 19. Since then, he has served in several leadership positions, including principal of a school, where he failed miserably. Jason has a master's degree in leadership, is certified by the John Maxwell Leadership Institute, and is the author of five books. He is also the current president of the National Speakers Association of Minnesota and holds the Certified Speaking Professional (CSP) designation, which only 17% of speakers worldwide hold. Jason lives in Owatonna, Minnesota with his wife and four kids. You want a life that matters, but how can you make a positive difference? Some believe that you must have an impressive title to do so, but that is a mistake. The best in government finance recognizes that no matter where you are in the organization, you have influence - and intentionally using that influence to make a positive difference makes you an Uncommon Leader. In this highly engaging and powerful session, learn the four most important components to building influence with just about anyone. Learn why influence is so much more important than your title and gain actionable tools that will help you build deeper personal connections, increase motivation, and give you the courage to take actions that truly make a difference in the lives of others. Whether you are trying to be more persuasive in your role, build a stronger culture on your team, or take your leadership to the next level, stand out through your influence. Stand out as an Uncommon Leader and watch your personal impact on others significantly ascend.



2024 MNGFOA CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
Diamond 60th Anniversary
 Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center, Alexandria, MN

Wednesday, September 25, 2024	Thursday, September 26, 2024	Friday, September 27, 2024
8:30AM Registration Opens	9:00-10:15 AM (75 minutes) Lake Darling Ballroom - Upper Level Life- Undeferred: Escape the Waiting Room and Experience a Life Fully-Lived Jerrid Sebesta	8:30-9:45 AM (75 minutes) Lake Darling Ballroom - Upper Level Shaking the Money Tree- New funding sources Dan Tienter & Jason Aarsvold
9:15AM Lower Level Miltona/Osakis New Attendee Orientation	10:30-11:30AM (60 minutes) Lake Darling Ballroom - Upper Level Legislative Update Nathan Jesson	Miltona/Osakis - Lower Level Cyber Security Mark Pexa
10:00-11:30 AM (90 minutes) Lake Darling Ballroom - Upper Level Welcome Mark Kay Wahl Keynote: Find your Day- Resetting Your Perspective Baseline Mark Mayfield	Miltona/Osakis - Lower Level GASB Leases and SBITAs Michele Levine	10:00-11:00AM (60 minutes) Lake Darling Ballroom - Upper Level Capstone: Uncommon Leadership: How to become a person of influence Jason Hunt
1:00-2:00PM (60 minutes) Lake Darling Ballroom - Upper Level Fraud Trends in Government Jennifer Vucinovich & Nick Morgel	1:00-2:00PM (60 minutes) Lake Darling Ballroom - Upper Level Leadership through Crisis Curt Boganey	
Miltona/Osakis - Lower Level Investments Corey Boyer & Brian Johnson	Miltona/Osakis - Lower Level Sales and Use Tax for Local Governments Josh Sisterman	
Minnewaska - Lower Level Excel Session Part 1 Linda Muchow	Minnewaska - Lower Level Intro to Property Tax Amy Koethe or Airabelle Lepinski & Jeanne Vogt	
2:15-3:15PM (60 minutes) Lake Darling Ballroom - Upper Level Morph (Managing Change) Mark Mayfield	2:15-3:15PM (60 minutes) Lake Darling Ballroom - Upper Level Mind your Monkeys: How to help people solve their own problems Jason Hunt	
Miltona/Osakis - Lower Level State Demographer Jeff Howison	Miltona/Osakis - Lower Level Economic Market Update Matt Rudroff	
Minnewaska - Lower Level Excel Session Part 2 Linda Muchow	Minnewaska - Lower Level Special Assessments 101 Amy Koethe or Airabelle Lepinski & Jeanne Vogt	
3:30-4:30PM (60 minutes) Lake Darling Ballroom - Upper Level AI,My... Oh My: The Emerging AI Landscape Sam Collis	3:30-4:30PM (60 minutes) Lake Darling Ballroom - Upper Level 2024 GASB Update Rebecca Petersen & Andy Hering	
Miltona/Osakis - Lower Level Small Cities Round Table TBD	Miltona/Osakis - Lower Level Net Investment in Capital Assets Michele Levine	
Minnewaska - Lower Level County Round Table TBD	Minnewaska - Lower Level Mentorship Program Cory Kampf, Lynn Cornwell & Nate Reinhardt	



Annual Conference Advertising

The 2024 Annual Conference is the Diamond Anniversary – the 60th Annual Conference for the MNGFOA. The Conference will be at Arrowwood Resort again this year, September 25 – 27, 2024.

Associate members are invited to achieve maximum results by sponsoring this year’s Conference. Your sponsorship will be seen by hundreds of finance officers and other finance professionals and will help to defray the costs of the Conference for all members. The MNGFOA Board has discontinued the printed directory and has enhanced this Conference sponsorship opportunity by printing the sponsorship ads in color. Note – this is the Minnesota GFOA’s only Associate member sponsorship opportunity! The related costs are as follows:

1/4 Page	(3 1/4 " W X 4 1/2 " L)	\$375
1/2 Page	(7 " W X 4 1/2 " L)	\$525
Full Page	(7 " W X 9 " L)	\$675

Please adhere to these sizes and orientations when submitting your ads. Email a “clean” color or black and white copy of your ad to George Eilertson at geilertson@northlandsecurities.com by **August 21, 2024**. If you helped to sponsor the Conference in previous years, we have your ad on file. If you would like to re-run the same ad please indicate. The quality of your program ad will only be as good as what you send us. Acceptable ads will be the appropriate size and acceptable in Adobe (.pdf); MS Word (.doc); MS Publisher or MS PowerPoint (.ppt).

Make your check **payable to “MnGFOA”** and forward to:

Northland Securities, Inc.
Attn: George Eilertson, Managing Director
150 South Fifth Street, Suite 3300
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

NOTE: if you would like to pay for your ad with a credit card, please contact me directly at 612-851-5906.

This is a great way to keep your name in front of the general membership and support the Association at the same time. Thanks to all of you who have purchased ads in the past. We are looking forward to a great conference and hope to see you at Arrowwood this fall.



Scholarship Recipients

Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) Program Scholarships

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. The program encourages ongoing participation in and knowledge of GFOA's resources including best practices, publications, training, conferences, member networking groups, and partnerships with other organizations to prepare members to better serve their governments and communities.

The National GFOA awarded two enrollment scholarships (awarded through the MNGFOA) and the MNGFOA provided an additional scholarship. The scholarship covers the \$1,200 enrollment fee for two years or participation in the program, which is the anticipated timeline to pass all the exams. Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients:

Zach Hecksel, Minnetonka – MNGFOA Scholarship
Nina Kraemer, Lake Elmo - National Scholarship
Alyssa Landberg, Falcon Heights - National Scholarship

2025 MNGFOA Treasurer Selection

The MNGFOA Treasurer Selection Committee is now seeking nominations for the 2025 Treasurer. All members are encouraged to consider making a nomination, and you can nominate yourself. Officers of the MNGFOA provide direction and ongoing support for the organization. They are vital to keeping the MNGFOA a well-regarded and valuable association to its membership. Please help maintain the high quality of officers by nominating someone who is committed to the government finance profession and can provide leadership to the organization. The 2025 Treasurer will advance to the next Executive Board position each year and serve as President in 2028. Treasurer candidates must be an active member in the association for at least three years. Nominations are due by Friday, August 2nd, 2024, and should include the individual's name, contact information, past involvement with MNGFOA and/or national GFOA, and any other information you feel makes the individual a strong candidate. Please contact Selection Committee Chair, Josh Feldman at jfeldman@cityofeagan.com

Baker Tilly Scholarship

The MNGFOA Baker Tilly Scholarship honors Osman R. Springsted and is funded through the generosity of Baker Tilly each year. This scholarship provides the registration fees for two members at the annual MNGFOA Conference in September. Details and the application form are available [HERE](#). Applications are due by August 16th, 2024.

Thomas J. Moran Award

The Thomas J. Moran Award is given by the MNGFOA in recognition of extraordinary service rendered by an individual to advance the quality of public financial administration, promote the development and education of governmental accounting and accounting personnel and promote high standards in the field of government finance in Minnesota. This honor is awarded annually when, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, an individual has clearly demonstrated by outstanding effort that they are dedicated to the improvement of public financial administration as best exemplified by our past member and president, Thomas J. Moran. Any member of the MNGFOA may nominate a candidate for the award. Any person who is engaged in governmental finance or accounting in the State of Minnesota, whether an active or associate member of the MNGFOA, is eligible for the award. Nominations should be submitted by August 30th, 2024, to Mary Kaye Wahl at mwahl@carvercountymn.gov

2024 MN GFOA Networking Events



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
Accountant	City of Robbinsdale	Friday, July 5, 2024
Finance Director	City of West Fargo, ND	Wednesday, July 10, 2024
Accountant	City of Mora	Monday, July 8, 2024
Accounting Specialist	City of Owatonna	Friday, July 12, 2024
Finance Manager	City of Sandy, OR	Sunday, July 7, 2024
Taxation Specialist	Stearns County	Friday, July 5, 2024
Finance Director	City of Hudson, WI	Monday, July 1, 2024
Oracle Platform Architect	Wright County	Open until Filled
Finance and Human Resources Coordinator	Viking Library System	Saturday, July 6, 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

