



# MnGFOA Newsletter

June 2024

*Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance*

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## President's Message

By: Mary Kaye Wahl

Well hello June! It seems like May flew by in the blink of an eye, but here we are, already midway through the year! At the County, the audit is wrapping up, the budget process is in full swing, and we're gearing up to restart projects that were put on hold during year-end close and financial prep.

In the midst of this bustling activity, it's clear there's never a dull moment, and we're kept on our toes. Occasionally, however, I catch myself yearning for a touch more repetition and simplicity. Yet, as William Cowper wisely noted, "Variety's the very spice of life (*even in our work life*), that gives it all its flavor."

The turnout for the Automation and AI monthly meeting was fantastic, showing that many of us are eager to explore ways to integrate and leverage technology for greater efficiency and

effectiveness. And there's more to come! The conference committee is finalizing the schedule, with Wednesday earmarked for another AI session. Speaking of which, mark your calendars for September 25th to 27th for our fall conference! The conference committee will be enticing us with speaker splashes over the next few months, so stay tuned.

In the meantime, let's gear up for some fun summer social events! Whether you're a sports enthusiast or just enjoy cheering on our home teams, we've got you covered. United in July and Twins in August – bring on the sunshine and nachos (my preferred spectator treat)!

Exciting changes are also happening with our website this month – more details will follow in this newsletter. The Technology Committee has been hard at work, and while the transition may have its bumps, it's a

positive move for our association.

Lastly, for those heading to Florida this month for the National GFOA Conference, hope to see you at the MNGFOA reception on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>.

*As for me networking and CPE will be my focus- I'll be scrambling to get my CPE credits in before the June 30th deadline – why do I always leave it until the last minute? Must be the thrill of the deadline!"*



# JUNE MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Wednesday, June 12, 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](http://www.mngfoa.org)



## Topic: Local and Statewide Affordable Housing Aid

In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature approved sweeping legislation that resulted in a comprehensive suite of programs intended to address the production and preservation of affordable housing, rental assistance, and down payment assistance for first-time home buyers. Two programs created – Local Affordable Housing Aid (LAHA) and Statewide Affordable Housing Aid (SAHA) – were setup to provide resources directly to local units of government for funding affordable housing projects. This session will explore each program, highlight eligible uses and income requirements, address how to account for these funds, and discuss future reporting requirements.

## Speakers: Keith Dahl & Dan Tienter, Ehlers

Keith joined Ehlers in 2019 and currently serves as a Municipal Advisor with the Minnesota Municipal Finance Team. His prior direct experience in local government, economic development and housing development - with both the Cities of Lino Lakes and Columbia Heights - gives him keen insight into the opportunities and challenges his client communities face. Keith displays a strong understanding of public financial assistance and is able to distill complex information into easy-to-understand terms.

Dan is a Municipal Advisor with Ehlers' Minnesota Municipal Finance Team. He regularly assists clients with municipal debt transactions, economic development and redevelopment initiatives, long-term financial planning, fiscal studies and utility rate analyses. Dan brings 10 years of direct local government experience to his role with the firm, most recently serving as the Director of Finance for the City of Fridley. Clients rely on his wide range of municipal project experience – everything from airports to dams and municipal liquor stores to wastewater treatment facilities – to help them achieve their communities' goals.



# MNGFOA Reception at National Conference

The Minnesota GFOA is hosting a reception during the National GFOA Conference in Orlando. Relax and mingle with your colleagues from around the state after the National GFOA reception at the convention center.

**Details:**

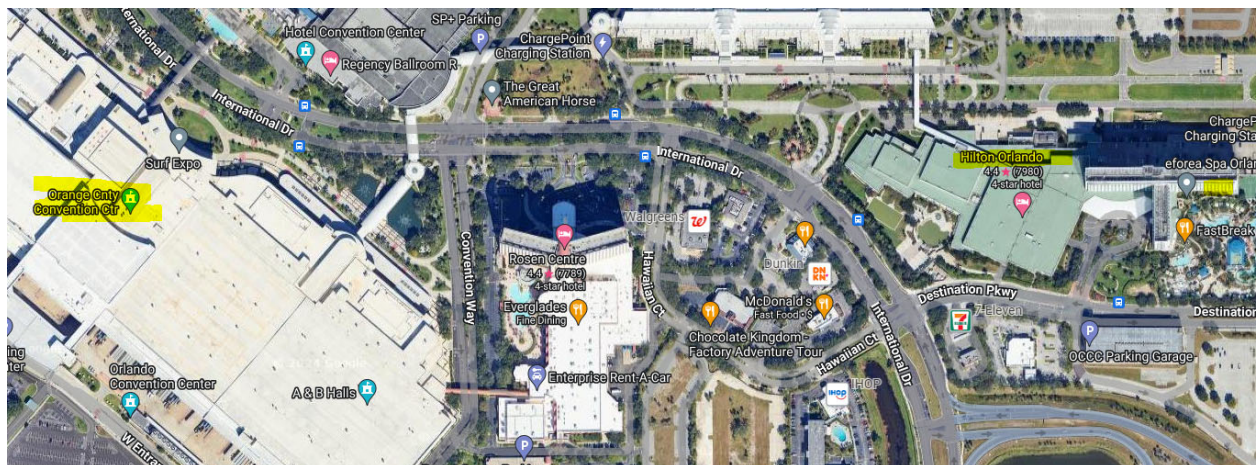
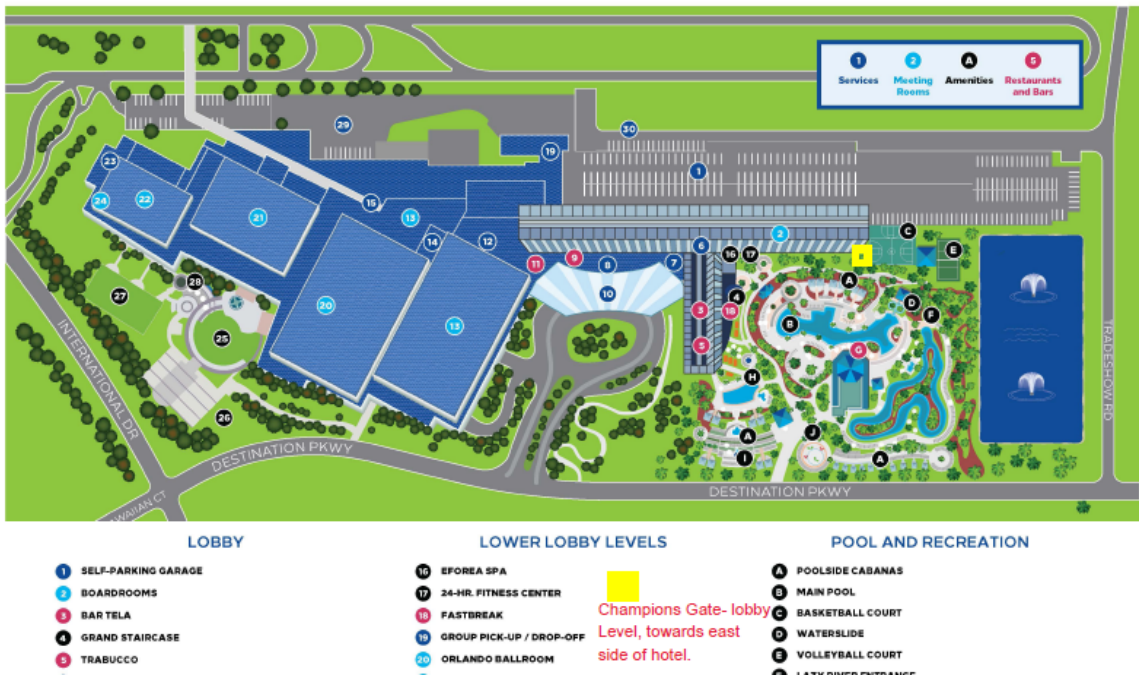
Date & Time: **Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 7 pm-10 pm**

Location: Hilton Orlando- 6001 Destination Parkway, Orlando

**Champions Gate** room located on the lobby level towards the East side of the hotel, see map below (yellow).

Enjoy refreshments at our cash bar and help yourself to our guacamole bar. If you have family or guests with you in Orlando, they're welcome to join us too. We're looking forward to seeing you there! If you have any questions before the reception, feel free to get in touch.

Hilton Orlando Property Map



## JULY SOCIAL EVENT MN United Soccer Game



Join us for an exciting summer evening at Allianz Field!

MN United vs. D.C. United

Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 pm

Ticket Cost - \$20

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

[Register Online Here](#)

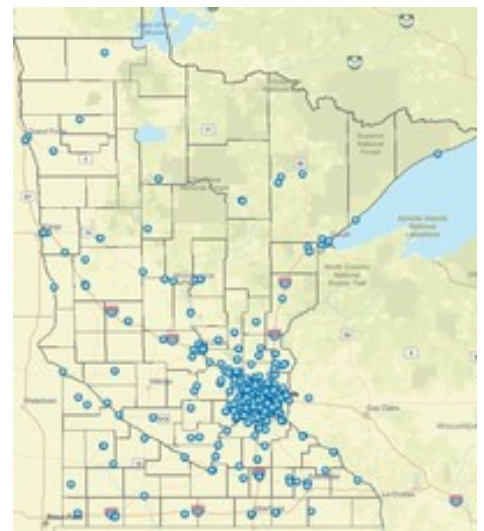
Questions? Contact Michelle Hoffman at [Michelle.Hoffman@claconnect.com](mailto:Michelle.Hoffman@claconnect.com)

## MNGFOA Day to Unite – August 21st

The Executive Board and the Program Committee are excited for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 looking forward to building on the success of last year's event.

For physical locations the planned time is 11:30 to 1:00 pm and for the virtual option 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Registrations will open in July. Reach out to Nate Reinhardt [nreinhardt@shakopeemn.gov](mailto:nreinhardt@shakopeemn.gov) for any questions or further information.



# MNGFOA 2024 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MNGFOA conference. We celebrate this “Diamond” conference with informative and captivating speakers. From introductory topics to new standards there will be something for everyone. We want to highlight two of several entertaining presenters that you’ll see at this year’s conference. More to come in the following newsletters, so stay tuned! Registration for the conference will open in July!

## MARK MAYFIELD

Mark Mayfield has one of the most diversified backgrounds in the speaking industry having owned and operated several businesses ranging from livestock production to nightclubs to golf instruction, and spent ten years as a lobbyist in Washington, D.C. and in thirteen state legislatures for a Fortune 500 company. That business experience combined with his work as a nightclub performer allowed him to create truly unique presentations. His tagline is simple: **Solid Business Wisdom in a Brilliant Comedic Style**. He is one of the rare individuals in the world who is equally adept at performing comedy shows or high content speeches. He has received rave reviews sharing the stage with a wide variety of celebrities like Paul Newman, Peter Frampton, Colin Powell, and Bob Newhart and has introduced a President of the United States on a live, nationwide television broadcast. Mark is the author of several business books and two joke books. He will talk about perspective being the key to survival. During times like these, when challenges seem never-ending, perspective is vital for our well-being.



## JERRID SEBESTA



Jerrid Sebesta was an award-winning TV meteorologist with a career spanning over 12 years. He has worked at stations in Sioux Falls, Phoenix and most-recently at KARE11 in the Twin Cities before changing careers in 2014. For nearly a decade, Jerrid Sebesta has keynoted in front of 200+ audiences inspiring them to live with more urgency, lead with more fearlessness, and grow with more authenticity. Through his "Life-Undeferred" lens, Jerrid shares how we can collaboratively overcome burnout by embracing a culture of present-focused enthusiasm and resilience. He will unpack the 'Life Undeferred' philosophy, demonstrating how living in the present is the most potent tool for personal and professional fulfillment. Drawing from his dynamic life shifts, Jerrid illuminates

how to live fully in the 'now' to create an enriched 'tomorrow.' This message is perfect for professionals yearning to break free from the mundane, those facing life transitions and seeking guidance, and leaders desiring to inspire authenticity and presence within their teams.



# Annual Conference Advertising

The 2024 Annual Conference is the Diamond Anniversary – the 60<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 or go to the [mngfoa.org](http://mngfoa.org) website and click on the annual conference tab.

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.



# New Website Rollout Scheduled for This Month!

We're excited to announce that our new and improved website will be launched soon! The Technology Committee has been hard at work on the transition, which is scheduled to go live on June 17<sup>th</sup>.



## What You Need to Know:

- **Pre-Go Live Notification:** The Technology Committee will send out an email to confirm the exact changeover date.
- **Account Transition:** All your registered activities and profile information will be seamlessly transferred to the new site.
- **Password Reset:** For security reasons, you will need to reset your password the first time you log into the new website.

We aim for a smooth transition, but if you encounter any issues, please reach out to the Technology Committee for assistance. Thank you for your patience and support!

## EXCITING NEWS!

Congratulations to Dalton Larson who has accepted the position of Deputy Director of Finance for Anoka County. He has been involved in government finance since 2016 and was most recently the Assistant Finance Director for the City of Plymouth.

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Tommy Nguyen, a freshman at Concordia University St. Paul, was awarded the John B. Lilja Undergraduate Scholarship. This scholarship of \$500 is awarded to an undergraduate student majoring in accounting.



## 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
Assistant Finance Director	City of Rogers	Sunday, June 2, 2024
Principal Accountant	Washington County	Sunday, June 2, 2024
City Controller	City of Minneapolis	Sunday, June 2, 2024
Finance Director	City of Crookston	Friday, June 28, 2024
Finance Manager	City of Sandy, OR	Sunday, July 7, 2024
Oracle Platform Architect	Wright County	Wednesday July 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 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

