



MnGFOA Newsletter

May 2024

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

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President's Message

By: Mary Kaye Wahl

“May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive” - Fennel Hudson. I stumbled upon this quote while brainstorming for this month's message, and it resonated with me. It's a reminder to embrace the vitality and enthusiasm that May brings, with longer days, family gatherings, and outdoor adventures filling our calendars.

As we eagerly await the joys of spring, I find myself reflecting on cherished memories of biking the Lake Wobegon Trail with my family. Our local parks and trails offer a wealth of opportunities for outdoor exploration and connection with nature. With my kids growing, I'm excited to explore more of these hidden gems and create new experiences together this year.

April was an eventful month for our association. We hosted successful Spring Break-out sessions and a lively meat raffle in Rogers, thanks to our dedicated committees. Also, to end the month we had a well-attended informative session on CPFO and Leadership Academy programs.

Looking ahead, I'm thrilled to announce our transition to a new website platform. After careful review, our Technology Committee has chosen SharChapter with full Board support. This change will enhance the user experience and better serve our members. Stay tuned for updates as we work towards a smooth transition.

Join us for Cinco de Mayo celebrations this Thursday and don't miss our Program committee's exploration of AI at the upcoming monthly meeting.

Lastly, if you are attending the GFOA conference in Orlando- mark your calendars! We'll be hosting the MN Reception on Sunday, June 9th, at the Hilton Orlando- Champions Gate Room from 7 to 10 p.m. (just a hop, skip, and a jump away from the convention center). More details to follow via email and the next newsletter.

Here's to embracing the vibrancy of May, immersing ourselves in the beauty of our local parks and trails, and seizing the exciting opportunities that lie ahead!



MAY MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Wednesday, May 15, 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: Automation and AI: Use Cases and What's In It For You

We will delve into the dynamic world of automation and artificial intelligence (AI) in the realms of accounting and finance. Our focus will be on the practical applications and benefits of automation in streamlining accounting and finance-related processes. We'll explore a variety of use cases demonstrating how automated systems and AI technologies, including business intelligence reporting, generative AI, and Large Language Models (LLMs), are revolutionizing data processing, accuracy, and decision-making for state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and higher education institutions. Prepare to engage with insights and real-world examples that showcase the transformative power of these technologies in enhancing efficiency, reducing manual workload, and unlocking new potentials in financial management and reporting.

Speaker: Mitch Thompson, CLA

Mitch Thompson is a Director of Digital Growth for CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA), focused primarily in working with State & Local Government clients. He works with clients to support data management, grants management, workflow automation, predictive analytics and machine learning. Collaborating with clients to make sense of their data to help make more effective, real time decisions are his priority. Mitch is a retired police chief, having served for 29 years in various leadership roles for the majority of his career. Since 2018, he has been in technology consulting for government clients at the Federal, State and Local level. His career has afforded him to be on both sides of the project continuum, as the client and the vendor, giving him a unique capability to drive successful outcomes.

Mitch received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Indiana University. He also has a Master of Science degree, and is a graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy (Session 202) and the F.B.I. Law Enforcement Executive Development (Session 50) Seminar.





The Social Committee invites you to a celebration of Cinco de Mayo at



in Eagan on Thursday, May 2 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

This is a great opportunity to interact with colleagues and friends in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. Appetizers and sodas will be provided by the MN GFOA.

The weather next week looks like it will be great for being on the patio!

Date: May 2, 2024

Location: El Loro Mexican Restaurant 1428 Yankee Doodle Road, Eagan, MN

Hours: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

<https://www.elloromexican.com/>

Please RSVP by either:

- Registering for this event on the MN GFOA website on the "Event Calendar" tab [MNGFOA EVENT - MAY 2 EL LORO EAGAN REGISTRATION](#)
- Or by e-mailing Chris Hogan at Chris.Hogan@bakertilly.com

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.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Brandon Zabel, Carver County was awarded the Robert L. Ehlers Scholarship. This scholarship covers the registration fees for the annual national GFOA Conference. This year's annual conference starts on June 9th, in Orlando, FL.

EXCITING NEWS!



Cathy Elke will be retiring on July 24, 2024, after 17 years as the Accountant for the City of Carver. Thank you, Cathy, for all your hard work and dedication to the residents of Carver!

Heather Koskiniemi, City of Alexandria and Joann Matejcek, City of Owatonna were awarded GFOA Training Scholarships. The \$500 scholarships covered registration fees for the national GFOA training hosted in Bloomington on April 8th – 11th.

2024 MN GFOA Networking Events



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
Director, Public Finance	PMA Financial Network	Wednesday, May 1, 2024
Accountant	City of Redwood Falls	Friday, May 3, 2024
Accountant	City of Cambridge	Friday, May 3, 2024
Accountant – Financial Services	Carver County	Friday, May 3, 2024
Accountant I	City of Ramsey	Sunday, May 5, 2024
City Administrator/Clerk	City of Waverly	Sunday, May 5, 2024
Assistant Finance Director	City of Cottage Grove	Monday, May 6, 2024
Finance Director	Lincoln County, Oregon	Sunday, May 12, 2024
Finance Manager	City of Hanover	Friday, May 17, 2024
Finance Director	City of Shorewood	Sunday, May 19, 2024
Finance Director	City of Granite Falls	Wednesday, May 22, 2024
Senior Accountant	City of Faribault	Friday, May 31, 2024
Assistant Finance Director	City of Faribault	Friday, May 31, 2024

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



2024 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President

Mary Kaye Wahl
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Kristen Vipond
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612.397.3266

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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

