



# MnGFOA Newsletter

November 2024

*Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance*

## *Included in this Issue:*

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## President's Message

By: Mary Kaye Wahl

***November—a time for gratitude, reflection, and preparing for change (and not just the changing leaves).***

As we progress into this season of reflection, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all our committee chairs and members. You continue to step up, generously volunteering your time and talents to make MNGFOA a thriving, inspiring organization. Your dedication and teamwork are unparalleled, and I'm constantly reminded of how fortunate we are to have members like you.

This year, we've continued to grow—our monthly meetings (don't forget to register for November's PCI compliance session!), trainings, and conference have all drawn great attendance. Our commitment to fostering in-person connections through networking and programming only continues to strengthen.

As we fine-tune our budgets in preparation for December and look ahead to the upcoming local, state, and national elections, it's clear that change is constant. With change on the horizon, I'm reminded of a quote from Socrates: "The secret

of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new."

What can we build or improve? In this spirit, I encourage each of us to think about how we can contribute to the growth and evolution of MNGFOA. Whether through new initiatives, continued networking, or collaboration, every effort strengthens our organization and helps us build a legacy. Have ideas? Please reach out to a committee chair, executive member, or myself! Wishing you all a wonderful month and a very Happy Thanksgiving!



# NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Wednesday, November 20, 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:** Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards (PCI DCC)

This session is to help attendees learn what questions they should be asking when considering credit card acceptance, How PCI DSS requirements will fit into their business.

**Goal:** For attendees to learn where to begin when deciding on accepting credit cards as a payment method, and the related PCI DSS Compliance requirements.

**Objective:** To help attendees learn where to begin with finding a PCI DSS Compliant credit card vendor. Learn ways credit cards can be accepted. Learn how to establish and maintain PCI DSS compliance.

**Speaker:** Sarah Blessing, Anoka County

Sarah joined Anoka County in 2016 and is currently the Treasury Analyst for Anoka County, specializing in all things related to credit cards and PCI compliance. Sarah comes to the County with experience in taking payments from the front line to being an expert in all forms of payment acceptance. Sarah follows the moto “The only thing consistent is change” and with this she is always envisioning what the future may hold for payments and PCI compliance. Sarah’s professional goals are to assist Anoka County into the future with credit card payments as well as any other entity in doing the same.

## 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! Visit the MNGFOA site [HERE](#), click on Member Area>Forums



# NOVEMBER NETWORKING EVENT



To kick off the season of giving, we will be making warm and fuzzy Tie Blankets for Tree House, a charitable organization that serves at-risk teens! Judy Moll is working hard to find us the best of the fleece choices. After blanket making, we will be heading over to La Casita Mexican Restaurant for happy hour. The Social Committee will host some appetizers.

Date: Thursday, November 7, 2024

Place: **Autumn Grove Park Building (Not City Hall)  
1365 Lydia Avenue W.  
Roseville, MN**

Time: 4:30 to 6:30 pm

We will start making the blankets at 4:30 pm but come as you are able to with your schedule and the traffic.

Other info: Materials will be provided. If you have any extra blankets, please bring them and we will donate them with the tie blankets. We will also be glad to donate dog blankets.

RSVP: Please send questions to [Lynn.Cornwell@moretoncm.com](mailto:Lynn.Cornwell@moretoncm.com)

Happy Hour: La Casita Mexican Restaurant  
1925 Perimeter Drive  
Roseville, MN 55113



# 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!

<http://support.2harvest.org/goto/MNGFOA2024>

- \$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 THIS YEAR!**



## MNGFOA Internship Grant Update

The MNGFOA has awarded an internship grant to Anoka County for the calendar year 2025. Congrats and thanks for introducing more people to our profession!

## CONGRATS!

Congratulations to Erin Barnhart on her new position as the city administrator for the City of Medina. Erin has been with the city for almost 17 years, the previous 10 as the finance director.





## 2024 MN GFOA Networking Events



**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
Deputy County Administrator	Otter Tail County	Friday, November 15, 2024
Accountant	Kanabec County	Until filled
Community Development Director	City of Big Lake	Thursday, November 14, 2024
Accounting Specialist I	City of Edina	Thursday, November 7, 2024
Deputy Auditor-Treasurer II	Cass County	Until filled
Accountant	Olmsted County	Thursday October 31, 2024
Finance Manager	MN Prairie County Alliance	Tuesday, November 5, 2024
Finance Director	City of Medina	Friday, November 22, 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 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

