



MnGFOA Newsletter

September 2024

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

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President's Message

By: Mary Kaye Wahl

I feel like pumpkin spice is coming earlier and earlier... While I don't mind a cup, I can't bring myself to drink it before those brisk fall mornings arrive. I hope everyone had a wonderful end to their summer and managed to check off a few items from their summer must-do list. We just checked off one of ours: the Great Minnesota Get-Together. We took our kids, first-timers, and let's just say—food was eaten, barns were walked, and we all could have napped on the car ride home. Someone had to drive, though, and thankfully I was a lucky passenger! 😊

Now, the Great MNGFOA Get-Together is fast approaching, and both the conference and social committees are really making our 60th Anniversary sparkle and shine with what they have

planned! I hope to see many of you there as the countdown is on: September 25th-27th.

Additionally, the Baker Tilly scholarship deadline has been extended. If budget constraints have made it difficult for you to attend the conference, this could be a great opportunity to participate.

The much-anticipated Fall Government Accounting classes are also scheduled, and the events are posted on the MNGFOA website. A big thank you to the Education Committee for organizing these classes, as well as to the presenters and host sites for your time, knowledge, and space!

As you head into September, I wish you smooth prelim levy and budget meetings. And don't forget about the 50/50 matching internship

grant that MNGFOA offers—a great way to introduce students to the possibilities in government finance. With all the outreach that the Student Outreach Committee has planned this fall, I'm sure there will be some resumes ready for viewing.

"We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations." — Chuck Swindoll

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](#).

MNGFOA 2024 60TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

The conference is just around the corner! Sign up now to secure your spot for the MNGFOA 60th Annual Diamond Conference in Alexandria, Minnesota!

The conference will be held September 25 to September 27, 2024, at Arrowwood Conference Center. Registration can be completed by clicking [HERE](#). Check out the Annual Conference Info tab on the website for more information.

The Conference and Social Committees are working to make the conference fun and rewarding for all those that attend! A listing of the current sessions, speakers and networking events are listed on the following pages. If you have any questions or additional items to consider as part of the conference, please contact a member of the conference committee or the conference chairs – Melissa Schlingman or Jackie Heinz.

The Social Committee has planned a schedule of fun networking events for the 2024 MN GFOA CONFERENCE!

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

7:30 – 9:00 AM WEDNESDAY MORNING WALK



Location: Arrowwood Resort Lobby for the shuttle or drive to Lake Brophy County Park 2175 Brophy Landing NW, Alexandria, MN 56308 https://exploreallex.com/dt_places/lake-brophy-park/

Kickstart your conference day with fresh air and good company! Join us for a walk or run before sessions start. A shuttle will take us to scenic Lake Brophy County Park at 7:30 AM sharp. We'll return by 9:00 AM, just in time for the 10:00 AM Keynote. New to the conference? Lynn Cornwell will be there to share insider tips during the walk. We have space for 24 people, so reserve your spot early! Prefer to meet us there? It's just a five-minute drive!

RSVP by September 16: Email Lynn at lynn.cornwell@moretoncm.com

Wednesday, September 25, 2024 - Continued

4:45 – 6:45 PM | TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT



Location: Rafters Lounge Back Room, 5th Floor Arrowwood Resort

Ready to go all in? Join us for the Texas Hold'Em Tournament in the back room of Rafters Lounge. Sign up at the registration table during the day and be sure to arrive by 4:45 PM sharp to secure your seat at the table. May the best hand win!

5:00 – 6:00 PM | FIRST TIME ATTENDEE SOCIAL HOUR



Location: Main Lobby Arrowwood Resort, 2100 Chophouse Restaurant

New to the MN GFOA conference? We've got you covered! Swing by the First Time Attendee Social Hour to meet fellow newcomers and chat with a few seasoned pros who'll share their tips and tricks. Enjoy a relaxed atmosphere in the 2100 Chophouse Restaurant while making connections that could last a lifetime!

5:00 – 6:30 PM | WINERY/BREWERY TOUR



Location: Arrowwood Lobby for the shuttle or drive to Carlos Creek Winery & Brewery 6693 County Rd 34 NW, Alexandria, MN 56308 <https://www.carloscreekwinery.com/>

Unwind and sip in style! Hop on the shuttle at Arrowwood at 5:00 PM for a delightful tour of Carlos Creek, where you'll explore the vineyard and brewery. The shuttle will take you back by 6:30 PM, just in time to freshen up for the evening festivities. Sign up at the registration table during the day to reserve your spot on the shuttle.



Wednesday, September 25, 2024 - Continued

8:00 – 11:00 PM | DIAMONDS AND DJ GAME NIGHT



Location: Tennis Center Arrowwood Resort

Get ready for a fun night! After dinner, DJ Paul Young will be spinning your favorite tracks—so grab your friends and hit the dance floor! If dancing isn't your style, dive into a variety of games provided by Midwest Coin Concepts, including darts, foosball, air hockey, ping pong, and more. For something different, try your hand at Pickleball, ladder golf, or giant Jenga and Connect 4. There's something for everyone, so come join the fun!

11:00 PM – 1:00 AM | RAFTERS BAR OR TOWNHOUSE #603

Keep the night alive! Head to Rafters Lounge on the 5th floor of Arrowwood Resort or venture out to Townhouse #603 for a cozy bonfire (weather permitting) and continued networking under the stars. BYOB and let the good times roll!

Thursday, September 26, 2024

4:45 – 6:45 PM | DAN JORDET MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT AND TASTING



Location: Outside of Townhouse #603

Join us for a heartwarming event in memory of our beloved friend and past MNGFOA president, Dan Jordet. This tasting event, honoring Dan's vibrant spirit and charismatic personality, invites you to **bring a favorite beverage to share**—whether it's beer, wine, hard seltzer, or a cool non-alcoholic option. Feel free to wear a fun bowtie in Dan's honor! If you're participating in the Bean Bag Tournament, sign up at the registration table during the day to reserve your spot and be sure to arrive promptly at 4:45 PM to join the friendly competition.

Thursday, September 26, 2024 – Continued



The Sidekicks
Tribute to Music's Greatest Eras

8:00 – 11:00 PM | SIDEKICKS BAND CONCERT

Location: Tennis Center Arrowwood Resort

Get ready to rock the night away with the Sidekicks Band! Whether you're reminiscing about the glory days of vinyl records, cassette tapes, or CDs, this high-energy performance will have you out of your seat and dancing the night away. Relive the magic of yesteryear and create new memories on the dance floor!

11:00 PM – 1:00 AM | RAFTERS BAR OR TOWNHOUSE #603

Keep the night alive! Head to Rafters Lounge on the 5th floor of Arrowwood Resort or venture out to Townhouse #603 for a cozy bonfire (weather permitting) and continued networking under the stars. BYOB and let the good times roll!

Exciting News!

Congratulations to Jeanne Schmuck who has accepted the position of Finance Director for the City of Shorewood. She has been involved in government finance for a variety of organizations and was most recently the Finance Director for the City of Faribault.

Congratulations to Michelle Hoffman, who has accepted the position of Finance Director for the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority. She had previously been working in local government finance for Clifton Larson Allen.

Internship Scholarship Opportunity

The MNGFOA Internship Grant provides valuable work experience to a student interested in a career in government finance. The grant also allows an active member of MNGFOA and his or her government to employ an intern who can supplement the current staff by assisting with various tasks and projects. The Internship Grant is a 50/50 matching grant of up to \$3,000. The grant will be awarded by December 31 this year and may be used any time during the following calendar year. The grant application deadline is October 31, 2024. Each government receiving a grant may select an intern to fill the position or, if requested, the MNGFOA may assist by providing resumes of interested students. Please see the "Scholarship" section of the MNGFOA website or click [HERE](#) for the application!

GFOA Leadership Academy and Lori A. Webster Scholarship

Enhance your leadership skills and advance your career trajectory with participation in the immersive GFOA Leadership Academy at the College of Charleston. This weeklong training session provides ambitious public and government finance professionals an opportunity to bolster their leadership and management skills to better serve their communities. The deadline for the November leadership academy in Charleston, SC was August 31, 2024 and the deadline for the Phoenix, AZ academy is January 15, 2025.

The MNGFOA would like to send up to two members to this program each year (one spring/one fall). The Lori A. Webster Scholarship will pay up to \$3,400 (covers tuition + some travel/hotel expenses) So how do you sign up? Visit the [MNGFOA website](#) for more information. If you are selected, please email the MNGFOA President.

2024 MNGFOA DIAMOND 60TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
 Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center, Alexandria, MN

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

7:30-9:00AM	Trail Walk/Run
8:30AM	Registration Opens
9:15AM	New Attendee Orientation
10:00-11:30 AM	Welcome (MNGFOA President Mary Kaye Wahl) Keynote: Find your Day- Resetting Your Perspective Baseline (Mark Mayfield)
11:45-12:45PM	Lunch
1:00-2:00PM	Fraud Trends in Government (Jennifer Vucinovich & Nick Morgel) Back to the Future of Inverted Curve Investing (Corey Boyer, Danny Nelson & Kendra Shelland) Excel Session Part 1 (Linda Muchow)
2:15-3:15PM	Morph (Managing Change) (Mark Mayfield) Minnesota Demographic Trends (Jeff Howison) Excel Session Part 2 (Linda Muchow)
3:30-4:30PM	AI, My...Oh My: The Emerging AI Landscape (Sam Collis) Small Cities Roundtable (Mark Ebensteiner, Mike Betker & Erin Barnhart) County Roundtable (Dalton Larson & Dave Kent)
4:45-6:45PM	Networking Events- Various Locations
7:00-8:00PM	Dinner
8:00-11:00PM	Evening Event- Diamonds and DJ Game Night

Thursday, September 26, 2024

7:30-8:30AM	Breakfast
9:00-10:15AM	Life- Undeferred: Escape the Waiting Room and Experience a Life Fully-Lived (Jerrid Sebesta)
10:30-11:30AM	Legislative Update (Nathan Jesson) GAAP Accounting for Leases and SBITAs (Michele Levine)
11:30-12:45PM	Business Lunch
1:00-2:00PM	In the Spotlight, How did we get here and What did we learn (Cornelius (Curt) Boganey) Sales and Use Tax for Local Governments (Josh Sистерman, Heidi Swelander & Jana Beck) Intro to Property Tax (Jeanne Vogt & Airabella Lepinski)
2:15-3:15PM	Mind your Monkeys: How to help people solve their own problems (Jason Hunt) Market Update (Matt Rudroff) Special Assessments 101 (Amy Koethe & Jeanne Vogt)
3:30-4:30PM	2024 GASB Update (Rebecca Petersen & Andy Hering) Net Investment in Capital Assets (Michele Levine) MNGFOA Mentorship Program (Cory Kampf, Lynn Cornwell & Nate Reinhardt)
4:45-6:45PM	Networking Event- Townhouse #603 Dan Jordet Memorial Tasting and Bean Bag Tournament
7:00-8:00PM	Dinner
8:00-11:00PM	Evening Event- Sidekicks Band

Friday, September 27, 2024

7:30-8:30AM	Breakfast
8:30-9:45AM	Shaking the Money Tree: Exploring Alternative Funding Sources (Dan Tienter & Jason Aarsvold) Cyber Security (Mark Pexa)
10:00-11:00AM	Capstone: Uncommon Leadership: How to become a person of influence (Jason Hunt)
11:15-12:30PM	Networking Lunch



October Government Accounting Classes

The October Accounting classes are posted and ready for registering on the MNGFOA website. The classes are taught by Government Finance Professionals who provide real world examples and insights. The classes cost \$20/person. Classes run from 9 am to 3 pm and lunch is provided during the day. Please visit: Events/Upcoming Events by clicking [HERE](#) to register or for more information.

Beginning Governmental Accounting – This class starts with Basic Accounting Theory: Classification of account types, chart of accounts, accounting systems & records, fund accounting, basis of accounting (cash, accrual, modified accrual), and basic budgeting and forecasting.

Tuesday, October 1st - Sartell Community Center - 850 19th St. S, Sartell, MN 56377

Thursday, October 3rd - Fridley Civic Campus - 7071 University Ave. NE, Fridley, MN 55432

Intermediate Governmental Accounting – This class will cover Government vs. Private Business, fund accounting, cash & investments, assessments, capital assets, bonds, fund equity, revenue/expenditure recognition, GASB vs. GAAP, interfund transactions and financial reporting.

Tuesday, October 8th - Sourcewell (Staples) - 202 12th St. E, Staples, MN 56479

Thursday, October 10th - Fridley Civic Campus - 7071 University Ave. NE, Fridley, MN 55432

Advanced Governmental Accounting – This class will cover GASB updates, internal controls, a more in-depth look at the ACFR preparation process, including government-wide conversion, cash flow statements and internal service funds.

Tuesday, October 22nd - Buckham West (Faribault) - 19 Division Street West, Faribault, MN 55021

Thursday, October 24th - Fridley Civic Campus - 7071 University Ave. NE, Fridley, MN 55432

2024 MNGFOA Twins Outing

Despite a tough loss to the Braves after 10 innings, our MN GFOA Twins Game outing on August 27th was a great success! It was a beautiful evening filled with camaraderie and laughter. Thanks to everyone who joined us for a memorable night at the ballpark!



MNGFOA Mentoring Program

“To help engage our members in developing our future and the future of local government finance in Minnesota.”

The MNGFOA Mentoring Program will run from approximately December 2024 to September 2025 and is a critical component to the future of local government finance leadership within our State. Please consider being a part of this program. We need your participation to make this a successful program! **We invite you to attend our Presentation at the MNGFOA Conference, Thursday September 26th at 3:30 p.m. (Minnewaska Room – Lower Level). Applications are due by October 7, 2024. We will be hosting an in-person Mentor Program Training Luncheon in November. Please stay tuned for updates.**

Mentor

- Gain personal satisfaction
- Facilitate growth in the mentee
- Share resources and networks
- Give back
- Build your leadership skills
- Improve your communication skills
- Build your network
- Share your knowledge & experiences

Mentee

- Build your network
- Learn new perspectives
- Advance your career
- Improve your communication skills
- Build your resume
- Develop greater self-awareness
- Help provide direction in your career
- Gain valuable advice

If you are interested or know of someone who would be an excellent mentor or mentee, please contact any of the Program Leadership Team Members for more information and an application. Appointments will be made in early October. For application and program dates, please visit www.mngfoa.org and select MNGFOA Mentor Program from the menu on the left side.

Program Leadership Team Members

Nate Reinhardt nreinhardt@shakopeemn.gov	Cory Kampf cory.kampf@anokacountymn.gov	Lynn Cornwell lynn.cornwell@moretoncm.com
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In learning you will teach, and in teaching you will learn.” – Phil Collins





2024 MN GFOA Networking Events



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
Treasurer	City of Mora	Monday, September 16, 2024
Accounting Specialist	Metropolitan Airports Commission	Tuesday, September 3, 2024
Finance Director	City of Granite Falls	Until Filled
External Audit Programs Supervisor	MN Department of Transportation	Tuesday, September 3, 2024
Debt Manager	City of Minneapolis	Not listed
Accountant	City of Robbinsdale	Not listed
Finance Director	City of Crookston	Not Listed
Director of Finance	St. Cloud Metropolitan Transit Commission	Not Listed
City Controller	City of Minneapolis	Not Listed

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

