



MnGFOA Newsletter

April 2025

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

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President’s Message

By: Mark Ebensteiner

April is upon us and the signs of spring are starting to make an appearance. Mother nature is a little out of sorts with the range in temperatures, but the increase in daylight has been refreshing! As we all continue to sprint into 2025, MNGFOA committees have some great education and networking opportunities planned.

Thank you to Dustin Opatz and Andrew Grice from KDV for providing our membership with the annual ACFR review. This presentation takes a tremendous amount of time to prepare each year but has historically been one of our more popular monthly programs. Also, big thanks to Joe Starks, Katie Gray and the education committee for organizing the training.

We will be hosting a Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) and GFOA Leadership Academy informational session this year on April 23rd. Further details are later in this newsletter and on the website under the

upcoming events tab. Thanks to Nate Reinhardt for coordinating this. Reminder that both programs have scholarship opportunities!

The National GFOA is hosting their annual conference June 29th -July 2nd in Washington, DC. For those attending we will be hosting a welcome to delegates from Minnesota following the National reception, on Sunday, June 29th from 7pm to 10pm at the Courtyard Washington Downtown Convention Center Hotel near the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Appetizers and a cash bar will be available.

As Wendy’s always says.... “It’s all about the Beef!” The meat raffle will have a different look this year. On April 9th the Social Committee will be hosting their 10th annual raffle at Big Louie’s in Crystal, MN. It’s a change in location but I’m sure it will continue to be a great time!

This month I had the opportunity to travel to Plymouth, MI, a suburb of Detroit, to visit my nephew

Garrett who is a defenseman for the U18 USA Hockey National Development Team. He’s been living there with a billet family for the last couple years while he completes his Junior and Senior years of high school. For him, as a homebody, this has been a challenge for him to be out on his own, but his growth and development, both in hockey and as a young man has been astonishing. He has been surrounded by a great support group that has allowed him to thrive, while challenging him to be his best self. I feel Garrett’s adventure is an example to all of us to stretch yourself. Although, the path may not be well defined and there may be some bumps along the way..... if you stick to the plan and put in the work, great things can be achieved and memories made.

I hope you all have a great April and find an opportunity to participate in some of the great events this month!

Thanks for being a part of MNGFOA!



“SPRING BREAK” OUT SESSIONS

Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025
 Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
 Location: Multiple – Participants capped at 20 per location
 Cost: Free

Ride the financial wave at MNGFOA’s Spring Break Out Sessions! Multiple in-person offerings featuring the next best thing to fun in the sun! Join us rain or shine for sessions on software conversion, investing, payroll/HR, and capital planning. Whether you’re a financial beachcomber or just dipping your toes in the tide, these sessions are your ticket to a more refreshed you!

1. **Subject:** Software Conversion **Title:** Shining Light on Software Conversions
Overview: Panel discussion including multiple cities, a county representative, banking insights, audit insights related to software conversions. We will discuss what went well, and what to avoid, as well as take questions from attendees for the panel to address.
Speaker(s): Troy Gabler (CLA), Jennifer Vucinovich (US Bank), Nicole Hegge (Anoka County), Tammy Wilson (City of Eden Prairie), and Ashley Hansen (City of Coon Rapids)
Location: Maplewood’s North Fire Station – East County Line Community Room, 1530 County Rd C E, Maplewood, MN 55109

2. **Subject:** Investing **Title:** Sun’s Out. Don’t Get Burned by Market Volatility.
Overview: Uncertainty over tariffs, inflation, a potential recession, and the Fed could mean continued swings in the bond market. Are we headed for a soft landing, or will the implementation of tariffs lead to higher prices for consumers and businesses resulting in increased inflation and slower economic growth? Before tackling those complex concepts, we will begin our Investment Session with a review of fixed income fundamentals and basic principals in order to provide a solid base of knowledge. We will then discuss the current interest rate environment, yield curves, and the economic components and data that may affect the future path of interest rates. We’ll wrap up with discussion on the importance of understanding cash flows and investing to meet projected future liability needs, both with operating funds as well as bond proceeds and related arbitrage considerations in the current rate environment.
Speaker(s): Corey Boyer (PMA Financial Network), Brian Johnson (Ehlers), and Chris Sullivan (Oppenheimer & Co.), City/County Representative TBD
Location: Fridley Area – Specific Location TBD

3. **Subject:** Payroll/HR **Title:** Testing the Waters on Minnesota’s New Employment Laws
Overview: Join us for a review of the recent changes affecting employers in Minnesota such as; THC/CBD, Pay Transparency, ESST and more. We’ll dive into MN Paid Leave and what employers need to do to prepare.
Speaker(s): Brenna Ramy (Abdo)
Location: Carver City Hall, 316 Broadway St, Carver, MN 55315

4. **Subject:** Capital Planning **Title:** Sun, Sand, and Strategic Planning: Funding and Financing Essentials
Overview: With federal and state funding becoming more uncertain, municipalities must plan strategically to finance capital improvements. This session will examine the current fiscal landscape, explore best practices for funding major projects, and discuss how to optimize available financial resources. It will also touch on alternative revenue sources that can support infrastructure investments. The session includes a presentation, a networking break, and an interactive discussion led by city representatives, providing practical insights and real-world applications.
Speaker(s): Keith Dahl (Ehlers), Kelly Horn (Ehlers), Dan Tienter (Ehlers), City/County Representative TBD
Location: Burnsville/Savage Area - Specific Location TBD

Please visit the [EVENTS CALENDAR](#) on the MNGFOA website to register for the specific session/location.

10th Annual MNGFOA Meat Raffle



Date: Wednesday, April 9th

Where: Big Louie's Crystal, MN

5216 W Broadway Ave Crystal, MN 55429

Time: the Meat Raffle Starts at 4 p.m.

Please arrive anytime from 3:30 and after.

You do not need to be there right at 4 p.m. Join the fun as you are able!

RSVPs are encouraged for table reservation sizing but not required.

RSVP Here: [Meat Raffle Event](#) or email Bonnie Schwieger at bonnie.schwieger@abdosolutions.com.

Appetizers will be provided. Drinks will not be provided by the MNGFOA.

It'll be a vealy good time, we're sure it will meat your axepectations!



Join Us for a Night of Fun and Networking!

Put your knowledge to the test while connecting with colleagues! Join us for an exciting Trivia Night filled with friendly competition, appetizers, and great conversations. RSVP today to secure your spot. We can't wait to see you there!

Appetizers will be provided. Drinks will not be provided by the MNGFOA.

Event: Trivia Night

Date: May 15, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Location: The Birdhouse, Robbinsdale

RSVP Here: [Trivia Night](#)



THANK YOU!

The Social Committee would like to thank everyone who donated and participated in the Polar Plunge. We raised over **\$3,000** for Special Olympics Minnesota! Such a great accomplishment and we hit the mark for Bonnie to get **Purple Hair**! If you see an auditor with purple hair roaming around your City Hall or presenting an audit report at a City Council Meeting, please be kind!

Special thanks to those who jumped; Mark Ebensteiner, Chris Knopik, Clarissa Hadler, Chris Feile, Jason Fagon, Averell Gibson, Hannah Anderson and Bonnie Schwieger. And a big shout out to our cheering section, Hannah Lynch. Here's are a few before and after picture from our icy adventure!



Sad News...

Mike Betker passed away unexpectedly on March 4, 2025. He was the Finance Director with the City of Isanti, a husband, a father of two young boys and an all-around great guy.

Mike was a familiar face at the annual conference, presenting this past fall and assisting with the poker tournament the past few years. He will be missed.

Please keep Mike's family in your thoughts and prayers.



GFOA Leadership Academy and CPFO Program Informational Session – Save the Date!



Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Wherever you are

Cost: Free

Please register here: [Informational Session](#)

Topic: GFOA Leadership Academy and CPFO Programs (Informational Session)

Please join us for an information session on the National GFOA's Leadership Academy and Certified Public Finance Officers program. The administrators of the program will provide you with what you need to know if you are considering these programs now or in the future and past participants will share their experiences.

GFOA Leadership Academy - Enhance your leadership skills and advance your career trajectory with participation in the immersive GFOA Leadership Academy at Arizona State University or 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.

Application for the program is completed through the National GFOA website at <http://www.gfoa.org/leadershipacademy>. Visit the national website for more information.

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.

For more information on the CPFO program including the candidate guide, please visit:

<https://www.gfoa.org/cpfo>

Scholarships!










We are excited to announce that we will be able to provide funding for three members to participate in the CPFO program (\$1,200 each) and two members to participate in the Leadership Academy (\$3,400 each).

For more information or to apply visit the [MNGFOA website](#).

Speakers: Chris Morrill, Government Finance Officers Association (Executive Director), Eric Roach, Government Finance Officers Association (CPFO Program Manager), Josh Kent, Roseville (CPFO), Kari Klages, Redwood Falls (Leadership Academy Graduate)

2025 MN GFOA Networking Events: Save the Dates!

The Social Committee is excited to announce a fantastic lineup of networking events for 2025! Mark your calendars and join your colleagues for opportunities to connect, collaborate, and have fun throughout the year:

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MEAT RAFFLE April 9, 2025 | 4:00 PM: Join the fun and try your luck at the Meat Raffle Event. Big Louie's Crystal, MN supporting the West Metro Fire Relief Association
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BIRDHOUSE May 15, 2025 | 6:00–9:00 PM: Put your knowledge to the test at Trivia Night at the Birdhouse in Robbinsdale.
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June 12, 2025 | 7:00 PM: Cheer on the MN Aurora FC at a Women's Soccer Game at TCO Stadium in Eagan.
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Paddle Tap July 17, 2025 | 3:30 PM: Paddle your way to fun at a Paddle Tap boat cruise on Lake Minnetonka
- 
Saints August 6, 2025 | 1:00 PM: Take in a St. Paul Saints Game at CHS Field.
- 
September 24–26, 2025: Attend the Annual Conference in Alexandria, MN, with exciting networking events in store.
- 
FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN October 2025: Give back at the Feed My Starving Children Event in Chanhassen, MN.
- 
November 6, 2025 | 4:00–7:00 PM: Make a difference at the Tie Blanket Event at Autumn Grove Park Building in Roseville, MN. Help create blankets for charitable organizations supporting at-risk teens.
- 
second harvest HEARTLAND November–December 2025: Participate in the Second Harvest Heartland Online Food Drive to support those in need.

Membership Renewals

Annual Memberships expire at the end of February each year. All renewals must be done online at www.mngfoa.org. You may still pay by check by following the renewal steps online and then sending your check made payable to MNGFOA to the 2025 Treasurer:

Joel Merry, MNGFOA Treasurer
City of Minnetonka
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Joel may be contacted at:
952-939-8254

Congrats!

Congratulations to Josh Kent on his new position as the Finance Director/Assistant City Administrator for the City of Buffalo.

St. Patrick's Day Networking Event!

MNGFOA members enjoyed the St. Patrick's Day Networking Event on March 13th at the Local. Thank you to everyone who attended.



JOB POSTINGS

Summary of Job Openings:

Position Title	Entity	Closing Date
Finance Director	Polk County	Until Filled
Finance Director	City of Little Falls	Until Filled
County Auditor/Treasurer	Hubbard County	Until Filled

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



2025 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President
 Mark Ebensteiner
 City of Becker
 763.200.4250

At-Large
 Dalton Larson
 Anoka County
 763.324.1755

President-Elect
 Tina Lannes
 City of Albertville
 763.496.6802

At-Large
 Chris Knopik
 CliftonLarsonAllen
 612.397.3266

Secretary
 Gina Foschi
 City of New Brighton
 651.638.2105

State Representative
 Sarah Rathlisberger
 City of Monticello
 763.271.3201

Treasurer
 Joel Merry
 City of Minnetonka
 952.939.8254

Past President
 Mary Kaye Wahl
 Carver County
 952.361.1511

WANTED: Day to Unite Captains

The MNGFOA is looking for volunteers willing to be a host site for the 3rd annual MNGFOA Day to Unite on August 20th. We are hoping to add more locations and build upon the last two years! Please reach out to Hannah Lynch

hannah.lynych@moretoncm.com

and/or Nate Reinhardt

nreinhardt@shakopecmn.gov

2025 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 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

Chair Hannah Lynch, Moreton Capital Markets 952-777-7930

Education Committee – plans and coordinates October accounting classes and other training sessions during the year other than the fall conference

Co-Chairs Joe Starks, City of Fridley 651-277-5230
 Katie Gray, City of Fridley 763-572-3528

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 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 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!

Tina Lannes
 MNGFOA President
 Elect 763-496-6802

Tinal@albertvillemn.gov

