



MnGFOA Newsletter

August 2025

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

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President's Message

By: Mark Ebensteiner

As I began to write my August newsletter article, I did a quick google search for what August was known for and was disappointed as the top 3 were... End of Summer.... Back to School.... and Dog days of Summer. Although summer is speeding by, I'm sure we all have fond memories of recent family activities or have some on the calendar.

Speaking of fun activities – the social committee has organized a MNGFOA St. Paul Saints game on August 6th at CHS field. This is an afternoon game and a great opportunity to connect and enjoy some baseball.

In addition, MNGFOA Day to Unite is just around the corner scheduled for August 20th, featuring ten physical locations (an increase from last year!) and one virtual option. This is our third year hosting this event, and judging by the registrations so far, it promises to be another successful gathering. You can register on the website by selecting the location that best fits you and join your accounting and finance neighbors for a networking lunch and discussion.

Lastly, while it's not in August, registration is now open for our

61st Annual Conference - THE SPARK: IGNITE YOUR BEST SELF that will be held September 24th-26th. This event is bound to be right up there with *#bestconferenceever* and a great opportunity to build on connections with colleagues. We have an exciting lineup of speakers and sessions planned, focusing on key issues and trends that impact us and our organizations.

As I wrote the prior newsletter article, I was preparing to fly out to Washington D.C. for the national conference and am happy to report that although I did not have my Real ID, airport security went smooth. I had not visited Washington D.C. since the mid 90's when we took the Family Truckster on an east coast excursion. It was a great experience of which I'll highlight a couple items:

1. The national conference was top notch. The variety of sessions and quality of speakers never fails. The Keynote that stood out to me was Mitch Albom, the Tuesdays with Morrie guy, who had a tear in most eyes by the end of his engaging address as he spoke of his orphanage in Haiti and his Tuesdays with Morrie. Also,

thanks to all those who attended the social event as it was great to see so many familiar faces.

2. The history of Washington D.C. was super cool. My wife tagged along as it was our wedding anniversary weekend and we were able to take in many of the monuments, the capital building, Ford's Theatre, a water taxi up to Georgetown, and some great eats.
3. I was filled with extreme pride of our country and gratitude for our servicemen and woman after our visit to Arlington National Cemetery. The changing of the guards at the tomb of the unknown soldier was a highlight.

Continue to cherish the few days of summer that Minnesota provides and enjoy your time with family and friends. Thanks for being a part of MNGFOA!

**"THE ONLY LIMIT TO
OUR REALIZATION
OF TOMORROW
WILL BE OUR
DOUBTS OF TODAY."**

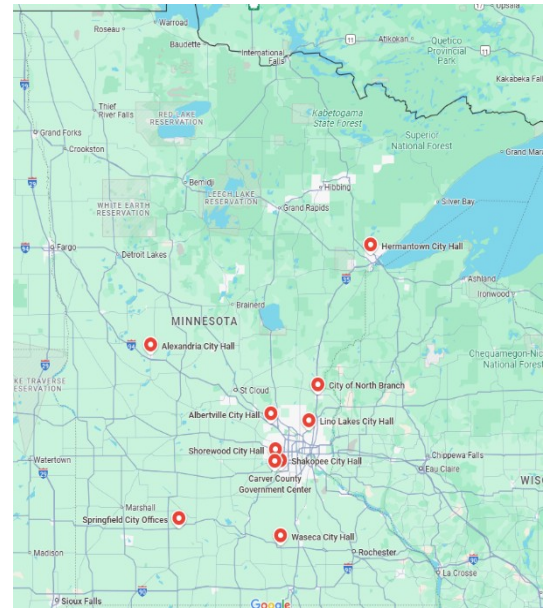
-FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING

MNGFOA Day to Unite – August 20th (11:30 to 2:00 pm)

The Executive Board and the Program Committee are excited for the 3rd 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 continuing to finalize the agenda, but will include topics such as budgeting, new initiatives and projects, legislative impacts and an opportunity for attendees to submit topics. Please reach out to Nate Reinhardt nreinhardt@shakopecmn.gov or Hannah Lynch hannah.lynych@moretoncm.com if you have any questions.



Register by selecting a location on the [MNGFOA website](#). The cost will be \$8 and include lunch. Locations this year are Albertville, Alexandria, Carver County, Hermantown, Lino Lakes, North Branch, Shakopee, Shorewood, Springfield, Waseca, and Virtual.

July 17 Boat Cruise – A Perfect Day on the Lake

MN GFOA members enjoyed sunshine, scenic views, and great company during our July 17 boat cruise on Lake Minnetonka. The weather was perfect, the vibes were relaxed, and it was a great way to connect and unwind. Thanks to all who joined us!





🏆 Join the Social Committee for an Afternoon at the Ballpark! 🏆

- What:** St. Paul Saints vs. Iowa Cubs
- Where:** CHS Field
360 Broadway Street
St. Paul, MN 55101
- When:** Wednesday, August 6 at 1:00 P.M.
- Cost:** \$8 per ticket
- RSVP:** Tickets can be purchased through the MN GFOA website under Upcoming Events.

<https://mngfoa.org/meetinginfo.php?id=46&ts=1743090289>

Take a break and enjoy an afternoon of baseball with colleagues and friends at CHS Field in downtown St. Paul!





BE THE SPARK AT THIS YEAR'S MNGFOA CONFERENCE – NOW OPEN



Registration is now open for the 61st Annual MNGFOA Conference in Alexandria, Minnesota! Don't wait, register today!! We're also thrilled to give you a sneak peek at a few of our amazing speakers on the schedule. The conference is September 24-26, 2025, at Arrowwood Conference Center.

The Conference and Social Committees are hard at work, planning a fun, engaging, and rewarding experience for everyone who attends. Check out the Annual Conference page at MNGFOA.org for all your conference information. We also have a sneak peek at the sessions scheduled so far! As more sessions are finalized, we will provide an updated schedule and descriptions on the annual conference page.

SCOTT WELLE

Outperformers are not born; they're made. We ALL have the capacity to "raise our game," and Scott Welle has spent more than 15 years helping people do this, personally and professionally. Scott's 10 best-selling books, articles, videos, podcasts and online programs inspire hundreds of thousands of people worldwide.

This interactive keynote is based on Scott's latest book, "Daily Execution. Extraordinary Results.", focusing on the strategy of goal setting, the execution of goal achieving, and the psychology of aspiring to big things. You will learn key strategies used by elite performers to be your best and thrive in this fun, high-energy session.

JASMINE BRETT STRINGER

Jasmine Brett Stringer is a dynamic keynote speaker, award-winning author, television personality, and Founder & CEO of *Carpe Diem with Jasmine LLC*. Known for her vibrant presence on stage and screen, Jasmine infuses the science of positive psychology with lived experience and business insight to help individuals and organizations flourish.

The modern workplace can be a source of significant stress and dissatisfaction, leading to burnout and a sense of disengagement. "Seize Your Well-Being" is a transformative program that encourages individuals to confront these challenges head-on and to find balance and joy in their professional lives. Jasmine offers insights and practical strategies for navigating workplace stressors, promoting resilience, and rediscovering the fulfillment that comes from meaningful work and personal achievement.



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

2025 MNGFOA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THE SPARK: IGNITE YOUR BEST SELF

Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center, Alexandria, MN

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Keynote: Daily Execution. Extraordinary Results (Scott Welle)
Public Finance Staff Shortage (Julie Blaha)
Budget Panel Discussion (Gina Foschi, Kari Carlson, Cat Piepho, Sara Utsch)
Rating Agency Session (Ben VanMetre & Andrew Bredeson)
2025 GASB Update (Rebecca Petersen & Andy Hering)
Beyond the Budget: Strategic Capital Planning for Cities (Pa Thao & Viktoriya Montik)
Stay out of the Rough: Fixed Income Tips from the Greenskeeper's Guide (Lynn Cornwell, Brian Johnson, EJ Moberg)
Elevate: How Exceptional Leaders Inspire Peak Performance (Scott Welle) County Roundtable (Cory Kampf)
Transitioning to Digital: Embracing Electronic Payments Over Traditional Checks (Sarah Brown, Nate Reinhardt, Tina Lannes, Nicholas Morgel, Jennifer Vucinovich, Anoka County)

Thursday, September 25, 2025

Fearless (Kat Perkins)
Legislative Update (Daniel Lightfoot & Pierre Willette)
MN Paid Family Leave (Leah Davis)
GFOA Federal Update (Emily Brock) Cyber Security (Mark Lanterman)
Introduction to Excel Power Query (Bob Bruce)
Embracing AI: Transforming Government Operations in a Dynamic Landscape (Erik Inderbitzen and Mike Van Wyk)
Debt 101 (Nick Anhut & Heather Casperson)
Introduction to Excel Data Model (Bob Bruce)
Diversity (Jonathan McGee)
Managing Bond Proceeds (Kyle Sawyer & Kelly Horn)
MNGFOA Mentorship Program (Cory Kampf, Lynn Cornwell & Nate Reinhardt)

Friday, September 26, 2025

Top 10 Audit Findings and How to Prevent Them (Bonnie Schwieger)
TIF 101 (Keith Dahl & Schane Rudlang)
Capstone: Seize Your Well-Being- Navigate Beyond Burnout (Jasmine Stringer)



Annual Conference Advertising

The 2025 Annual Conference will be at Arrowwood Resort again this year, September 24 – 26, 2025. The theme this year is “The Spark: Ignite Your Best Self.”

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 (**PLEASE NOTE DIMENSION CHANGE for 2025**):

1/4 Page	(2" Wide X 3.5" Tall)	\$390
1/2 Page	(4.5" Wide X 3.5 " Tall)	\$550
Full Page	(4.5" Wide X 7.5 " Tall)	\$710

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 by **August 15, 2025**. 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).

Please remit payment one of the following two ways (check or credit card):

1. Send a check **payable to the “Minnesota Government Finance Officers Association”** to the address listed below.

George Eilertson, Managing Director
 Northland Securities, Inc.
 150 South Fifth Street - #3300
 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

2. Pay by Credit Card by going to the MnGFOA website – www.mngfoa.org then click on the Annual Conference Info tab. At the bottom of the page, click to pay your advertising fee.

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.

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 2025 to September 2026 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 25th at 3:30 pm (Minnewaska Room – Lower Level). Applications are due by October 9, 2025. 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



2026 MNGFOA Treasurer Selection

The MNGFOA Treasurer Selection Committee is now seeking nominations for the 2026 Treasurer. All members are encouraged to consider making a nomination, and you can nominate yourself. Officers of the MNGFOA provide direction and ongoing support for the organization. They are vital to keeping the MNGFOA a well-regarded and valuable association to its membership. Please help maintain the high quality of officers by nominating someone who is committed to the government finance profession and can provide leadership to the organization. The 2026 Treasurer will advance to the next Executive Board position each year and serve as President in 2029. Treasurer candidates must be an active member in the association for at least three years. Nominations are due by Friday, August 1, 2025, and should include the individual's name, contact information, past involvement with MNGFOA and/or national GFOA, and any other information you feel makes the individual a strong candidate. Please contact Selection Committee Chair, Nicole Meyer at nmeyer@wacniamn.gov.

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](#). Applications are due by August 16th, 2025.

Thomas J. Moran Award

The Thomas J. Moran Award is given by the MNGFOA in recognition of extraordinary service rendered by an individual to advance the quality of public financial administration, promote the development and education of governmental accounting and accounting personnel and promote high standards in the field of government finance in Minnesota. This honor is awarded annually when, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, an individual has clearly demonstrated by outstanding effort that they are dedicated to the improvement of public financial administration as best exemplified by our past member and president, Thomas J. Moran. Any member of the MNGFOA may nominate a candidate for the award. Any person who is engaged in governmental finance or accounting in the State of Minnesota, whether an active or associate member of the MNGFOA, is eligible for the award. Nominations should be submitted by August 29th, 2025, to Mark Ebensteiner at mebensteiner@ci.becker.mn.us

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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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.
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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.
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November–December 2025: Participate in the Second Harvest Heartland Online Food Drive to support those in need.

JOB POSTINGS

Summary of Job Openings:

Position Title	Entity	Closing Date
Senior Financial Analyst	Minneapolis Park & Recreation	August 4, 2025
Accountant – Fixed Assets & Capital Project	Metropolitan Airports Commission	August 11, 2025
Accountant	Metropolitan Council	Until Filled
Deputy Director of Finance	Ramsey County	August 6, 2025
Senior Financial Analyst	City of Faribault	August 15, 2025
Accountant	City of Carver	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

Lori A. Webster Scholarship – GFOA Leadership Academy

MNGFOA will be providing a scholarship this fall to participate in the Leadership Academy (\$3,400). For more information or to apply visit the [MNGFOA Lori A. Webster Scholarship page on the website](#)

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

