



MnGFOA Newsletter

February 2025

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

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President's Message

By: Mark Ebensteiner

First off..... Brrrrr - February is upon us and if you are like me, you are wondering where January went and how can I already be in the middle of audit prep as I feel like just yesterday, we approved the 2025 budget. Hang in there! As much as it may seem overwhelming at times, we all continue to work through project after project, and somehow find a few minutes to write a president's message or read a monthly MNGFOA newsletter.

Thank you to Chris Powers and Bonnie Schwieger from Abdo for a great presentation on Tax Credits and a GASB Update at our January monthly program. The presentation made me realize how much GASB likes change, as we proceed into the GASB 100's. I'm still processing my estimate for the current amount of long-term sick leave I think an employee may use that I should record, in addition to the 25% payout amount I currently record.... I love GASB as much as you do!

The executive board hosted a planning session with some of the committee chairs in January and will hold a second planning session in February. These planning sessions assist in developing the programming for the year. The board also adopted the 2025 budget, with the continued goal of keeping the cost of membership, educational and networking opportunities as affordable as possible. There will be no change in membership or annual conference registration fees for 2025.

As the MNGFOA president I'm following in Mary Kaye's footsteps from last year and taking the plunge for special Olympics. Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual MNGFOA Polar Plunge on February 28th. More details can be found later in the newsletter. It's a fantastic event for a wonderful cause - I hope you'll consider participating in some capacity; if not plunging, maybe a donation.

With February being the month all about LOVE, I couldn't pass up the

opportunity to share a things I love. Being a father of four kiddos ranging in age from 5-15, I'd be lying if I said every day is rainbows and unicorns, but there are parts of the day that I wish I could place in a bottle and save forever. A short snuggle with my 5-year-old Mia in the morning while enjoying a cup of coffee. A discussion during breakfast with Zoe, my 12-year-old 7th grader about the "B" she received on a challenging English exam. A high five from my 8-year-old Leo, as he exits the car in the morning on his way to school. A late-night discussion with my 15-year-old Eli on his upcoming driver's exam to get his permit. As the saying goes...."they grow up too fast".

All this to say, please take time to enjoy the small things, and LOVE those around you. Take a minute to contact a colleague you haven't heard from in a while and catch up. I value the relationships I have built through MNGFOA and love that I have a group of professionals around me that I can rely on for support. Thanks for being a part of MNGFOA!

FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025
Time: 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Location: Wherever you are
Cost: Free
CEU: 1.0 on request. Microsoft form request link to be updated by February 12th.

Topic: What We Learned from the 2024 Elections

The 2024 US elections were consequential on many fronts, both nationally and in Minnesota. We will examine what we learned from the elections and what it means for national and Minnesota politics in 2025 and beyond.

Speaker: David Schultz

David Schultz is a Hamline University Distinguished Professor of Political Science, Legal Studies, and Environmental Studies, and an adjunct professor of law at the University of St. Thomas. He is the author of more than 45 books and 200+ articles on various aspects of American politics and law. His most recent book is *Generational Politics in the United States*.

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 Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Joel may be contacted at:
952-939-8254

Exciting News!

Congratulations to Nicole Hegge Senior Manager Accounting at Anoka County and William Wallo Chief Financial Officer at St. Paul Public Housing Agency on completing GFOA's Certified Public Finance Officer Program (CPFO).

Congratulations to Greta Pudas on her new position as Finance Director for the City of Medina.

Retiree Memberships - FREE

MNGFOA retiree membership is "Free". As MNGFOA values the contributions of its members and the significant relationships that are built, the board encourages retiree members to stay connected. Thanks to all active and retired members for being involved in MNGFOA!



2nd Annual MNGFOA Polar Plunge

Calling all MnGFOA members to take the plunge on February 28th for our 2nd Annual Polar Plunge!

Donating or registering is easy! Check out our Event Page!

<https://reg.plungemn.org/team/mngfoaplungers>

Don't feel like plunging? Donate, come cheer us on or join us for happy hour after.

AS EXTRA INCENTIVE TO DONATE OR PLUNGE, if we reach our **donation goal of \$5,000**, Bonnie will dye her hair **PURPLE** for the event.

EVENT DETAILS












- ❖ Date: Friday February 28, 2025
- ❖ Location: Lake Nokomis Park
- ❖ Time:
 - Check-In at 2:30 pm, Plunge starts at 3 pm
 - We will be able to register for a specific time slot 3 days prior to the event, updated list servs will be sent when a specific time slot is reserved.
- ❖ Happy Hour: To Be Determined once our timeslot is confirmed. Stay Tuned!
- ❖ How to Register: Go to our event page or email Bonnie - bonnie.schwieger@abdosolutions.com
- ❖ Plunge Specific Info:
 - Check out the Polar Plunge FAQ (<https://www.plungemn.org/faqs/general-questions/>)

Check out our Event Page to track how much we raise for Special Olympics!
Spread the word by sharing the link to our event page!



2025 MNGFOA 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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February 28, 2025: | 2:30 PM, 3:30 Plunge: Take the plunge at the Polar Plunge at Lake Nokomis in Minneapolis.
- 
March 2025: Celebrate at our St. Patrick's Networking Event.
- 
April 2025: Join the fun and try your luck at the Meat Raffle Event.
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May 15, 2025 | 6:00–9:00 PM: Put your knowledge to the test at Trivia Night at the Birdhouse in Robbinsdale.
- 
June 2025: Cheer on the MN Aurora FC at a Women's Soccer Game at TCO Stadium in Eagan.
- 
July 17, 2025: Pedal your way to fun at the Pedal Pub Tour in Minneapolis.
- 
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.
- 
October 2025: Give back at the Feed My Starving Children Event.
- 
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.
- 
November–December 2025: Participate in the Second Harvest Heartland Online Food Drive to support those in need.

GFOA Leadership Academy and CPFO Program – Save the Date!

Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Wherever you are

Cost: Free

Please register online at www.mngfoa.org



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)



Second Harvest Heartland Food Drive – We Did It!

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we not only reached our goal for the food drive - we surpassed it! We're proud to announce that we raised an outstanding **\$2,100**, exceeding our \$2,000 goal and far surpassing last year's total of \$1,200. Your contributions will make a meaningful difference for families in need. Thank you for your kindness and support. Congratulations on making a lasting impact!



second harvest
HEARTLAND

JOB POSTINGS

Summary of Job Openings:

Position Title	Entity	Closing Date
Loan Program Analyst	Saint Paul Port Authority	February 12, 2025
Accounting Clerk I – Payroll	City of Rogers	February 2, 2025
Assistant Finance Director	City of Blaine	February 7, 2025
Staff Accountant	Minnesota counties Intergovernmental Trust	February 2, 2025 or 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

Pickleball & Networking Event Update

MNGFOA members kicked off the new year with lots of fun at Pints & Paddle with pickleball and networking on January 23rd. Thanks to everyone who joined and made the event a success!



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, City of Lino Lakes 651-982-2405

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

