



MnGFOA Newsletter

January 2025

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

Included in this Issue:

- **Monthly Meeting – January 15th**
- **Member Area - Forum**
- **2nd Annual MNGFOA Polar Plunge**
- **January Networking Event**
- **Job Postings**
- **Congrats!**

President's Message

By: Mark Ebensteiner

Happy 2025! I hope that your 2024 was filled with memorable moments and the start of your 2025 has found you optimistic and energized. 😊

With the start of the new calendar year, our committees are already hard at work planning educational line-ups, fostering social connections, expanding our government finance community through outreach, and continuously seeking ways to enhance our organization. Later this month, the Executive Board and Committee Chairs will convene to further discuss and develop plans for 2025.

I would like to highlight some changes to the Executive Board and Committee Chairs:

Executive Board: Nate Reinhardt (City of Shakopee) concludes his 5-year term on the Executive Board, while Joel Merry (City of Minnetonka) begins his term as Treasurer. Kristen Vipond (Otter Tail County) concludes her At-large appointment, while Chris Knopik (CLA) continues for a second term and Dalton Larson (Anoka County) starts his. Sarah Rathlisberger (City of Monticello) will step into the State Rep position, Gina Foschi (City of New Brighton) transitions to Secretary, Tina Lannes (City of Albertville) as President-Elect, and Mary Kaye Wahl (Carver County) as Past President.

A warm welcome to the new Board members and an extension of gratitude for the ones that have served over the past year.

Committee Chairs: This year, we have many returning chairs, with a few new faces. Melissa Schlingman (City of Shakopee) and Jackie Heinz (City of Montrose) will continue to lead the Conference Committee, Joe Starks and Katie Gray (both with the City of Fridley) the Education Committee, Hannah Lynch (City of Lino Lakes) the Program Committee, Kari Carlson (City of Bloomington) and Michelle Hoffman (MN Sports Facility) the Social Committee, Justin Juergensen (City of Hutchinson) the Student Outreach Committee, Jeanette Boit-Kania (Ramsey County), Joe Rotz (City of Apple Valley), and Janice Brandt (City of Coon Rapids) the Technology Committee, and Cory Kampf (Anoka County), Lynn Cornwell (Moreton Capital Markets), and Nate Reinhardt (City of Shakopee) the Mentorship Committee. Thank you all for stepping forward or continuing to lead these committees, and special thanks to past chair— Jennifer Vucinovich (US Bank).

I encourage you to volunteer for one of the committees in 2025, it's a great way to meet new people and get involved with a great association. I am more than willing to get anyone connected to any of our committees!

And, of course, the most exciting change (at least for me) is I am your new president. I'm very humbled by the opportunity to continue to serve the association in any capacity that I can. MNGFOA has been a very important part of my career, being able to network with such talented people. I started volunteering on the social committee, because I enjoyed the activities and overall experience so much. Fast forward several years, I continue to assist with the various committees. My typical responses when asked why I wanted to be part of the executive board is a simple "it's the least I could do" and it's truly the way I feel, because MNGFOA has helped shape who I am today. I've learned a lot from our members and have had a lot of fun throughout my journey.

On the docket for this month, the social committee is busy planning a pickleball event at Pint and Paddle in Maple Grove, and the program committee has speakers lined up on Tax Credits for Local Governments and a GASB Update.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any thoughts and ideas this year. I'm looking forward to another great year for our association as our members continue to grow both personally and professionally.

JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025
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: Tax Credits for Local Governments and GASB Update

Join us for a discussion of the how your local government may benefit from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). With tax credits from energy efficiency projects, the IRA allows local governments to receive direct subsidies. We will also review recent GASB standards with an in-depth exploration of GASB 101, the latest standard impacting the accounting and financial reporting of compensated absences.

Speaker: Chris Powers and Bonnie Schwieger

Chris Powers is a Tax Partner with Abdo and joined the firm in 1997. She has focused her practice on accounting, consulting and tax for businesses and governments. Chis is a member of the Greater Mankato Growth Board, the Minnesota Chamber Fiscal Policy Committee, and a member of the Greater Mankato Growth Public Affairs Steering Committee.

Bonnie Schwieger is a Government Audit Partner with Abdo and joined the firm in 2012. Her experience includes audits and accounting work for local governments.

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!





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!



PICKLEBALL AND NETWORKING EVENT



Date: Thursday, January 23

Time: 3:00 pm-5:00 pm – Pickleball with Happy Hour to follow

Location: ***Pint & Paddle - 15450 Grove Cir N, Maple Grove, MN 55369***

Cost: \$8! Covers Pickleball PLUS snacks and appetizers

What better way for GFOA members to follow-up the new year than to come work on your pickleball skills! Join us for a couple hours of pickleball fun and stay for social hour immediately following!

Click [here](#) to register at MNGFOA.org.

JOB POSTINGS

Summary of Job Openings:

Position Title	Entity	Closing Date
Finance Director	City of Apple Valley	Sunday, January 19, 2025
Director of Finance	MN State High School League	Wednesday, January 15, 2025
Finance Accountant	City of Alexandria	Friday, January 3, 2025
Finance Director/ Assistant City Administrator	City of Buffalo	Wednesday, January 8, 2025
Accountant	Kanabec 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

CONGRATS!

Congratulations to Kevin Knopik on starting his new position as the finance director for the City of Shoreview in January. Kevin was most recently the finance director for the City of Forest Lake.

We are pleased to share that Hannah Lynch will be joining the Moreton Capital Markets team in February! Hannah has served as the Finance Director for the City of Lino Lakes for over four years. Prior to that, she was a consulting finance director with Abdo Financial Services, bringing a wealth of experience in local government finance. Please join us in congratulating Hannah as she embarks on this new chapter in her career.

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

