



MnGFOA Newsletter

July 2025

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

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President's Message

By: Mark Ebensteiner

July symbolizes summer, freedom, and celebration. It is the month of America's birthday and named after Julius Caesar, signifying leadership and power. It's hard to believe this is considered the second month of summer considering **A.** where did the first month go? and **B.** fall feels right around the corner as youth football registration opens up soon.

As I write this, I'm preparing to fly out to Washington D.C. for the national conference later this week. A little nervous as my Real ID has yet to arrive in the mail....so I'll be at the airport extra early. I'm excited for the informative sessions, interesting topics, and the opportunity to spend a couple days with my wife as we celebrate our wedding anniversary. I'm sure I'll have lots of good content for the next newsletter.

July has some great MNGFOA events in store for us! The program committee has the 2025 legislative session update on July 16th and the following day you

can get out and enjoy some good company on Lake Minnetonka on the paddle tap boat cruise. As the summer cruises along, watch your email for information on the MNGFOA annual conference in Alexandria. A schedule of speakers and topics will be released soon, and registration will open on the website. The conference is sure to be a spectacular event with wonderful speakers and informative topics.

Personally, this past month was both rewarding and challenging. My kids wrapped up school in early June and the beginning of their summer was fun with a trip to the zoo and a few long weekends at grandma's house. We also added a few new chickens to the flock and have recently adventured into pet goats. It's been fun and rewarding to watch the kids take on more responsibility and the relationships they have formed with the animals.

I recently had a friend/childhood neighbor/classmate pass

after a battle with cancer. I smile as I think of all the fun times Tony and I had growing up and after attending his funeral I am amazed by the impact he had on so many lives. I'm saddened and energized at the same time as with any loss it's putting things in perspective. As the holiday weekend is upon us, enjoy your time with family and friends and be grateful for those relationships. I know I am grateful for my colleagues through MNGFOA and wish you all the best!

Hope everyone has a safe and fun 4th of July weekend! Cherish the few days of summer that Minnesota provides and enjoy your time with family and friends. Thanks for being a part of MNGFOA!

"I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him." – Abraham Lincoln



JULY MONTHLY MEETING

Date: July 16, 2025

Time: 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Zoom Meeting

Cost: Free

CEU: 1.0 on request. Please complete the online form to request an emailed certificate: [CEU Request Form](#)

Topic: Legislative Update

Pierre Willette, Beth Johnston, and Matt Hilgart will provide a local government perspective on the 2025 legislative session that included significant policy and budget changes affecting local governance, budgets, and residents.

Speakers:

Pierre Willette is a Senior Intergovernmental Relations Representative with the League of Minnesota Cities. He has more than 30 years of experience and expertise in public affairs and government relations. Over the course of his career, Willette has established himself as a highly regarded public affairs professional with experience across a wide range of issues, as well connections with key Capitol stakeholders and strong bipartisan relationships with legislators.

Willette began his career with the City of Minneapolis, starting in the city council and mayor's offices and advancing to senior government relations representative. He later served as economic and community development manager with the University of Minnesota Foundation Real Estate Advisors before joining Goff Public, a Minnesota public relations firm, and assuming the role of Director of Government Relations. He joined the League of Minnesota Cities Intergovernmental Relations team in January of 2025 and works on the issues of elections, public finance, economic development, regulated industries, and tax increment finance. He holds a bachelor's degree in government from St. John's University and a master's degree in public administration and management from Hamline University.

Beth Johnston is an Intergovernmental Relations Representative with the League of Minnesota Cities. She advocates on behalf of member cities before state lawmakers and agency officials on the issues of taxes, state aids, and cannabis issues. Prior to joining the League, Beth worked at the Minnesota Senate and the Department of Revenue.

Matt Hilgart is the Deputy Director of Government Relations with the Association of Minnesota Counties. In his roll, he also lobbies on general government issues impacting county governance and residents (taxes, government finance, elections, employment/HR, pensions). Prior to his work with AMC, Matt worked for a US member of Congress as an Outreach and Communications Specialist and served in the Peace Corps.





🏟️ 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!



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.



Be the SPARK at this year's MNGFOA Conference!



This year, we're inviting you to be the spark at the MnGFOA Annual Conference! Whether you're looking to recharge your skills or ignite new passions, the 2025 conference is designed to help you become your best professional self.

Get ready for informative, captivating sessions led by dynamic speakers covering a wide range of topics—from foundational insights to the latest standards shaping the industry. No matter your experience level, there's something here for everyone.

We're especially excited to highlight one of our entertaining and insightful presenters in each monthly newsletter leading up to the conference. These spotlights will give you a sneak peek at what's in store—so don't miss them!

Mark your calendars: Conference registration opens in July! Stay tuned—and get ready to spark something great.

Kat Perkins...

Kat appeared on The Voice Season 6 and advanced to the show's finals. Mentored by Adam Levine, Kat climbed her way to fourth place! A native of the tiny town of Scranton, ND. Kat has resided in Minneapolis, Minnesota since 1999 when she began working in various theatre productions and started her solo music career. Kat has opened for Bon Jovi and travelled to the Middle East to entertain American military troops. Kat has released six albums since The Voice with two of her singles charting inside #20 on the iTunes Charts! Along with full time touring with her band and also as the Background Singer for Kid Rock, Kat founded The Rising Star Foundation in 2017 and runs her own music camp in the badlands of North Dakota! Music and education are her passions, and she tries to combine them whenever possible! Go to risingstarfoundation.org to find out more!

MNGFOA Day to Unite – August 20 (11:30 am 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@shakopeemn.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.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) Program Scholarships

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. The program encourages ongoing participation in and knowledge of GFOA's resources including best practices, publications, training, conferences, member networking groups, and partnerships with other organizations to prepare members to better serve their governments and communities.

The National GFOA awarded two enrollment scholarships (awarded through the MNGFOA) and the MNGFOA provided an additional scholarship. The scholarship covers the \$1,200 enrollment fee for two years or participation in the program, which is the anticipated timeline to pass all the exams.

Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients:

Margaret Schaak (Peggy), Financial Officer for Rice County
Lynn Tschudi, Finance Director for the City of Carver
Janette Rust, Finance Specialist for the City of Breezy Point

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@waconiamn.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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July 17, 2025 | 3:30 PM: Paddle your way to fun at a Paddle Tap boat cruise on Lake Minnetonka
- 
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.
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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.

JOB POSTINGS

Summary of Job Openings:

Position Title	Entity	Closing Date
Finance Manager	SouthWest Transit	Until Filled
General Accountant	City of Rochester	Until Filled
Finance Director	City of Virginia	July 3, 2025
Assistant Finance Coordinator	Renville 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

GFOA Leadership Academy in Chicago, IL



Congratulations to Ryan Vadnais, City of Plymouth, on his acceptance into the GFOA Leadership Academy and receiving the Lori A Webster Leadership Academy Scholarship sponsored by the MNGFOA!

CONGRATS!

Congratulations to Emily Wilson on her new position as the Assistant Finance Director for the City of Robbinsdale.

Congratulations to Korrie Johnson on her new position as the Finance Director for the City of Champlin.

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

