



MnGFOA Newsletter

June 2025

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

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President's Message

By: Mark Ebensteiner

June is upon us, and I hope you either have had a successful audit season or you are progressing smoothly. At the City, we have wrapped up our audit and are taking our first stab at 2026 budget assumptions. To add another layer, we are also amid a facility renovation project. This has provided its challenges with the dust and noise, but much like audit season, the end is near.

May was another exciting month for our association. Thank you to the program committee for planning the "Spring Break" out sessions, all the speakers for their efforts, and to the four locations that hosted the events. Also, a special thanks to the social committee for putting together the Trivia Night event at the Birdhouse.

As we move through 2025, the MNGFOA committees are working hard on events and training opportunities.

The Conference Committee is securing the schedule and speakers for the annual conference to be held at Arrowwood Conference Center in Alexandria September 24-26, 2025. The committee will be featuring some of the speakers planned for the event in the next few newsletters. Please look for a final schedule and for registration to open in July. It is sure to be a motivating and engaging conference!

The Social Committee has planned some summer fun! Whether you're a super fan or just enjoying the atmosphere and competition, they've got you covered. MN Aurora FC in June and Saints in August. If you are into water fun, check out the Paddle Tap boat cruise in July on Lake Minnetonka.

Personally, this past month was once again filled with excitement. Lacrosse season is in full swing with both boys competing. This has provided many

opportunities to engage with fellow parents as we fight for survival through the unforeseen weather conditions of spring sports. I find myself feeling like a kid again... lying to myself and believing that I could get on the field and compete. I am invigorated by the competitive spirit and the support of teammates and parents. Similarly, I am thankful for the comradery and support that MNGFOA provides and value the relationships I have made through this organization.

Lastly, for those heading to Washington D.C. this month for the National GFOA Conference, I hope to see you at the MNGFOA reception on Sunday, June 29th.

Have a great June everyone and thanks for being a part of MNGFOA!



JUNE MONTHLY MEETING

DATE: June 18, 2025
 TIME: 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
 TYPE: Zoom Meeting
 Cost: Free
 CEU: 1.0 on request. Please complete the online form to request an emailed certificate: [CEU Request Form](#)



Topic: Assessor Update on Minnesota Property Valuation

Changes in the economy due to the after-effects of COVID on housing and office markets, new legislation, inflation, and evolving population demographics have reshaped the landscape of Minnesota property values. This session will provide insights as to how property valuations have evolved and how the Affordable Housing 4d(1) property tax classification and Market Value Homestead Exclusion have impacted local tax capacities. We'll be joined to two Assessors who will explore the various factors causing shifts in tax burdens between residential and commercial properties.

Speaker: Alex Guggenberger, Anoka County Assessor

As county assessor of the 5th largest county in Minnesota by land area, Alex is responsible for the assessment of first-ring suburbs like the City of Columbia Heights, as well as rural communities like the City of Bethel with less than 300 parcels. Before coming to Anoka County, Alex worked as an appraiser for the City of Minneapolis as well as a fee appraiser. His career at Anoka County has provided Alex a wealth of different experiences due to the unique variety and complexity of parcels found within the county. This combined 15 years of experience in the assessment field allow him to navigate the complex assessment and tax related questions that come with such a diverse portfolio of properties.

As President of the Minnesota Association of Assessing Officer's, Alex is also involved in Assessment & Tax related initiatives at the state level.

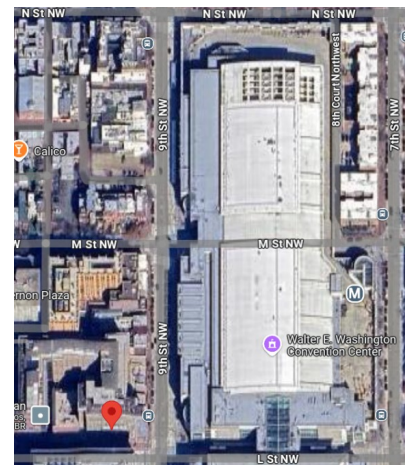
MNGFOA Reception at National Conference

The Minnesota GFOA is hosting a reception during the National GFOA Conference in Washington D.C. Relax and mingle with your colleagues from around the state after the National GFOA reception at the convention center.

Details:

Date & Time: Sunday, June 29th, 2025, from 7 pm to 10 pm
 Location: Courtyard/Residence Inn DC Downtown Convention Center
 901 L Street NW Washington DC, 20001
 Second Floor - Shaw Ballroom A

Enjoy refreshments at our cash bar and some provided appetizers. If you have family or guests with you in Washington D.C., they're welcome to join us too. We're looking forward to seeing you there! If you have any questions before the reception, feel free to get in touch.



MN Aurora FC Soccer Game



Join the social committee in supporting one of the newest teams in Minnesota's growing women's sports scene.

What: MN Aurora FC vs. Chicago Dutch Lions FC women's soccer game

Where: TCO Stadium, at the TCO Performance Center
2685 Vikings Circle, Suite 200
Eagan, MN 55121

When: Thursday, June 12 at 7:00 P.M.

Cost: \$8 per ticket

RSVP: Tickets can be purchased on the MN GFOA website under Upcoming Events:

[Minnesota Government Finance Officers Association - Meeting/Event Information](#)

More information will be sent closer to the game. The tickets will be transferred via the MN Vikings app, so all attendees will need to download the app to receive their ticket.



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.



Please Join Us For A

Retirement
CELEBRATION

in honor of

Liz Berger

CELEBRATING 32 YEARS OF SERVICE

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

City of Minnetonka ~ Minnehaha Room

servicing up sweet treats, lots of memories & good company

an afterhours celebration will follow:

UNMAPPED BREWING ~ BASECAMP ROOM ~ 4:00 PM

14625 Excelsior Boulevard, Minnetonka, MN 55345



MNGFOA Tiki Boat Cruise on Lake Minnetonka – July 17

Looking for a fun way to enjoy summer and connect with fellow MN GFOA members? Join us for a *100-minute Tiki Boat Cruise* on scenic Lake Minnetonka departing from Back Channel Brewing in Spring Park on Thursday, July 17 at 3:30 PM!



We've reserved a private Tiki-themed boat for a one-of-a-kind summer outing. This tiki-style pontoon features a full canopy for shade, music, and a full restroom onboard. No peddling required - just sit back, relax, and enjoy the view!

Event Highlights:

- 100-minute cruise on Lake Minnetonka
- Bluetooth music
- Large, shaded deck
- Full bathroom on board
- Departs from: 4787 Shoreline Dr, Spring Park, MN 55384
- Space for up to 18 guests








Cost: \$25 per person

Register now to reserve your seat! <https://mngfoa.org/meetinginfo.php>



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:

- 
June 12, 2025 | 7:00 PM: Cheer on the MN Aurora FC at a Women’s Soccer Game at TCO Stadium in Eagan.
- 
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.
- 
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.
- 
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 Accountant	SouthWest Transit	Until Filled
Business Administrator	Metropolitan Mosquito Control District	Until Filled
Chief Investment Officer	Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority	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

MNGFOA Day to Unite – August 20th

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.

More information to come.

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

