



MnGFOA Newsletter

May 2025

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

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President’s Message

By: Mark Ebensteiner

May is here and with some recent rain, everything is coming to life with buds on the trees and the grass turning green. This is the time of the year when I’m surveying my lawn and strategizing on all the projects, I’ll plan on attacking.... from fertilizer to new mulch, it’s refreshing to see the sun in the sky and the birds active on the feeders. As we all continue to navigate 2025, MNGFOA committees have some great education and networking opportunities planned.

April was an eventful month for our association. We hosted a lively meat raffle at Big Louie’s in Crystal and Nate Reinhardt organized a well-attended informative session on CPFO and Leadership Academy programs. Thanks to our dedicated committee members for organizing these events and a special thanks to Kari Klages (Redwood Falls) and Josh Kent (Buffalo) for sharing their experiences related to their participation in the programs.

The social committee is getting creative with some new events including Trivia Night, which is coming up on May 15 at the Birdhouse in Robbinsdale. Put your knowledge to the test and enjoy some friendly competition.

The program committee again has some “Spring Break” out sessions which are back and better than ever. Sessions are scheduled for Wednesday May 21 from 2-4 pm in a variety of locations including Maplewood, Fridley, Carver and Shakopee. Topics include Software Conversion, Investing, Payroll/HR and Capital Planning. Sessions will fill up fast so visit the MNGFOA website to get signed up.

A quick shout out to the technology committee for all their efforts on the new website. I am impressed with the professional look and feel. It is still work in progress and there was recently a survey completed to better understand how the membership would like to utilize some features. As volunteer members, your

efforts are truly valued and appreciated.

This past month was eventful and rewarding for me personally as well. With the early April snow, I was able to make a snowman with my youngest kiddos and enjoy some laughs on the sledding hill. The lacrosse season kicked off for my boys while navigating the wet fields and the brisk spring breeze. And to top it off, I hatched my first batch of baby chickens which are now fighting for survival as my 5 year invades their living space. All that to say, life is busy right now. The days sometimes drag on, but the weeks and months seem to fly by and all the while I have many things to be thankful for and many things that make me smile.

Hope you all have a fabulous May and find some joy in the small things. 😊 Thanks for being part of MNGFOA!

Welcome to May!
Half spring,
half summer,
all confusion.



“SPRING BREAK” OUT SESSIONS

Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025
 Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
 Location: Multiple – Participants capped at 20 per location
 Cost: Free

Ride the financial wave at MNGFOA’s Spring Break Out Sessions! Multiple in-person offerings featuring the next best thing to fun in the sun! Join us rain or shine for sessions on software conversion, investing, payroll/HR, and capital planning. Whether you’re a financial beachcomber or just dipping your toes in the tide, these sessions are your ticket to a more refreshed you!

1. **Subject:** Software Conversion **Title:** Shining Light on Software Conversions
Overview: Panel discussion including multiple cities, a county representative, banking insights, audit insights related to software conversions. We will discuss what went well, and what to avoid, as well as take questions from attendees for the panel to address.
Speaker(s): Troy Gabler (CLA), Jennifer Vucinovich (US Bank), Nicole Hegge (Anoka County), Tammy Wilson (City of Eden Prairie), and Ashley Hansen (City of Coon Rapids)
Location: Maplewood’s North Fire Station – East County Line Community Room, 1530 County Road C E, Maplewood, MN 55109

2. **Subject:** Investing **Title:** Sun’s Out. Don’t Get Burned by Market Volatility.
Overview: Uncertainty over tariffs, inflation, a potential recession, and the Fed could mean continued swings in the bond market. Are we headed for a soft landing, or will the implementation of tariffs lead to higher prices for consumers and businesses resulting in increased inflation and slower economic growth? Before tackling those complex concepts, we will begin our Investment Session with a review of fixed income fundamentals and basic principals in order to provide a solid base of knowledge. We will then discuss the current interest rate environment, yield curves, and the economic components and data that may affect the future path of interest rates. We’ll wrap up with discussion on the importance of understanding cash flows and investing to meet projected future liability needs, both with operating funds as well as bond proceeds and related arbitrage considerations in the current rate environment.
Speaker(s): Corey Boyer (PMA Financial Network), Brian Johnson (Ehlers), and Chris Sullivan (Oppenheimer & Co.), Korrie Johnson (Fridley)
Location: Fridley City Hall – Fireside Room, 7071 University Avenue NE, Fridley, MN 55432

3. **Subject:** Payroll/HR **Title:** Testing the Waters on Minnesota’s New Employment Laws
Overview: Join us for a review of the recent changes affecting employers in Minnesota such as; THC/CBD, Pay Transparency, ESST and more. We’ll dive into MN Paid Leave and what employers need to do to prepare.
Speaker(s): Brenna Ramy (Abdo)
Location: Carver City Hall, 316 Broadway Street, Carver, MN 55315

4. **Subject:** Capital Planning **Title:** Sun, Sand, and Strategic Planning: Funding and Financing Essentials
Overview: With federal and state funding becoming more uncertain, municipalities must plan strategically to finance capital improvements. This session will examine the current fiscal landscape, explore best practices for funding major projects, and discuss how to optimize available financial resources. It will also touch on alternative revenue sources that can support infrastructure investments. The session includes a presentation, a networking break, and an interactive discussion led by city representatives, providing practical insights and real-world applications.
Speaker(s): Keith Dahl (Ehlers), Kelly Horn (Ehlers), Dan Tienter (Ehlers), City/County Representative TBD
Location: City of Shakopee (PD Training Room), 475 Gorman Street, Shakopee, MN 55379



Join Us for a Night of Fun and Networking!

Put your knowledge to the test while connecting with colleagues! Join us for an exciting Trivia Night filled with friendly competition, appetizers, and great conversations. RSVP today to secure your spot. We can't wait to see you there!

Event: Trivia Night

Date: May 15, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Location: The Birdhouse, Robbinsdale

RSVP Here: <https://mngfoa.org/meet-reg2.php>

Scholarship Opportunities

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). Application Deadline is May 31st. For more information or to apply visit the [MNGFOA - CPFO Program](#)

In addition, we will be providing scholarships (one spring/one fall) to participate in the Leadership Academy (\$3,400 each). For more information or to apply visit the [MNGFOA Lori A. Webster Scholarship](#) .

Congrats!

Shelly Peterson will be retiring in July, after 38 years in local government and the last 7 years as the Finance Director for the City Champlin. Thank you, Shelly, for all your hard work and dedication.



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 v. 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, 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.



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:

-  **May 15, 2025** | 6:00–9:00 PM: Put your knowledge to the test at Trivia Night at the Birdhouse in Robbinsdale.
-  **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.



Robert L. Ehlers Scholarship Recipient

Kary Tillmann, City of Zimmerman was awarded the Robert L. Ehlers Scholarship. This scholarship covers the registration fees for the annual national GFOA Conference. This year’s annual conference starts on June 29th, in Washington DC.

Exciting News!



Congratulations to Phillip Weix, Accountant at City of Roseville, on completing GFOA’s Certified Public Finance Officer Program (CPFO).

JOB POSTINGS

Summary of Job Openings:

Position Title	Entity	Closing Date
Business Administrator	Metropolitan Mosquito Control District	Until Filled
Chief Investment Officer	Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority	Until Filled
Finance Director	City of Oakdale	Until Filled
Procurement Specialist	Steele County	May 6, 2025
Budget Analyst	City of Northfield	May 8, 2025
Director of Finance & Administrative Services	City of Champlin	May 4, 2025
Assistant Finance Director	City of Robbinsdale	Until Filled
Accountant I	City of Woodbury	May 26, 2025
Finance Director	City of Apple Valley	May 11, 2025
Finance Director	City of Forest Lake	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

Call for Neighborhood Captains

The MNGFOA is looking for volunteers willing to be a host site for the 2nd annual MNGFOA Day to Unite on August 21st. We are hoping to add more locations and build on last year's success! Please reach out to Nate Reinhardt nreinhardt@shakopeemn.gov. Nate has graciously offered free high fives to the first five volunteers.

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

