



MnGFOA Newsletter

November 2025

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

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- **2026 MNGFOA Conference – New Location**

President's Message

By: Mark Ebensteiner

Daylight savings time is here. We'll gain a little daylight in the morning, and evenings will get dark even sooner. Hoping a change in time will jumpstart my adventures at the local gym or get me excited to hit the pavement and get out for a walk.

For those of you who attended the conference, I hope you found it as valuable and enjoyable as I did. I really enjoy the in-person connections during sessions as well as the social events. If you haven't already, please remember to submit your CPE form if you need the credit. Thanks to all who completed the survey on the annual conference. We continue to incorporate past suggestions and feedback when planning our future conferences. A great majority of the respondents were very satisfied with the sessions and activities. It can't be said enough, the conference wouldn't be what it is without the many people who helped organize and present the sessions.

We had a wonderful turnout for our October accounting classes, which were held at different locations throughout the state. Thanks to the Education Committee and the Instructors for your time and effort to provide this valued training.

On a more personal note, this last month has been a lesson in adversity. During the conference I shared my family's variety of animals. Since then, we've lost a cat in a roadway accident, we've lost a goat to sickness and one of our goldendoodles broke his tail.... all the while we have had some sickness going through the house. It's been challenging but has brought us closer as a family and reminded us to enjoy our time

together, no matter the circumstance. As I tell my kids in the morning as I drop them off at school, "It's a good day to have a good day!"

Lastly, we have some exciting news from the annual business meeting! Our 2026 MNGFOA Treasurer/2029 President will be Justin Juergensen! Justin has been an active member of MNGFOA for many years and most recently the chair of our Student Outreach Committee. Congratulations, Justin!

Wishing you a great November! Cherish some cool fall weather with family and friends. Stay warm, stay energized and have a very Happy Thanksgiving! Thanks for being a part of MNGFOA!

2025 MNGFOA Executive Board – Annual Business Lunch



NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

November 19, 2025
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: MN PERA Update

This session will provide an update on the health of the PERA pension plans. The health of the plans includes both the financial perspective, and from the perspective of how the plan meets member benefit and intergenerational equity goals. The metrics and goals that the PERA board uses to set priorities help influence both PERA-led legislative initiatives and the legislative initiatives of our stakeholders.

Speaker: Doug Anderson

Doug Anderson has been the Executive Director of the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) for the past 10 years. Prior to working at PERA, Doug had over 25 years of experience working as a consulting actuary for Deloitte and A.J. Gallagher. His experience included working with public pension plans across the nation to help identify and balance benefit and cost objectives. Doug is a Member of the American Academy of Actuaries and a graduate of the University of Minnesota.

John B. Lilja Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient

Emma Khuong, College of Saint Benedict, was awarded the John B. Lilja Undergraduate Scholarship.

MNGFOA Internship Grant Update

The MNGFOA has awarded an internship grant to the City of Champlin for the calendar year 2026. Congrats and thanks for introducing more people to our profession!



2025 MNGFOA Second Harvest Heartland Fundraising Drive



MN GFOA Members,

We are committed to making sure local families have food on their tables this year. Help our team reach our goal of raising \$2,500! Thank you for making a difference for the more than half a million people in our region who are living with the daily uncertainty of where their next meal will come from. With your support, we can help families meet the moment. Last year MN GFOA members raised \$2,100!

<http://support.2harvest.org/goto/MNGFOA2025>


- \$10 can provide 1 month of healthy breakfasts for a senior.
- \$25 can provide 75 meals for kids in school.
- \$50 can provide 1 month of medically-tailored meals for patients with diabetes.
- \$100 can provide 1 month of produce, proteins, and dairy for a family of 4.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH IF YOU CAN HELP OUT THIS YEAR!



Remaining 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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November–December 2025: Participate in the Second Harvest Heartland Online Food Drive to support those in need.

GFOA Leadership Academy in Charleston, SC

Congratulations to Nate Reinhardt, City of Shakopee, on his acceptance into the GFOA Leadership Academy and receiving the Lori A Webster Leadership Academy Scholarship sponsored by the MNGFOA!

JOB POSTINGS

Summary of Job Openings:

Position Title	Entity	Closing Date
Budget Manager	League of Minnesota Cities	11/13/25
Finance Director	Steele County	12/01/25
Senior Capital Project Accountant	Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board	11/03/25
Payroll Coordinator	City of Maple Grove	11/10/25

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

2026 MNGFOA Conference is moving to a new location

After a long, successful run at Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria, the MNGFOA Annual conference will be moving to Cragun's Resort in Brainerd. More information to be coming soon!



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

