



MnGFOA Newsletter

October 2025

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

Included in this Issue:

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- **Feed My Starving Children Event**
- **October Government Accounting Classes**
- **2025 MNGFOA Mentoring Program**
- **2025 MNGFOA Networking Events**
- **Job Postings**
- **Congrats!**

President's Message

By: Mark Ebensteiner

Fall is upon us. We are slowly losing daylight, and the leaves are starting to change color. If you are like me, you are thinking, where did summer go? School is in session, and we have already had a full run of sickness through the house. Life is good... busy.... but good!

As I'm writing this message, I'm excitedly preparing for the annual conference this week. I'm looking forward to bringing my spark and connecting with colleagues and enjoying some sessions and social time. I'll have some fun experiences to share next month.

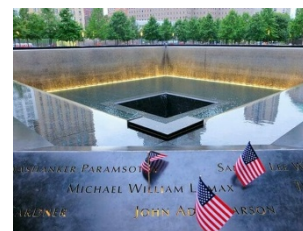
The Education Committee is busy planning the fall accounting sessions. Classes are filling up fast, and I believe there are talks about expanding the class size or holding additional sessions if there is enough interest. More information is available later in the newsletter.

The October monthly meeting is scheduled for October 15th with Chris Smith from the League discussing the basics of

contracts. Sign up and learn a little about the essential elements of a valid contract and some of the common pitfalls.



The Social Committee is planning a Feed My Starving Children event from 5:00-6:30 pm in Chanhassen on October 16. What a great opportunity to share some laughs while volunteering for a great cause!



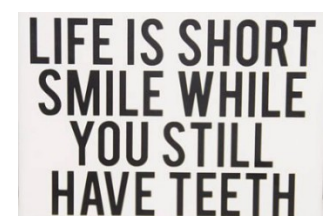
Events over this past month have left me feeling a bit somber. As a father of four there have been many tough discussions in the household, unwrapping some of the images and reports that we see on the evening newscasts: The Annunciation shooting in late August, the Charlie Kirk shooting on September 10th,

and the 24th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. As a family, we have talked a lot about the Golden Rule of treating others as you would like to be treated. I've learned there is no easy button.

My wife and I have recently been more diligent in morning conversations over coffee and evening walks to chat and discuss the day. Finding peace and joy in the small things and sharing a few laughs.

With the annual conference coming up, I am energized. Although we are a diverse group of individuals, our commitment to our organizations shines through. Relationships are strong and our caring love and support for each other is ever present.

Wishing you a great October! Cherish some cool fall weather with family and friends. Thanks for being a part of MNGFOA!



OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING

DATE: October 15, 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: Signed, Sealed, Delivered: Understanding the Basics of Contracts

Contracts can feel intimidating, but they are really just about making promises clear. This session will walk through the essential elements of a valid contract, common pitfalls, and tips for avoiding costly mistakes. We'll break down contract basics so you can understand what you're signing—and what to watch out for. Attendees will learn about liability, insurance, and indemnification issues to help you understand risk allocation and how to safeguard your organization.

Speakers:

Chris Smith is the Assistant General Counsel with the League of Minnesota Cities. Chris' focus is on Insurance Trust matters and works closely with the underwriting and loss control teams at the League. In addition, he heads up the League's Contract Review Services assisting League members in reviewing contracts with a focus on insurance and liability provisions. Chris has been with the League for over 20 years and between stints at the League, was in private practice serving as bond counsel for municipalities. Chris is active in the community and is a past president of the Minnesota Institute of Public Finance and currently serves on the Minneapolis Charter Commission.

UPCOMING EVENT!!

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM



Feed My Starving Children
18732 Lake Drive East
Chanhassen, MN 55317
[View Map](#)

Make a difference in a starving child's life! Come join us for a couple hours of packing life-saving meals. There are 30 spots available.
After the packing, join your fellow MN GFOA peers a few blocks down the road at:

Hackamore Brewing
18651 Lake Drive East
Chanhassen, MN 55317

OCTOBER GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING CLASSES

The October Accounting classes are posted and ready for registering on the MNGFOA website. The classes are taught by Government Finance Professionals who provide real world examples and insights. The classes cost \$20/person. Classes run from 9 am to 3 pm and lunch is provided during the day. Please visit: Events/Upcoming Events by clicking [HERE](#) to register or for more information.

Beginning Governmental Accounting – This class starts with Basic Accounting Theory: Classification of account types, chart of accounts, accounting systems & records, fund accounting, basis of accounting (cash, accrual, modified accrual), and basic budgeting and forecasting.

Wednesday, October 8th from 9 am to 3 pm
Springbrook Nature Center – Fridley
100 85th Ave. NW
Fridley, MN 55432

Intermediate Governmental Accounting – This class will cover Government vs. Private Business, fund accounting, cash & investments, assessments, capital assets, bonds, fund equity, revenue/expenditure recognition, GASB vs. GAAP, interfund transactions and financial reporting.

Wednesday, October 22nd from 9 am to 3 pm
Moore Lake Park Community Building – Fridley
5890 Central Ave. NE
Fridley, MN 55432

Advanced Governmental Accounting – This class will cover GASB updates, internal controls, a more in-depth look at the ACFR preparation process, including government-wide conversion, cash flow statements and internal service funds.

Wednesday, October 29th from 9 am to 3 pm
Moore Lake Park Community Building – Fridley
5890 Central Ave. NE
Fridley, MN 55432



MNGFOA Mentoring Program



“To help engage our members in developing our future and the future of local government finance in Minnesota.”

The MNGFOA Mentoring Program will run from approximately December 2025 to September 2026 and is a critical component to the future of local government finance leadership within our State. Please consider being a part of this program. We need your participation to make this a successful program! **Applications are due by October 9, 2025.** We will be hosting an in-person Mentor Program Training Luncheon in November. Please stay tuned for updates.

Mentor

- Gain personal satisfaction
- Facilitate growth in the mentee
- Share resources and networks
- Give back
- Build your leadership skills
- Improve your communication skills
- Build your network
- Share your knowledge & experiences

Mentee

- Build your network
- Learn new perspectives
- Advance your career
- Improve your communication skills
- Build your resume
- Develop greater self-awareness
- Help provide direction in your career
- Gain valuable advice

If you are interested or know of someone who would be an excellent mentor or mentee, please contact any of the Program Leadership Team Members for more information and an application. Appointments will be made in early October. For application and program dates, please visit www.mngfoa.org and select MNGFOA Mentor Program from the menu on the left side.

Program Leadership Team Members


<p>Nate Reinhardt nreinhardt@shakopeemn.gov</p>	<p>Cory Kampf cory.kampf@anokacountymn.gov</p>	<p>Lynn Cornwell lynn.cornwell@moretoncm.com</p>
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In learning you will teach, and in teaching you will learn.” – Phil Collins




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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October 16, 2025 | 5:00–6:30 PM : Give back at the Feed My Starving Children Event in Chanhassen, MN.

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November 6, 2025 | Tie Blanket - **CANCELLED**.

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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
Sr Audit Manager Special Taxes – State Program Admin	Minnesota Department of Revenue	10/13/2025
Finance Officer	Rice County	Continuous
Senior Fiscal Officer	Mille Lacs County	10/1/2025
Accountant	Metropolitan Airports Commission	10/1/2025
Finance Director	City of Austin	10/12/2025
Chief Financial Officer	Mille Lacs County	Continuous
Senior Accountant	SouthWest Transit	Until Filled
Finance Director	City of Granite Falls	10/8/2025

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!

Paula O’Connell will be retiring October 1, 2025, after almost 36 years in local government and the last 28 years for the City of Saint Peter. Thank you, Paula, for all your hard work and dedication.



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
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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
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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

