



MnGFOA Newsletter

September 2025

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

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President's Message

By: Mark Ebensteiner

Football season is here, and just like on the field, success in government finance depends on teamwork, communication, and play-calling with purpose. Whether budgeting for a city or county, every MNGFOA member plays a crucial role in our collective victory—let's huddle up!

On August 20, thanks to the program committee, MNGFOA brought finance officers together for our 3rd annual "Day to Unite" in 11 host cities—Alexandria, Albertville, Carver County, Hermantown, Lino Lakes, North Branch, Shakopee, Shorewood, Springfield, Waseca, plus a virtual venue via Zoom. We're thrilled that there were almost 150 attendees for lunch, peer learning, and collaboration in your communities—what a great turnout! Let's carry the spirit of teamwork we

ignited into the rest of the season.

Get ready for the 61st Annual MNGFOA Conference from September 24–26, 2025, at Arrowwood Conference Center in Alexandria. This year's theme, "THE SPARK: Ignite Your Best Self," speaks to leadership, innovation, and the teamwork that powers public finance. Expect energizing keynotes, practical sessions, and networking that fuels your success.

Registration for the annual conference continues with many 1st time attendees, which is fantastic. For those 1st timers, please plan on attending the new attendee orientation on Wednesday (9/24), which will give you a brief overview of the conference, networking activities and logistics. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the conference!

Lastly, I have had inquiries about our annual accounting classes. These will be held in October and registration for these classes are now open on the MNGFOA website. Please note the classes are open to members and nonmembers. A big thank you to the Education Committee for organizing these classes, as well as to the presenters and host sites for your time, knowledge, and space!

We're in the fourth quarter of summer already with kiddos ready to get back to school and fall sports seasons in full swing. Cherish these remaining days of summer and enjoy your time with family and friends. Thanks for being a part of MNGFOA!





BE THE SPARK AT THIS YEAR'S MNGFOA CONFERENCE



The conference is just around the corner! Sign up now to secure your spot for the MNGFOA 61st Annual MNGFOA Conference in Alexandria, Minnesota! The conference will be held September 24 to September 26, 2025, at Arrowwood Conference Center. Registration can be completed at mngfoa.org. Check out the Annual Conference Info tab on the website for more information. The Conference and Social Committees are working to make the conference fun and rewarding for all those that attend! A listing of the current sessions, speakers and networking events are listed below. If you have any questions or additional items to consider as part of the conference, please contact a member of the conference committee or the conference chairs – Melissa Schlingman or Jackie Heinz.

2025 MNGFOA CONFERENCE SESSIONS THE SPARK: IGNITE YOUR BEST SELF

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Keynote: Daily Execution. Extraordinary Results (Scott Welle)
Public Finance Staff Shortage (Julie Blaha)
Budget Panel Discussion (Gina Foschi, Kari Clarson, Cat Piepho, Sara Utsch)
Rating Agency Session (Ben VanMetre & Andrew Bredeson)
2025 GASB Update (Rebecca Petersen & Andy Hering)
Beyond the Budget: Strategic Capital Planning for Cities (Pa Thao & Viktoriya Montik)
Investments: Stay out of the Rough: Fixed Income Tips from the Greenskeeper's Guide (Lynn Cornwell, Brian Johnson, EJ Moberg)
Elevate: How Exceptional Leaders Inspire Peak Performance (Scott Welle)
County Roundtable (Cory Kampf)
Transitioning to Digital: Embracing Electronic Payments Over Traditional Checks (Sarah Brown, Nate Reinhardt, Tina Lannes, Nicholas Morgel, Jennifer Vucinovich, Nicole Hegge)

Thursday, September 25, 2025

Fearless (Kat Perkins)
Legislative Update (Daniel Lightfoot & Pierre Willette)
MN Paid Family Leave (Leah Davis)
GFOA Federal Update (Emily Brock)
Cyber Security: Budgeting for the Breach: Current Trends, and Strategies (Sean Lanterman)
Introduction to Excel Power Query (Bob Bruce)
Embracing AI: Transforming Government Operations in a Dynamic Landscape (Erik Inderbitzen and Mike Van Wyk)
Debt 101 (Nick Anhut & Heather Casperson)
Introduction to Excel Data Model (Bob Bruce)
Diversity (Jonathan McGee)
Managing Bond Proceeds (Kyle Sawyer & Kelly Horn)
MNGFOA Mentorship Program (Cory Kampf, Lynn Cornwell & Nate Reinhardt)

Friday, September 26, 2025

Top 10 Audit Findings and How to Prevent Them (Bonnie Schwieger)
TIF 101 (Keith Dahl & Schane Rudlang)
Capstone: Seize Your Well-Being- Navigate Beyond Burnout (Jasmine Stringer)



CONFERENCE NETWORKING EVENTS

The Social Committee has planned some great entertainment and networking events for the annual conference, and we would love you to join us! Pick up your networking card at registration and social committee members will initial events you attend, attend 5 or more and enter to win prizes on Friday morning!

Wednesday

7:30-9:00 AM Trail Walk/Run – Register online at <https://mngfoa.org/meetinginfo.php> to reserve your spot today.

4:45-6:45 PM Various Events:

- 4:45-6:45 PM Texas Hold ‘Em Tournament - Rafters Back Room
- 5:00-6:00 PM First-Time Attendee Happy Hour – LeHomme Dieu Conference room (Upper Level)
- 5:00-6:30 PM Winery/Brewery Tasting at Carlos Creek with shuttle transportation provided. Limited shuttle spots, register online at <https://mngfoa.org/meetinginfo.php> to reserve your spot today.
- Rafters Lounge
- Townhouse #603

8:00-11:00 PM Game Night: Let the Spark Fly- Tennis Center

Join us for a lively evening filled with games, music, and unexpected fun. The tennis center will be transformed into a pop-up arcade, complete with a mix of nostalgic classics and modern favorites designed to bring out your playful side and spark some friendly competition.

You’ll also have a chance to get a glimpse into your future with professional psychics offering 10-minute readings, pre-scheduled at <https://mngfoa.org/meetinginfo.php> to help manage wait times. And don’t miss the wildly entertaining NASCAN Racing, a hilarious experience where you can hop aboard motorized mini vehicles and zip around the space.

We’ll wrap up the night with music and dancing, featuring a lively set from DJ Paul Young to keep the fun going.

11:00 PM - 1:00 AM Networking at Rafters Bar or in townhouse #603

Thursday

4:45-6:45 PM Dan Jordet Memorial Craft Beer/Beverage Tasting and Bean Bag Tournament – Outside townhouse #603 in the tent. Bring your favorite craft beer, wine, or non-alcoholic beverage to share for the tasting.

8:00-11:00 PM Bingo and DJ Night Under the Tent by the Lake: Keep the Spark Going

Kick off the fun with a spirited round of bingo followed by music and dancing under the stars. DJ Paul Young will return to keep the momentum going with a feel-good playlist perfect for any vibe. Bingo cards will be provided, so grab one, find your lucky seat, and enjoy an evening designed to help you shine.

11:00 PM - 1:00 AM Networking at Rafters Bar or in townhouse #603



The Social Committee has planned a schedule of fun networking events for the 2025 MNGFOA Conference!

Wednesday, September 24, 2025
7:30 – 9:00 AM WEDNESDAY MORNING WALK



Location: Arrowwood Resort Lobby for the shuttle or drive to Lake Brophy County Park
2175 Brophy Landing NW, Alexandria, MN 56308

Kickstart your conference day with fresh air and good company! Join us for a walk or run before sessions start. A shuttle will take us to scenic Lake Brophy County Park at 7:30 AM sharp. We'll return by 9:00 AM, just in time for the 10:00 AM Keynote. New to the conference? Lynn Cornwell will be there to share insider tips during the walk. We have space for 24 people, so reserve your spot early! Prefer to meet us there? It's just a five-minute drive!

Register online at <https://mngfoa.org/meetinginfo.php> to reserve your spot.

STUDENT OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Student Outreach Committee continues their goal of outreach to students, promoting Government Finance as a rewarding career path in several ways, including:

- 1) Members of the committee work to attend numerous college career fairs throughout the year
- 2) Going into our local high schools and colleges to present about all that we do as government finance officers
- 3) Attending miscellaneous community events to promote our profession

Do you, or a colleague that you know, have an interest to provide outreach within your communities? If so, the Student Outreach Committee has created a presentation template that we would love to share with any MNGFOA member! Contact Justin Juergensen (jjurgensen@hutchinsonmn.gov) or Gina Foschi (gina.foschi@newbrightonmn.gov) if you are interested.



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! **We invite you to attend our Presentation at the MNGFOA Conference, Thursday September 25th at 3:30 pm (Minnewaska Room – Lower Level). 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



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



UPCOMING EVENT!!
FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM



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 E
Chanhassen, MN 55317







CONGRATS!

Congratulations to Nick Solberg on his new position as the Finance Director for the City of Isanti.



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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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.
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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.
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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
Accountant (Housing & Redevelopment Authority)	City of Bloomington	September 7, 2025
Senior Accountant	City of Shorewood	September 1, 2025
Assistant Finance Director	City of Saint Michael	September 2, 2025
Loan Officer	Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority	Not listed
Utility Billing Specialist	City of Edina	September 1, 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

Internship Scholarship Opportunity

The MNGFOA Internship Grant provides valuable work experience to a student interested in a career in government finance. The grant also allows an active member of MNGFOA and his or her government to employ an intern who can supplement the current staff by assisting with various tasks and projects. The Internship Grant is a 50/50 matching grant of up to \$3,000. The grant will be awarded by December 31 this year and may be used any time during the following calendar year. The grant application deadline is September 30, 2025. Each government receiving a grant may select an intern to fill the position or, if requested, the MNGFOA may assist by providing resumes of interested students. Please see the "Scholarship" section of the MNGFOA website or click [HERE](#) for the application!

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

