



MnGFOA Newsletter

August 2026

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

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President's Message

By: Tina Lannes

Every month, I sit down and ask myself the same question: "What in the world am I going to write about this time?" To be honest, this was the part of being president that I dreaded the most. Budgets? No problem. Meetings? Bring them on. Writing a monthly article? That's another story. Somehow, though, the words always find their way onto the page.

Last month I mentioned I was preparing for the National Government Finance Officers Association conference in Chicago. As expected, great educational sessions, outstanding speakers, and plenty of opportunities to connect with colleagues from across the country. A special thank you to everyone who attended the Minnesota reception. It was wonderful to see such a great turnout.

The Social Committee is changing up our fundraising event. While we remain committed to finding meaningful ways to expand MNGFOA's impact within our communities, we are excited to introduce a new charitable partnership. This year, we are replacing our previous fundraising efforts for Second Harvest Heartland and Feed My Starving Children with the United Way Kids Snack Pack program. This program helps ensure that local children have access to healthy, easy-to-prepare snacks when they need them most. The

goal is to raise \$2,100 by August 18th. Simon & Garfunkel, Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductees, wrote the timeless song Bridge Over Troubled Water, a song about offering unwavering support, comfort, and strength to those facing difficult times. Together, we can be that "bridge over troubled water" for some Minnesota children. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps make a difference.

Speaking of children, my youngest son recently asked me to help him find display cases for his Transformers and Skylanders collection, he is eighteen. I thought, "Why?" His answer surprised me. "I want to protect them because they remind me of all the fun my brother and I had together." Well...that hit me right in the heart. Especially because, for the past several years, it often seemed like their favorite hobby was finding new ways to annoy each other. It was a reminder that even though life changes, the memories we make with the people around us have a way of lasting much longer than we realize.

This year's Annual Conference marks one of the biggest changes our association has seen in decades as we move to Cragun's Resort. Naturally, that brings another Rock & Roll Hall of Famer to mind—David Bowie and his anthem, "Changes."

After so many years in one location, meeting somewhere new

may feel a little unfamiliar. There may be a few moments when we're all asking, "Where's that meeting room again?" But change also brings new opportunities, new experiences, and even a few new traditions. I'm excited to experience this next chapter together, especially with this year's conference theme celebrating the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Since my birthday is at the end of August, it always reminds me that The Minnesota State Fair is almost here, which means summer is already beginning to take its final bow. While I've enjoyed the sunshine, I think it's safe to say this summer has been "too hot for too long."

On the topic of birthdays, I wondered which Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductees share my family's birthdays. The results were entertaining. I share my birthday with Gene Simmons of KISS, youngest son shares with Mickey Hart of the Grateful Dead, oldest son with Todd Rundgren, and husband with Steven Tyler of Aerosmith. I don't know if that band would ever make it through rehearsal, but it would certainly be entertaining.

Thank you for everything you do for your communities and for our association. Your commitment, professionalism, and willingness to share your knowledge are what make this organization so special. I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer, travel safely, and I'll see you at Cragun's this September. Until then...keep rocking.

AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING

MNGFOA Day to Unite

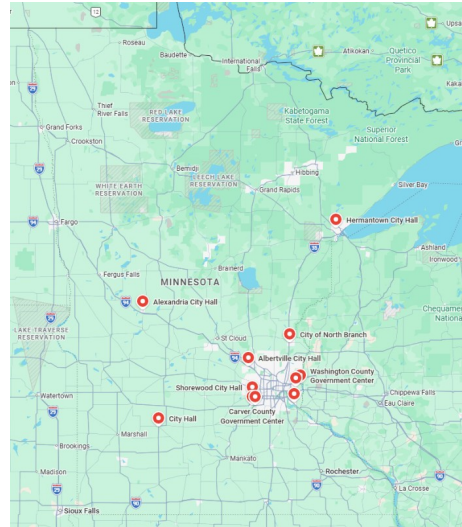
Date: Wednesday, August 19th

Time: 11:30 am to 2:00 pm

Location: Various locations and a virtual option

Cost: \$10 (includes lunch)

Please register online on the [MNGFOA website](#)
no later than August 14th



The MNGFOA welcomes all to the 4th 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. We are continuing to finalize the agenda, but will include topics such as budgeting, new initiatives and projects, AI, legislative impacts and an opportunity for attendees to submit topics. Please reach out to Nate Reinhardt nreinhardt@shakopeemn.gov or Hannah Lynch hannah.lynch@moretoncm.com if you have any questions.

Locations this year are Albertville, Alexandria, Carver County (Chaska), Cottage Grove, Hermantown, Lake Elmo, North Branch, Redwood Falls, Shakopee, Shorewood, Washington County (Stillwater) and a virtual option.

Each location is set up as an event, so please register under the location you would like to attend at www.mngfoa.org.

2027 MNGFOA Treasurer Selection

The MNGFOA Treasurer Selection Committee is now seeking nominations for the 2027 Treasurer. All members are encouraged to consider making a nomination, and you can nominate yourself. Officers of the MNGFOA provide direction and ongoing support for the organization. They are vital to keeping the MNGFOA a well-regarded and valuable association to its membership. Please help maintain the high quality of officers by nominating someone who is committed to the government finance profession and can provide leadership to the organization.

The 2027 Treasurer will advance to the next Executive Board position each year and serve as President in 2030. Treasurer candidates must be an active member in the association for at least three years. **Nominations are due by Friday, August 7, 2026**, and should include the individual's name, contact information, past involvement with MNGFOA and/or national GFOA, and any other information you feel makes the individual a strong candidate. Please submit nominations to Selection Committee Chair, Nate Reinhardt, at nreinhardt@shakopeemn.gov.

Accepting Applications for Baker Tilly Scholarship

The MNGFOA Baker Tilly Scholarship honors Osman R. Springsted and is funded through the generosity of Baker Tilly each year. This scholarship provides the registration fees for two members at the annual MNGFOA Conference in September. Details and the application form are available [HERE](#). Applications are due by August 16th, 2026.

Thomas J. Moran Award Nominations

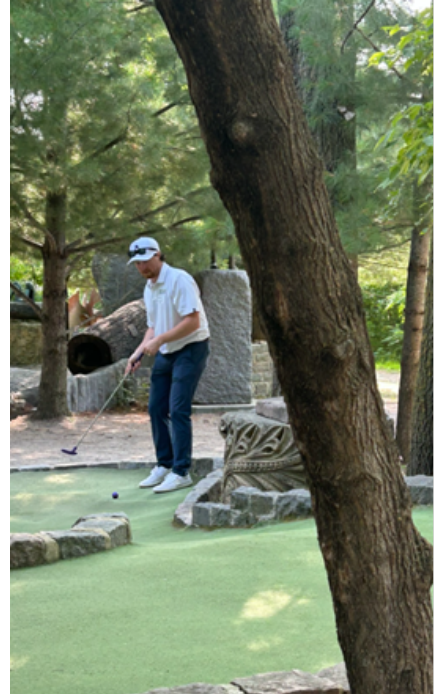
The Thomas J. Moran Award is given by the MNGFOA in recognition of extraordinary service rendered by an individual to advance the quality of public financial administration, promote the development and education of governmental accounting and accounting personnel and promote high standards in the field of government finance in Minnesota. This honor is awarded annually when, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, an individual has clearly demonstrated by outstanding effort that they are dedicated to the improvement of public financial administration as best exemplified by our past member and president, Thomas J. Moran. Any member of the MNGFOA may nominate a candidate for the award. Any person who is engaged in governmental finance or accounting in the State of Minnesota, whether an active or associate member of the MNGFOA, is eligible for the award. Nominations should be submitted by August 28th, 2026 to MNGFOA President, Tina Lannes, at tinal@albertvillemn.gov.



MINI GOLF SUMMER SOCIAL

What a great evening! On July 23rd members enjoyed beautiful weather, plenty of laughs, and a fun round of mini golf at Big Stone Mini Golf & Sculpture Garden. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with familiar faces, meet new people, and enjoy a relaxed evening of networking.

Many attendees wrapped up the night with appetizers and conversation at Surfside Bar & Grill. Thanks to everyone who joined us. It was a great time all around!



United Way Kids Snack Pack Event – Pack, Give & Make a Difference

Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2026

Time: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. (packing), followed by an informal social gathering



Location: Surly Brewing, 520 Malcolm Ave. SE, Minneapolis

Join your fellow MNGFOA members as we partner with United Way to assemble nutritious snack packs for local children while connecting with colleagues. The snack packs help ensure that children have access to healthy, easy-to-prepare snacks when they need them most.

Participation is **free**, but registration is requested as space is limited. Can't attend? You can still make a difference by sponsoring snack packs. Our fundraising goal is \$2,100 to fully fund the snack packs for this event, with just \$6.50 sponsoring one snack pack.

This event also marks a new direction for MNGFOA's community service efforts, replacing our traditional Second Harvest Heartland and Feed My Starving Children volunteer events, and allowing us to explore new opportunities to support multiple charitable organizations and broaden our community impact.

Whether you volunteer, sponsor a snack pack, or both, we hope you'll join us in making a difference!

Donation link:  [Click Here to Sponsor a Pack](#)

Registration link:

[Register Now](#)



2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

GREAT NEWS: SINGLE ROOMS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!!!

The excitement for the “Rock & Roll 2026 MNGFOA Conference” has been incredible! In fact, all on-site single rooms at Cragun's sold out in just 30 minutes, exceeding even our expectations.

To accommodate the overwhelming demand, we've secured an exclusive block of additional single rooms at Holiday Inn Express, located just 11 minutes from Cragun's Resort.

These rooms offer the perfect opportunity to enjoy the privacy of a single room stay while remaining fully connected to the conference experience. To make things even easier, attendees staying at Holiday Inn Express will have access to complimentary shuttle service running throughout the day and evening between the hotel and Cragun's.

That means you'll be able to take advantage of every educational session, outstanding meal, networking opportunity, and evening activity without missing a beat. Plus, you'll get to enjoy a relaxing, scenic ride through Minnesota's beautiful lake country on your way to and from the resort.

With the unprecedented demand we've seen, we're thrilled to be able to offer this additional lodging option—and we expect these rooms to go quickly as well.

How to Reserve an Off-Site Single Room

If you are currently on Cragun's waitlist for a single room, a member of the Cragun's reservations team will contact you to discuss reserving one of the newly available rooms at Holiday Inn Express.

If you have not yet joined the waitlist and would like to reserve one of these additional single rooms, simply use the reservation link below and complete the reservation process just as you would for a room at Cragun's.

All reservations and communications will continue to be handled through Cragun's customer service team, and they will provide your confirmation information for your Holiday Inn Express accommodation.

Cragun's Resort Reservations:

- Phone: 218-825-2856
- Online Single-Room Reservation Link:
https://craguns.formstack.com/forms/mngfoa_waitlist_2026

Don't miss this opportunity to secure a single room and be part of what is shaping up to be one of the most memorable MNGFOA conferences yet!

DON'T FORGET TO COMPLETE YOUR CONFERENCE REGISTRATION!

If you've already reserved your room, you're off to a great start! As a reminder, room reservations and conference registrations are handled separately, so you'll also need to complete your conference registration to secure your spot at this year's event.

Completing your registration helps us plan for meals, seating, conference materials, and session room setups so we can provide the best possible experience for everyone attending. If you haven't registered yet, simply use the link below to complete your conference registration:

<https://mngfoa.starchapter.com/meetinginfo.php?id=96&ts=1781529516>

We look forward to seeing you at the “Rock & Roll Hall of Fame 2026 MNGFOA Conference!”



SNEAK PEEK AT THE 2026 MNGFOA CONFERENCE SCHEDULE/TOPICS:

Tuesday, September 22, 2026	
Time	Session Title
9:15-9:45AM	New Attendee Orientation
10:00-10:15AM	Welcome
10:15-11:30AM	Keynote - Tim Furlong: "Quarter Turns, Change, Opportunity & the Next Normal"
1:00-2:00PM	Legislative Update
1:00-2:00PM	Auditing 101/Internal Controls
1:00-2:00PM	Municipal Cannabis Operations
2:15-3:15PM	MN Paid Leave & OT Lessons Learned
2:15-3:15PM	Negotiating with Unions "Fundamentals of Collective Bargaining and Union Negotiations"
2:15-3:15PM	GASB Update
3:30-4:30PM	Small City Roundtable
3:30-4:30PM	Large City Roundtable
3:30-4:30PM	County Roundtable

Wednesday, September 23, 2026	
Time	Session Title
9:00-10:15AM	Keynote - Kristen Brown: "Powered by Energy - Rock Steady Through Change"
10:30-11:30AM	Website ADA Compliance
10:30-11:30AM	Economic Update
10:30-11:30AM	Create Inspiration and Engagement with Charisma: Communication Tactics All Finance Leaders Should Master
1:00-2:00PM	"Stress to Strength"
1:00-2:00PM	Debt 201
1:00-2:00PM	Excel Session 1
2:15-3:15PM	Create Inspiration and Engagement with Charisma: Communication Tactics All Finance Leaders Should Master (REPEAT)
2:15-3:15PM	Excel Session 2
2:15-3:15PM	Cybersecurity / Fraud Prevention
3:30-4:30PM	Franchise Fees & Other Revenues
3:30-4:30PM	Investments 101
3:30-4:30PM	MNGFOA Mentorship Program

Thursday, September 24, 2026	
Time	Session Title
8:30-9:45AM	AI / Chat GPT / Policies
8:30-9:45AM	TIF 201
10:00-11:00AM	Keynote- Erik Therwanger: "Linked for Impact - Hall of Fame Teamwork"

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP – New Options Available

The 2026 Annual Conference will be at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd this year, September 22 – 24, 2026. The theme this year is "Rock & Roll Hall of Fame – Keeping Government Finance In Tune."

Associate members are invited to maximize their visibility by sponsoring this year's Conference. Your sponsorship will be seen by hundreds of finance officers and other finance professionals while helping defray Conference costs for all members.

New sponsorship opportunities for the Annual Conference are available this year. These opportunities can be viewed and purchased through the [MnGFOA website](#) under the "Annual Conference Info" tab.

If you have questions or would like to see the full list of sponsorship opportunities for the fall conference, please contact: sponsorship@mngfoa.org.

Printed Conference Booklet Ads

The MNGFOA Board has discontinued the printed directory and enhanced the Conference sponsorship opportunity by printing sponsorship ads in full color. In addition to the printed ad, sponsors will also have their logo displayed on the MNGFOA Annual Conference Sponsor webpage.

1/4 Page	(2" Wide X 3.5" Tall)	\$400
1/2 Page	(4.5" Wide X 3.5 " Tall)	\$550
Full Page	(4.5" Wide X 7.5 " Tall)	\$700

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 14, 2026**. 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 Cragun's this fall.

Additional Sponsorship Opportunities

Additional sponsorship opportunities beyond the Annual Conference will be announced soon. If you would like to receive a complete list when available, please contact: tinal@albertvillemn.gov.

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 2026 to September 2027 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, Wednesday September 23rd at 3:30 pm (See conference schedule for location). Applications are due by October 6, 2026. 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

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



Remaining 2026 MNGFOA Networking Events: SAVE THE DATES!

The Social Committee is planning a great lineup of networking events for the second half of 2026. Mark your calendars and join your colleagues for opportunities to connect, recharge, and have fun:



- **August 18, 2026:** Greater Twin Cities United Way Service Project – Kids Snack Pack Event at Surly Brewing

- **September 22-24, 2026:** Attend the annual Conference in Brainerd, MN with exciting events in store.



- **November 5, 2026:** Card making

JOB POSTINGS

Summary of Current Job Openings:

Position Title	Entity	Closing Date
Accountant	New Ulm Public Utilities Commission	August 2, 2026
Finance Manager	City of Eden Prairie	August 6, 2026
Assistant Finance Director	City of Shoreview	Open Until Filled

Links and further details can be found on the [Jobs & Volunteering](#) page

2026 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President

Tina Lannes
City of Albertville
763.496.6802

At-Large

Dalton Larson
Anoka County
763.324.1755

President-Elect

Gina Foschi
City of New Brighton
651.638.2105

At-Large

Tyler See
ABDO
952.939.3230

Secretary

Joel Merry
City of Waconia

State Representative

Sarah Rathlisberger
City of Monticello
763.271.3201

Treasurer

Justin Juergensen
City of Hutchinson
320.234.4256

Past President

Mark Ebensteiner
City of Becker
763.200.4250

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Travis Byrne** on his new position as Finance Director for the City of Mounds View!

Congratulations to **Joel Merry** on his new position as Finance Director for the City of Waconia!

Congratulations are also in order for **Nicole Meyer**, who is retiring after serving 21 years at the City of Waconia! Nicole started in Waconia at the front desk of the community center, then later took a part-time utility billing role as she finished her accounting career. Her role evolved from there into a Clerk position, then Analyst, and eventually the Director of the department. Her next chapter will include spending more time with her three growing kiddos, running them to their many activities, and tackling a few home projects that have taken a back seat to city budgeting until now. Thank you, Nicole, for your many contributions to the MNGFOA!

2026 Committee Chairs & Vice Chairs

Conference Committee – plans and coordinates topics, speakers, and all other aspects of the annual fall conference

Co-Chairs Jackie Heinz, City of Montrose 763-575-7435
Josh Kent, City of Buffalo 763-684-5465

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 Brandon Zabel, Carver County 952-361-1938
Brent Foiles, City of Eagan 651-675-5018

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 Dalton Larson, Anoka County 763-324-1755

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!

Gina Foschi
MNGFOA President Elect
651-638-2105

