



MnGFOA Newsletter

February 2026

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

Included in this Issue:

- **Monthly Meeting: February 18**
- **Pickleball & Networking Event**
- **Second Harvest Fundraising Drive**
- **Membership Renewals**
- **Student Memberships - FREE**
- **3rd Annual MNGFOA Polar Plunge**
- **January's Social Event Recap**
- **2026 Networking Events**
- **Job Postings**
- **March Happy Hour Event**

President's Message

By: Tina Lannes

February Reflections: Patience, Kindness, and Looking Ahead

It seems Mother Nature isn't quite finished with us yet, as we continue the familiar pattern of snow, Arctic blasts, and polar vortexes. February may be the shortest month of the year, but it's packed with meaningful celebrations and opportunities to connect. From Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day to Random Acts of Kindness and encouragement, there's plenty to recognize and appreciate.

While February can feel slow and demanding—with short daylight hours and cold temperatures—it's a good time to remember that challenges require patience and belief. Small steps matter. Keep moving forward with confidence, because spring is just around the corner.

Groundhog Day kicks off the month with the anticipation of whether Phil

sees his shadow. It also brings to mind the movie *Groundhog Day*, a reference many of us can relate to. If you're feeling like you're living the same day over and over, perhaps this is the perfect moment to switch things up and try something new.

One great opportunity is **Random Acts of Kindness Day on February 17**, a reminder that no act of kindness—no matter how small—is ever wasted. On **February 18**, consider joining one of the virtual discussion and networking hour to connect and engage with fellow members. Then, on **February 19**, we invite you to the pickleball event at Pint & Paddle for some fun and friendly competition.

Meanwhile, the executive board and committee chairs are holding their annual kickoff meetings to discuss directions and ideas for the coming year. We are always looking for fresh ideas to provide new educational and networking opportunities for

our members. If you have suggestions or would like to get involved, please don't hesitate to reach out to a member of the executive board or a committee chair.

Looking ahead, the average temperature of Lake Nokomis in March is 42 degrees. Having grown up swimming in Lake Superior—where the average temperature is a brisk 43 degrees, I still don't quite have it in me to join our brave MNGFOA members participating in the Polar Plunge on March 6. To those who do, we salute you!

Stay warm, stay connected, and remember—spring is closer than it feels.



VIRTUAL DISCUSSION & NETWORKING MEETING

February 18, 2026
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
Virtual - link to be provided

Cost: Free

The MNGFOA Program Committee invites you to join one of our virtual discussion and networking hours. In lieu of our monthly webinar, we wanted to create a more interactive experience and opportunity to engage with your peers. An agenda is being prepared (and will be provided soon) that each of the hosts will use to help moderate the discussion, but an opportunity will be available to submit your topics too. We ask that participants join the discussion on video.

Meet your hosts! Below is a list of hosts, each set up individually, so please register for any of the following discussion groups at www.mngfoa.org:

1. [Kevin Orme \(Hermantown\) & Hannah Lynch \(MCM\)](#)
2. [Mary Kaye Wahl \(Carver County\) & Nicole Hegge \(Anoka County\)](#)
3. [Jeanne Schmuck \(Shorewood\)](#)
4. [Tina Lannes \(Albertville\)](#)
5. [Clarissa Hadler \(Lake Elmo\)](#)
6. [Heidi Tumberg \(Detroit Lakes\) & Lynn Cornwell \(MCM\)](#)
7. [Nate Reinhardt \(Shakopee\) & Candi Lemarr \(Apple Valley\)](#)



Pickleball and Networking Event



Date: Thursday, February 19

Time: 3:00 pm-5:00 pm – Pickleball with Happy Hour to follow

Location: Pint & Paddle (Courts 4-6) - 15450 Grove Cir N, Maple Grove, MN 55369

Cost: \$8 Covers Pickleball

What better way for GFOA members to follow up the new year than to come work on your pickleball skills! Join us for a couple hours of pickleball fun and stay for social hour with appetizers immediately following! Don't want to play pickleball? Come watch the fun and join us for social hour after!

Click [here](http://www.mngfoa.org) to register at MNGFOA.org.





MNGFOA Second Harvest Heartland Fundraising Drive

MN GFOA is an amazing group of people! Together, we raised \$1,930 for Second Harvest Heartland! Thank you for your incredible generosity and support. This will make a real difference for the more than half a million people in our region who are facing food insecurity.

Membership Renewals

RENEWAL REMINDER

Annual Memberships expire at the end of February each year. All renewals must be done online at www.mngfoa.org. You may still pay by check by following the renewal steps online and then sending your check made payable to MNGFOA to the 2026 Treasurer:

Justin Juergensen, MNGFOA Treasurer
City of Hutchinson
111 Hassan Street
Hutchinson, MN 55350

Justin may be contacted at:
320-234-4256

Student Memberships – FREE

MNGFOA student memberships are now “Free”. The MNGFOA acknowledges the importance of engaging with students and sharing what government finance as a career path looks like. If you know any accounting or finance students, please encourage them to become a member and begin receiving emails with our newsletters and access to monthly programs!





3rd Annual MNGFOA Polar Plunge

Calling all MnGFOA members to take the plunge on March 6th for our 3rd Annual Polar Plunge!

Over the last two years, we raised over \$5,000!

Donating or registering is easy! Check out our Event Page!

<https://reg.plungemn.org/team/mngfoaplungers>

Don't feel like plunging? Donate, come cheer us on or join us for happy hour after

Event Details

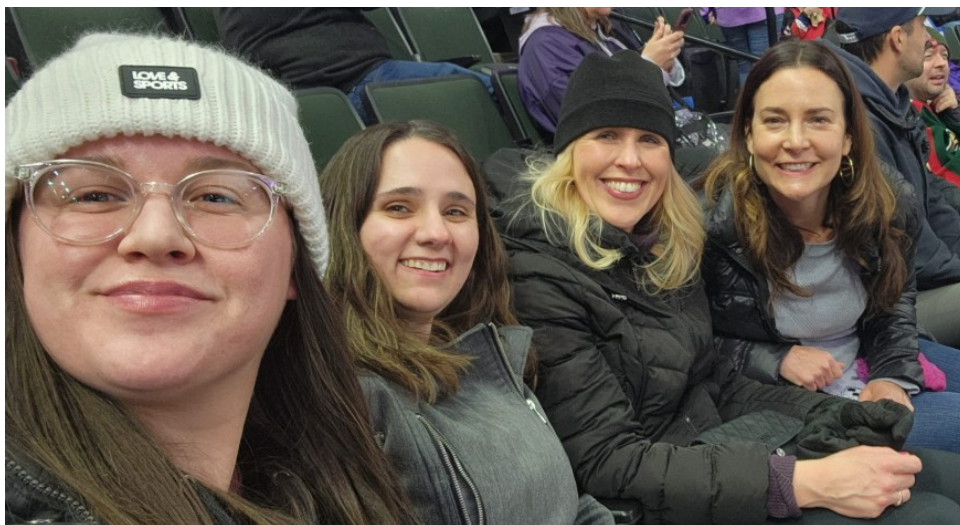
- ❖ Date: Friday March 6, 2026
 - ❖ Location: Lake Nokomis Park
 - ❖ Time:
 - Check-In at 2:30 pm, Plunge starts at 3 pm
 - We will be able to register for a specific time slot 3 days prior to the event, and updated list servs will be sent when a specific time slot is reserved.
 - ❖ Happy Hour: To Be Determined once our timeslot is confirmed. Stay Tuned!
 - ❖ How to Register: Go to our event page!
 - ❖ Plunge Specific Info:
 - Check out the Polar Plunge FAQ (<https://www.plungemn.org/faqs/general-questions/>)
 - ❖ Questions? Contact Bonnie Schwieger (bonnie.schwieger@abdosolutions.com)
-

Check out our Event Page to track how much we raise for Special Olympics!
Spread the word by sharing the link to our event page!



January's Social Event Recap

MNGFOA members had a great time cheering on the Minnesota Frost Women's Hockey team at Grand Casino Arena on January 21! Even though the Frost didn't get the win, it was an exciting game that went into overtime. It was a fun night filled with good energy, great conversation, and the chance to connect with fellow members.



2026 MNGFOA Networking Events: SAVE THE DATES!

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



- **Thursday, February 19, 2026:** Pickleball event at Pint and Paddle



- **Friday, March 6, 2026:** Fun & charitable winter tradition supporting Special Olympics Minnesota at Lake Nokomis



- **Thursday, March 12, 2026:** St Patrick’s Day Celebration at Surly

- **April 2026:** Meat Raffle
- **May 2026:** Cinco de Mayo
- **June 2026:** Puttshack Edina
- **July 2026:** Lake Minnetonka Boat Ride
- **August 2026:** Service Project
- **October/November 2026:** Service Project

JOB POSTINGS

Summary of Current Job Openings:

Position Title	Entity	Closing Date
Internal Control Auditor	Stearns County	Until Filled
Finance Director	City of Benson	Until Filled (first review Feb 13)

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 Minnetonka 952.939.8254	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

March Happy Hour Event

Date: Thursday, March 12

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Location: Surly Brewing Company – 520 Malcolm Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Click [here](http://MNGFOA.org) to register at MNGFOA.org.



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 Josh Kent, City of Buffalo	763-575-7435 763-684-5465
Social Committee – plans and organizes social activities for the membership through the year	Co-Chairs Kari Carlson, City of Bloomington Michelle Hoffman, Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority	952-563-8725 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 Brent Foiles, City of Eagan	952-361-1938 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 Joe Rotz, City of Apple Valley Janice Brandt, City of Coon Rapids	651-266-8057 952-953-2547 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 Lynn Cornwell, Moreton Capital Markets Nate Reinhardt, City of Shakopee	763-324-1751 952-777-3227 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

