



MnGFOA Newsletter

January 2026

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

Included in this Issue:

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- **MN Frost Women's Hockey Game**
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President's Message

By: Tina Lannes

Happy New Year! There are exciting changes coming in 2026, including a new venue for the MNGFOA Annual Conference as we transition to Cragun's.

I want to extend a warm welcome to our newest board members and committee chairs:

- **Treasurer:** Justin Juergensen
- **At-Large Member:** Tyler See
- **Conference Committee Co-Chair:** Josh Kent
- **Education Committee Co-Chairs:** Brandon Zabel/Brent Foiles
- **Student Outreach Committee Chair:** Dalton Larson

Continuing to serve our membership in 2026 are the Executive Board members:

- **Past President:** Mark Ebensteiner
- **President-Elect:** Gina Foschi
- **Secretary:** Joel Merry
- **At-Large:** Dalton Larson
- **State Representative:** Sarah Rathlisberger

And our continuing committee leadership:

- **Conference Committee Co-Chair:** Jackie Heinz
- **Social Committee Co-Chairs:** Kari Carlson/Michelle Hoffman
- **Program Committee:** Hannah Lynch

- **Technology Committee Co-Chairs:** Jeanette Boit-Kania/Joe Rotz/Janice Brandt

- **Mentorship Committee Co-Chairs:** Cory Kampf/Lynn Cornwell/Nate Reinhardt

I am honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve as your MNGFOA President for 2026. I first joined the organization in 2001 by getting involved in the Social Committee, and since then I have been grateful for every opportunity to serve this association in any capacity I can.

With the recent snowfalls, I would like to challenge you to give a shout out to the dedicated public service workers who often go unrecognized—**our snowplow drivers and their families**. Their commitment to keeping our roadways safe means answering calls at all hours, in the worst weather, and through long, demanding shifts even on holidays.

Growing up in Duluth as the daughter of a MnDOT Senior Sign Shop Foreman, I saw this dedication firsthand. There were many nights when the phone rang and my dad headed out without hesitation. Growing up with a parent who plowed for the state came with its perks and challenges.

- **Advantage:** On snowy mornings, he would call to tell me which bridge to take to UW–Superior and a plow would often be waiting to escort me across.
- **Disadvantage:** I was strictly forbidden from ever passing a plow—and if I did, he always found out! The plow drivers all knew my schedule, my routes, and my car. To this day, I still do not pass a plow.

One story he told me involved a driver passing him on the left while he was operating a left-wing plow on Highway 2 (only thing to left of my dad's plow was the median) —a dangerous example of how critical it is to respect plows on the road and know if it is a left-wing or right-wing plow truck.

Finally, I want to express my sincere appreciation to all members who served on the Executive Board and committees in 2025. Thank you for your time, dedication, and commitment to the MNGFOA.

Wishing you a healthy, safe, and prosperous 2026.

JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING

January 14, 2026
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: Economic Conditions in Minnesota and the U.S.

This session will provide an overview of the economy in Minnesota and surrounding states, and how it fits within the national economic picture. The focus will be on the economic conditions and indicators that drive interest rate decisions by monetary policymakers. Other topics covered will include conditions in key industries in the region, challenges facing businesses, and indicators of the economic outlook.

Speaker: Joe Mahon, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

Joe Mahon is a Regional Outreach director at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Prior to that, he served as a regional economist and as a staff writer and analyst for Minneapolis Fed publications the Region and fedgazette. Mahon's primary responsibilities involve tracking several sectors of the Ninth District economy—an area that covers Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Montana and portions of Wisconsin and Michigan—for the Fed. Sectors he follows closely include agriculture, manufacturing, energy and mining. He holds degrees in economics and journalism from the University of Minnesota.

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 Circle N, Maple Grove, MN 55369

Cost: \$8! Covers Pickleball PLUS appetizers

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 immediately following!

Click [here](#) to register at MNGFOA.org.



MN Frost Women's Hockey Game



Join the social committee in cheering on the reigning PWHL champion, the Minnesota Frost!

When: Wednesday, January 21, 6:00 PM v. the Montreal Victoire

Where: Grand Casino Arena (Formerly the Xcel Energy Center)
199 Kellogg Blvd West
St. Paul, MN 55102

Cost: The social committee will cover a portion of tickets with a \$10 cost for attendees. Tickets can be purchased on the MN GFOA website on the Events page. Tickets will initially be limited to one per MN GFOA member. We will open up registration to guests if tickets are not sold out.

Pregame: Prior to the game feel free to join the social committee for complimentary appetizers at Tom Reid's Hockey City Pub, from 4:00-6:00. A short two block walk from the stadium, Tom Reid's is located at 258 7th St. West in St. Paul.

Additional Details: Tickets will be transferred to each attendee via the MN Wild app.





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 serves 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)

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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!

First Quarter 2026 MNGFOA Networking Events: SAVE THE DATES!

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

- 
Wednesday, January 21, 2026 | Time TBD
 MN Frost Women’s Hockey game
- 
Thursday, February 19, 2026 | Time TBD
 Pickleball event
- 
Friday, March 6, 2026 | Time TBD
 Fun & charitable winter tradition supporting Special Olympics Minnesota

JOB POSTINGS

Summary of Job Openings:

Position Title	Entity	Closing Date
Internal Control Auditor	Stearns County	Until Filled
Manager, Account Payable & Receivable	Metropolitan Council	January 4, 2026
City Manager	City of Morris	January 7, 2026
Finance Director	City of Brooklyn Center	January 19, 2026
Accountant	City of Prior Lake	January 2, 2026
Finance Director	City of Mound	January 2, 2026

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

2026 Annual Conference

MNGFOA Annual conference will be moving to Cragun’s Resort in Brainerd. **2026 Conference dates will be Tuesday, September 22nd – Thursday, September 24th.** (2027 dates Wednesday, September 29-Friday, October 1st)



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

