



MnGFOA Newsletter

July 2026

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

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President's Message

By: Tina Lannes

June has passed, and with it the longest day of 2026 on June 21. No need to despair, though - we will still enjoy up to 15 hours of daylight this month, which is much better than the roughly six hours we experience during the winter months. I noticed just last night that it was still light at 9:00 p.m. as I was eager to check out the new solar stair lights on my deck.

July is the peak of summer in our hemisphere, so be sure to take advantage of the many opportunities to celebrate the season. In addition to patriotic festivities, July is known for National Ice Cream Month, National Grilling Month, and historic milestones such as the Apollo 11 moon landing. Summer offers countless opportunities to enjoy outdoor festivals, dining, and activities on our lakes.

I recently found my golf clubs and realized I have not been to a golf course - or even used them - in at least 15 years. I'm not even sure I could still connect with that little white ball! If you're like me and not quite ready for the big course, consider joining the Social Committee for Mini Golf on

July 23. Details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

As I write this, I am preparing to head to Chicago for the national conference. I am looking forward to the informative sessions, engaging topics, and the opportunity to host the Minnesota reception. It is a busy time for Minnesotans as we balance family, friends, summer activities, and budget preparations. While summer is still with us, I am already looking ahead to fall and our annual conference - hopefully arriving slowly enough for us to enjoy the season.

Several members of the Conference Committee and Executive Board recently traveled to Cragun's to meet with their staff, tour the property, and work through the logistics for our annual conference in September. The visit provided positive confirmation that moving to a new location was the right decision and sparked many exciting ideas for the event. so, get ready to "Rock & Roll"! Dig out those old concert T-shirts and represent your favorite band.

The response to conference lodging exceeded our expectations, with rooms being reserved in record time. While on-site lodging is limited, additional off-site accommodations are available, and shuttle service will be provided. However, it is essential that everyone register for the conference before August 1. Please complete your registration as soon as possible, as it helps us finalize meal counts, seating arrangements, and conference materials. Additional details can be found later in this newsletter.

July is a symbol of freedom, and Independence Day commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. This year marks the 250th anniversary of that historic document. In recognition of this milestone, communities across the country will host national events, parades, concerts, and fireworks displays. I hope everyone takes some time this month to participate in the celebrations and enjoy them safely.

JULY MONTHLY MEETING

Date: July 15, 2026

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Zoom Meeting

Cost: Members: Free
Non-Members: \$10.00



CEU: 1.0 on request. Please complete the online form to request an emailed certificate: [CEU Request Form](#)

Topic: Legislative Update

Pierre Willette and Beth Johnston will provide a local government perspective on the 2026 legislative session that included significant policy and budget changes affecting local governance, budgets, and residents.

Speakers:

Pierre Willette is a Senior Intergovernmental Relations Representative with the League of Minnesota Cities. He has more than 30 years of experience and expertise in public affairs and government relations. Over the course of his career, Willette has established himself as a highly regarded public affairs professional with experience across a wide range of issues, as well connections with key Capitol stakeholders and strong bipartisan relationships with legislators.

Willette began his career with the City of Minneapolis, starting in the city council and mayor's offices and advancing to senior government relations representative. He later served as economic and community development manager with the University of Minnesota Foundation Real Estate Advisors before joining Goff Public, a Minnesota public relations firm, and assuming the role of Director of Government Relations. He joined the League of Minnesota Cities Intergovernmental Relations team in January of 2025 and works on the issues of elections, public finance, economic development, regulated industries, and tax increment finance. He holds a bachelor's degree in government from St. John's University and a master's degree in public administration and management from Hamline University.

Beth Johnston is an Intergovernmental Relations Representative with the League of Minnesota Cities. She advocates on behalf of member cities before state lawmakers and agency officials on the issues of taxes, state aids, and cannabis issues. Prior to joining the League, Beth worked at the Minnesota Senate and the Department of Revenue.



Summer MNGFOA SOCIAL EVENT

MINI GOLF & HAPPY HOUR

Join MN GFOA members for an afternoon of networking, mini golf, and summer fun at Big Stone Mini Golf & Sculpture Garden!

Experience clever holes and unique sculptures throughout rolling hills, beautiful gardens, ponds, picnic areas, life-sized games, and friendly farm animals (goats, chickens, and more).

*Network.
Play.
Connect.*



THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2026
4:00 P.M.



**BIG STONE MINI GOLF
& SCULPTURE GARDEN**

7110 County Road 110 Ext. W
Minnetrista, MN 55364
bigstoneminigolf.com

REGISTRATION FEES



MN GFOA MEMBERS

\$5



NON-MEMBERS/GUESTS

\$10

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE IN ADVANCE.



*Let's
Continue
the Fun!*

After mini golf, we'll continue the conversation with a happy hour beginning around 6:00 p.m. at:

SURFSIDE BAR & GRILL

2544 Commerce Blvd, Mound, MN 55364
surfsidebarandgrill.com



COME OUT TO NETWORK AND ENJOY A SUMMER AFTERNOON!
A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE PROFESSIONALS.

*We hope to
see you there!*

Scholarship Recipients

GFOA's Certified Public Finance Officers (CPFO) program is designed to prepare individuals for leadership positions in state and local governments by enhancing fundamental skills and increasing knowledge of best practices and standards in public finance. Individuals will be equipped to participate in decision-making efforts related to their government and community and lead projects and professionals in a substantive and significant manner.

The CPFO program supports the core beliefs of GFOA, including ethics, leadership and competencies in various finance matters and recognize members who have made the commitment to both obtain necessary knowledge and skills and remain current with industry best practices. The program encourages ongoing participation in and knowledge of GFOA's resources including best practices, publications, training, conferences, member networking groups, and partnerships with other organizations to prepare members to better serve their governments and communities.

The National GFOA awarded two enrollment scholarships (awarded through the MNGFOA) and the MNGFOA provided an additional scholarship. The scholarship covers the \$1,200 enrollment fee for two years of participation in the program, which is the anticipated timeline to pass all the exams.

Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients:

Julie Werner, Senior Financial Analyst for City of Lakeville

Shannon Veeraboina, Assistant Finance Director for City of Fridley

Jill Zenzola, Accounting Manager for Washington County

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.

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.

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.

MNGFOA DAY TO UNITE

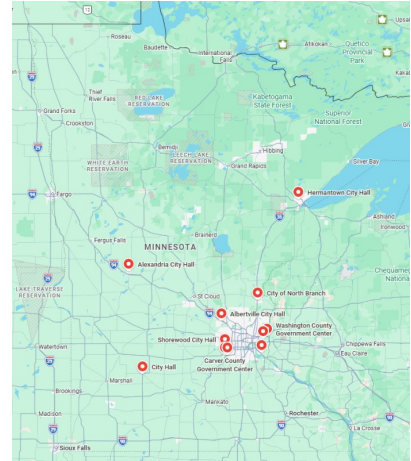
Date: Wednesday, August 19th

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.lynnch@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

Mark Your Calendars: United Way Kids Snack Pack Event

Date: Wednesday, August 26th

Location & Time: *Details coming soon! We are looking into securing a local Brewery for the location.*

We are thrilled to announce our next group service project! On August 26th, MNGFOA will be partnering with United Way to pack nutritious snack packs for local kids. Food insecurity doesn't take a break, and these snack packs ensure that children in our community have access to healthy, easy-to-prepare treats when they need them most. It's a fantastic, high-energy way for us to come together, give back, and make a tangible difference.

Why It Matters

- **Fueling Futures:** Proper nutrition directly impacts a child's ability to learn, play, and thrive.
- **Community First:** This project directly supports families right here in our local area.
- **Team Power:** Many hands make light work—and a massive impact!

More Details to Come! We are finalizing the exact times, location, and sign-up details. Keep an eye on your inbox and future newsletters for everything you need to know to get involved. For now, please save the date on your calendars. We can't wait to roll up our sleeves and give back together!

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 already 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 accommodations.

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 PEAK 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	Franchise Fees & Other Revenues
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
2:15-3:15PM	Excel Session 2
2:15-3:15PM	Cybersecurity / Fraud Prevention
3:30-4:30PM	Create Inspiration and Engagment with Charisma: Communication Tactics All Finance Leaders Should Master (REPEAT)
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.

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:

- **July 23, 2026:** Big Stone Mini Golf followed by Socializing at Surfside.



- **August 26, 2026:** Greater Twin Cities United Way Service Project

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



- **November 5, 2026:** Card making Service Project at City of Lino Lakes

JOB POSTINGS

Summary of Current Job Openings:

Position Title	Entity	Closing Date
City Administrator	City of Willmar	July 5, 2026
Accounting Supervisor	Washington County	Until Filled
Administration/Accounting Technician	City of Litchfield	Until Filled
Executive Director	PERA	Until Filled
Finance Director	City of Benson, MN	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 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

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Alyssa Landberg, Finance Director for the City of Falcon Heights, for completing the GFOA's Certified Public Finance Officer Program (CPFO).

Congratulations to Nicole Hegge on her new position as Finance Director for the City of Brooklyn Center.



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

