



MnGFOA Newsletter

March 2026

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

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President's Message

By: Tina Lannes

As March arrives, the phrase “March Madness” might bring to mind the excitement of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament. In the world of finance, however, it signals a different kind of intensity—finalizing year-end entries, reconciling accounts, organizing financial records, preparing annual financial reports, and staying on schedule to complete the annual audit. All of this happens while capital planning documents must also be updated in a timely manner.

During this busy season, remember to pause and take a moment for yourself here and there. As we all know, “luck” has nothing to do with a successful financial statement audit—but

best wishes for a smooth and successful process. This is your opportunity to showcase and take pride in your team's hard work throughout the year. The audit is a valuable process that validates your practices—helping you maintain what works well and embrace opportunities for improvement. Auditors should be viewed as partners in progress, working alongside you to strengthen processes rather than simply searching for errors.

To celebrate your team's accomplishments, consider attending the networking event hosted by the social committee on March 12 in honor of Saint Patrick's Day. Additional information can be found in this newsletter and on our website.

It's also time to renew your membership with MNGFOA. Membership benefits include access to our member database to connect with colleagues, our engaging monthly newsletter, and continued participation in valuable educational opportunities and networking events. Spring is just around the corner—don't forget to set your clocks ahead on March 8 and maybe even get a head start on some spring cleaning.

Wishing you a smooth audit season, a Happy St. Patrick's Day, and a wonderful month of March!



MARCH MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Thursday, March 26, 2026
 Time: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
 Location: Wherever you are
 Cost: Free
 CEU: Available upon request
 Speakers: Andy Grice and Dustin Opatz (Creative Planning)



Annual Comprehensive
Financial Report

Topic: ACFR Review Session

The Education Committee invites you and your staff to attend the Annual ACFR Review Session on Thursday, March 26th. The session will be presented by Andrew Grice and Dustin Opatz from Creative Planning and cover submitted certificate review comments and suggested changes.

Please visit the [EVENTS CALENDAR](#) on the MNGFOA website to register online so we can send you instructions on how to tune in to the session.

Membership Renewals

**RENEWAL
REMINDER**

Annual Memberships expired at the end of February! 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 Resumes

All members have access to student resumes collected by the Student Outreach Committee at recent career fairs. Whether you're hiring for full-time roles or internship opportunities, we encourage you to review these resumes and share your openings to broaden your candidate pool with emerging talent. You can find a direct link to the resumes in the "Member Area" after logging into the MNGFOA website.

If you have questions about the resumes or recruitment opportunities, please contact Student Outreach Committee Chair Dalton Larson at Dalton.Larson@anokacountymn.gov.



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: Plunge at Lake Nokomis Park, Shuttle to plunge from MOA
- ❖ Time: Plunge starts at 3 pm. We will take the Shuttle from the MOA prior to our plunge time.
 - We will be able to register for a specific time slot 3 days prior to the event.
Updated list servs will be sent when a specific time slot is reserved.
- ❖ Happy Hour: Hazlewood Bar and Grill. Time TBD once 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!



11th Annual MNGFOA Meat Raffle



Date: Thursday, April 16th

**Where: Broadway Bar & Pizza, Plymouth, MN
13705 27th Ave N, Plymouth, MN 55441**

Time: the Meat Raffle Starts at 5:30 pm.

Please arrive anytime from 4:30 and after.

You do not need to be there right at 5:30 pm. Join the fun as you are able!

RSVPs are encouraged for table reservation sizing but not required.

Please register on the [MNGFOA website](#) or email Bonnie Schwieger at bonnie.schwieger@abdosolutions.com.

Appetizers will be provided. Drinks will not be provided by the MNGFOA.

It'll be a vealy good time, we're sure it will meat your axepectations

ACFR Comments Needed!

In preparation for the ACFR Review Session in March, we are asking for any comments received from GFOA submissions. Please send your ACFR and comments received to Brent Foiles (brent.foiles@eaganmn.gov).

Annual National GFOA Conference – Scholarship Opportunity

Registration is now open for the National GFOA Conference, which will be held June 28 to July 1, 2026 in Chicago, IL. The MNGFOA, along with Ehlers will award a scholarship to a MNGFOA active member for the purpose of funding their registration to the annual national conference. The scholarship will reimburse the registration fee for the recipient. It does not include coverage of items such as lodging, mileage or other out-of-pocket costs not covered by the registration fee. Applications are accepted on the MNGFOA website.

[Robert L. Ehlers, Sr. MnGFOA Scholarship Program - National Conference - Scholarship Information - Minnesota Government Finance Officers Association](#)

Applications are accepted through March 31, 2026, and the scholarships will be awarded before April 30, 2026.



GFOA Leadership Academy and CPFO Program Informational Session – Save the Date!

Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Time: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Wherever you are

Cost: Free

Please register online at www.mngfoa.org



Topic: GFOA Leadership Academy and CPFO Program (Informational Session)

Please join us for an information session on the National GFOA's Leadership Academy and Certified Public Finance Officers program. The administrators of the program will provide you with what you need to know if you are considering these programs now or in the future and past participants will share their experiences.

GFOA Leadership Academy - Enhance your leadership skills and advance your career trajectory with participation in the immersive GFOA Leadership Academy at Arizona State University, Chicago or the College of Charleston. This weeklong training session provides ambitious public and government finance professionals an opportunity to bolster their leadership and management skills to better serve their communities.

Application for the program is completed through the National GFOA website at <http://www.gfoa.org/leadershipacademy>. Visit the national website for more information.

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.

For more information on the CPFO program including the candidate guide, please visit: <https://www.gfoa.org/cpfo>




Scholarships!

We are excited to announce that we will be able to provide funding for three members to participate in the CPFO program (\$1,200 each) and two members to participate in the Leadership Academy (\$3,400 each). For more information or to apply visit the MNGFOA website.

Speakers: Chris Morrill, Government Finance Officers Association (Executive Director), Eric Roach, Government Finance Officers Association (CPFO Program Manager), Candi Lemarr, Apple Valley (CPFO), Neal Younghans, St. Paul (CPFO), Ryan Vadnais, Plymouth (Leadership Academy Graduate)

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:

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Friday, March 6, 2026: Polar Plunge Supporting Special Olympics Minnesota at Lake Nokomis
- 
Thursday, March 12, 2026: St Patrick’s Day Celebration at Surly in Minneapolis
- 
Thursday, April 16, 2026: Meat Raffle at Broadway Bar & Pizza in Plymouth
- May 2026:** Cinco de Mayo event
- June 2026:** Puttschack Edina event
- July 23, 2026:** Lake Minnetonka Boat Ride
- August 2026:** Service Project
- November 5, 2026:** Service Project

JOB POSTINGS

Summary of Current Job Openings:

Position Title	Entity	Closing Date
Accounting Specialist (Part-Time)	City of Minnetonka	3/5/2026
Accounting Manager	City of Woodbury	3/19/2026
Administrative Support Seasonal	Metropolitan Mosquito Control District	Until Filled
Assistant Finance Director	Polk County	Until Filled
Fiscal Consultant	Ehlers	Until Filled
Accounting Clerk - Part-Time	Saint Paul Port Authority	Until Filled
Finance Director	City of Benson	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

March Happy Hour Event

Date: Thursday, March 12

Time: 4:00 pm

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

Click [here](https://www.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 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

