MnGFOA Newsletter

November 2026

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

Included in this Issue:

- **Monthly Meeting – November 18th**
- **Last Social Committee Event**
- **Retirements and Job Changes**
- **Job Postings**
- **Scholarship Awards**

President's Message

By: Tina Lannes

It is November already! Where did the time go? This is such a beautiful time of year, with the fall colors and so many things to celebrate. For me, November is also a month of reflection and gratitude. Over the span of about 16 days, I remember several meaningful occasions, including the anniversary of my father's passing, Veterans Day, the start of hunting season, both of my parents' birthdays, their wedding anniversary, and, of course, Thanksgiving. November was my father's favorite month, and Thanksgiving was his favorite holiday, making this time of year especially meaningful to me.

This is a month to share encouragement, kindness and of course joy. Wondering how you can share those things? One way is to join in at the holiday card-making service project on November 5th, sign up on our website at Minnesota Government Finance Officers Association - Meeting/Event Information.

November 10th holds a special place in my heart for two reasons**.** First, it marks the anniversary of the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald. Growing up in Duluth along the shores of Lake Superior, this date has always held significance. My father loved to sing and play his guitar, and one of his favorite songs was Gordon Lightfoot's *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald*. Hunting season also brought him some good luck on this date over the years. But November 10th is bittersweet for me, as it is also the anniversary of his passing.

My father was a veteran, as are several others in my circle of family and friends. As Veterans Day approaches, I am especially grateful to all our military veterans and active-duty service members for their service, courage, sacrifice, and dedication to protecting our country. Thank you for all you do and for the freedom you help safeguard**.**

With Black Friday and Cyber Monday approaching, Halloween may be behind us, but those mischievous elf imposters are still lurking around, ramping up their cyberattacks! As you head into the holiday shopping season, remember the lessons from our October monthly meeting. Stay alert, think before you click, and keep cybersecurity top of mind, both at work and at home.

As we move from budget season to turkey season, it is an especially busy time for government finance professionals. We are keeping current budgets on track, preparing for year-end, and looking ahead to the new year. As spreadsheets multiply and deadlines approach, remember to take a breath and make time to recharge. Enjoy moments with family and friends before the final push to adopt budgets, levies and begin the year-end processes starts to gobble up all your time. The work you do every day makes a difference in the communities you serve.

I am thankful for the dedication each of you brings to your work and the Minnesota Government Finance Officers Association. Government finance is about so much more than numbers. It is about making thoughtful decisions with public resources, planning for the future, and helping our communities thrive. Thank you for the care, commitment, and expertise you bring to these important responsibilities every day.

Wishing you a cozy November filled with gratitude, quality time with family and friends, and, of course, plenty of savory food. Happy Thanksgiving!



NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

DATE: November 18, 2026

TIME: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

LOCATION: Zoom Meeting

MINNESOTA STATE DEMOGRAPHIC CENTER
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

COST: Members - Free
Non-Members - $10.00

CPE: 1.0 on request. Please complete the online form to request an emailed certificate: CPE Request Form

Topic: State Demographer

A State Demographer will cover aging, population growth/decline, and population projections.

Speakers: Dr. Jeff Howison

Jeff Howison is Senior Research Analyst in the Minnesota State Demographic Center. After receiving his doctorate in sociology in 2010 from the State University of New York at Binghamton, Jeff was assistant professor of sociology at Yeditepe University in Istanbul, Turkey, where he lived and worked for six years. In 2016, Jeff became the lead demographer in the state government of Ohio, where he worked primarily on state and local population projections. Jeff joined the Minnesota State Demographic Center in October of 2023, and his work will further the office's mission to foster public access to and understanding of demographic data and population trends. When he's not working, Jeff enjoys playing chess, cooking, and the outdoors.

Last Social Committee Event of 2026!

Holiday Card-Making Service Project Thursday, November 5

Join your MNGFOA colleagues for an afternoon of creativity, connection, and giving back! We'll make holiday cards to share encouragement, kindness, and a little extra joy with older adults living at Lyngblomsten, a senior living community in Lino Lakes.

- **When:** Thursday, November 5, from 4–7 p.m.
- **Where:** City of Lino Lakes Community Room, 600 Town Center Parkway
- **Cost:** $20

Afterward, keep the fun going at Don Julio's, 701 Apollo Drive in Lino Lakes, with appetizers provided by the MNGFOA Social Committee.

Please sign up as soon as possible so supplies can be purchased! Questions? Contact Lynn Cornwell at lynn.cornwell@moretoncm.com.

We hope you'll join us to make something special and brighten someone's day!

Registration Link

JOB POSTINGS

Summary of Current Job Openings:

Position Title	Entity	Closing Date
Director of Finance	City of La Crosse, Wisconsin	Until Filled
Investment Manager	League of MN Cities	Until Filled
Assistant Finance Director	City of Shoreview	Until Filled

Links and further details can be found on the Jobs & Volunteering page

Retirements and Job Changes

Caroline Moe, Deputy City Administrator-Finance Director for Cambridge, MN is retiring after nearly 25 years of service to Cambridge. She is looking forward to spending more time traveling, quilting, and playing with her dogs.

Amanda Bruzer has been promoted from Assistant Finance Director to Deputy City Administrator-Finance Director for Cambridge, MN. Prior to Cambridge, Amanda worked for the City of Mounds View.

Angela Holm has been hired as the new Assistant Finance Director for Cambridge. Prior to Cambridge, Angela worked for the City of Brooklyn Center and the St. Paul Public Housing Agency.

Briana Volkers is the new Senior Manager of Accounting for Anoka County, MN. Briana previously worked for the Osseo Schools and Anoka-Hennepin School District.

Nick Solberg is the new Finance Director for Arden Hills. Nick previously worked for the City of North Branch and City of Isanti.

Congratulations to all of you!

2026 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President
Tina Lannes
City of Albertville
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President-Elect
Gina Foschi
City of New Brighton
651.638.2105

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952.939.3230

State Representative
Sarah Rathlisberger
City of Monticello
763.271.3201

Past President
Mark Ebensteiner
City of Becker
763.200.4250

Scholarship Awards

Jeanette Boit-Kania, Treasurer for Ramsey County, has been awarded the Lori A. Webster Scholarship to attend the fall GFOA Leadership Academy in Charleston, SC. Congratulations, Jeannette!

The 2027 MNGFOA Internship Grant has been awarded to **Alyssa Landberg**, Finance Director for the City of Falcon Heights. The grant is a 50/50 matching grant up to $3,000 to employ an intern in 2027. Congratulations, Alyssa!

The fall John B. Lilja Undergraduate Scholarship has been awarded to **Keigan Ballard**, a student at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University. Congratulations!

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
- 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 or 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

