President’s Message
By: Julie Vogel

And the WINNER IS...ANYCITY, MINNESOTA!!! With all the Power Ball Lottery buzz going around I thought it would be interesting to see what some of our unnamed local government officials would do with $1 Billion given to their governmental unit by an anonymous citizen (in this prez letter no income taxes are paid, won’t that make the State Dept. of Revenue happy 😊). Some of the more serious answers were:

Most Popular: Roads and Infrastructure
a. Put entire amount in restricted endowment for road/infrastructure needs only (1% a year on a Billion is $10 cool million a year) b. Set up endowment for roads and to manage debt, do NOT build community center c. Half for infrastructure, half for endowments for future generations d. Make a real downtown area e. Build a community center with a true senior citizen component to go with our aging population f. Build a new Civic Campus g. Renovate historical library h. Buy more open space, parks, street improvements, walking/running, and biking trails

Second Place: Education
a. Money to educate all on a grand scheme b. Create a college education endowment for youth in the city c. Set up educational opportunities for disadvantaged to get into public finance

Third Place: Debt
a. Pay down ridiculous amount of debt b. Pay down debt, hold future levies down

Fourth Place: Reinvest in Employees
On the Lighter Side:

• Incentivize some employees to leave
• Do not tell Public Works about this $, they would spend it all
• Buy more lottery tickets ;)

For me and my husband personally we were dreaming about what we would do when we won later that night with our $5 ticket purchase in hand. Our dreams were to set up college and trust funds for our children, pay off our debt, charitable giving, and buy a much bigger and newer boat to retire on for a few years. I wondered who was gonna finish up 2016 as MNGFOA prez...sadly we will never know.

The MNGFOA speaker on Jan 20th was Rebecca Otto, MN State Auditor. Her main topic was a Minnesota Civil Infrastructure report that she is coordinating throughout Minnesota. As you read above roads and infrastructure were the most popular items to plan for with the lottery winnings. This infrastructure report will be a “one stop shop” of civil infrastructure in Minnesota and should be available in early 2016.

2016 Annual Conference in Alexandria ~ NOTE NEW DATES

Normally the annual fall conference is the third week of September. This year it will be held a week later. So mark your calendars for the Fall Conference on September 27-30, 2016.
February
Monthly Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2016
Time: 11:30 AM – Program
       12:00 Noon – Networking Lunch
Location: Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
          1330 Industrial Boulevard NE
Speaker: Steve Apfelbacher, Senior Financial Advisor/President, Ehlers, Inc.
Topic: Municipal Advisors and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board
Cost: $15.00
Meal: Grilled Chicken Piccata (chicken breast topped with a lemon and white wine butter sauce with capers over Gmelli Pasta) and Sticky Toffee Pudding Cake for Dessert
RSVP: Please register online by the Friday preceding the monthly luncheon to ensure sufficient reservation space.

Have you wondered what the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB) does and how it impacts municipalities? Come join us where we will hear about the MSRB, Municipal Advisors and protection for municipal entities.

Speaker Biographical information: Steve Apfelbacher, CIPMA, Senior Financial Advisor/President, Ehlers, Inc. Steve has been a Financial Advisor in the Ehlers’ Roseville office since 1979 assisting Wisconsin and Minnesota municipalities design and implement financial solutions. He is the past President and Board member of the Minnesota Institute of Public Finance (MIPF), past President and Board member of the National Association of Municipal Advisors (NAMA) and a current member of the Municipal Services Rulemaking Board (MSRB). He has spent the last 8 years on the regulation of Municipal Advisors as part of the Dodd-Frank Act and development of various rules and regulations.

2016 CPFO Examination Locations

Washington County will host the spring Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) examination on Thursday March 3, 2016 at the Washington County Law Enforcement Center. They are hosting both a morning and afternoon session for the examination. For further information about the examination, please see the GFOA website. For information about the test site, contact Ellen Paulseth, Deputy Director of Accounting & Finance, Washington County, at 651-430-6033 or at ellen.paulseth@co.washington.mn.us. The GFOA deadline for application to this exam is February 18, 2016.

Membership Renewals

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 2016 Treasurer:

Bruce DeJong, Finance Director
City of Shorewood
5755 Country Club Road
Shorewood, MN 55331

Bruce may be contacted by email: bdejong@ci.shorewood.mn.us
Or by phone:
(952) 960-7903
Help Preserve the Tax Exemption on Municipal Bond Interest

As Congress and the White House return to discussions on comprehensive federal tax reform in 2016, GFOA is urging our members to help engage federal lawmakers regarding the need to preserve the tax exemption on municipal bond interest. In addition to the resources already available for your use on our federal government relations page, GFOA is urging members to sign their jurisdictions onto this letter to the leaders of the House and Senate tax writing committees, expressing support for the tax exemption. Beyond GFOA’s membership, the letter is also being distributed by our colleagues at the National League of Cities, U.S. Conference of Mayors, National Association of Counties, and the National Association of State Treasurers. Our aim is to secure the support of hundreds of jurisdictions on this letter to demonstrate to Congress the immense support for this provision of the tax code. Jurisdictions that are interested in signing on should contact Emma Heydlauff (Emma@statetreasurers.org) by February 15.

Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO)

The Certified Public Finance Officers Program (Certification Program) of the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) is a broad educational self-study program designed to verify knowledge in the disciplines of government finance. The Certification Program is governed by the Council on Certification. Technical and administrative support for the program is provided by Radford University’s Governmental and Nonprofit Assistance Center. To earn the designation of Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO), candidates must pass a series of five examinations covering the major disciplines of public finance. A candidate has seven years in which to successfully complete the program. Once earned, the CPFO designation is maintained by participating in 30 hours of continuing professional education each year. While GFOA certifies that an individual who passes one or more of GFOA’s certification examinations demonstrates certain competencies, GFOA withholds an opinion as to the capabilities of any individual to successfully perform in a given position. GFOA encourages prospective employers and employees to share information regarding the requirements of the position and the capabilities of the candidate in a forthright manner to promote sound employment and professional decisions. www.gfoa.org.

Scholarship Applications Now Online

The John B. Lilja Scholarship is awarded to undergraduate students majoring in accounting or government finance at a college or university located in Minnesota. The amount is typically $1,000. A description of the program is online at www.mngfoa.com or you may have interested students contact Heidi Tumberg. Applications are due by Friday, April 15.

The Robert L. Ehlers Sr. Scholarship covers the cost for a member to attend the annual national conference GFOA, which will be held in May 22 – 25, 2016 in Toronto. It is provided each year through the generosity of Ehlers, Inc. Information and application are available on-line at www.mngfoa.org or by contacting Heidi Tumberg. Applications are due by Friday, April 15.

The MnGFOA Springsted Scholarship honors Osmon R. Springsted and is funded through the generosity of Springsted, Inc. each year. It provides for the registration of two members at the annual MnGFOA conference in September. Details are available at www.mngfoa.org or from Heidi Tumberg. Applications must be received by June 30th.

Contact information for Heidi Tumberg is available on the last page of the Newsletter.
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<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Year</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>Thurs, Mar 10</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day HH at Cooper Irish Pub (St. Louis Park) 4-7:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Apr 13</td>
<td>Meat Raffle at the Rogers Muni Bar</td>
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<td>Thurs, May 3</td>
<td>Cinco de Mayo Networking HH 4-7:00</td>
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<td>June/July 2016</td>
<td>St. Paul Saints Game, date TBD</td>
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<td>August 2016</td>
<td>Golf Outing, course TBD</td>
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<td>September 27-30</td>
<td>Annual Conference: Networking events are being planned</td>
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<td>October 2016</td>
<td>Oktoberfest Networking HH TBD</td>
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<td>November 2014</td>
<td>Food Drive for Second Harvest Heartland</td>
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<td>December 2014</td>
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2016 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

This is YOUR newsletter. If you wish to share items of interest with the membership please send them to me via email. Send job openings, career moves, retirements, or other items of note by the 21st of the month for inclusion in the next newsletter. Thank you.

Michelle Pietrick
City of South St. Paul
mpietrick@southstpaul.org
651-554-3206

Looking for Committee Members!!!

The Standing Committees of the MnGFOA are looking for more members to help plan activities, events, and sessions for the organization. The committees are:

- Annual Conference Committee; New 2016 chair is Robin Roland of the City of Cottage Grove (to plan and stage the Annual Conference in Alexandria)
- Social Committee; Co-Chairs for another year are Sandy Christensen with the City of Minneapolis and Pat Harris with BMO (to provide networking activities for the group)
- Program Committee, New 2016 chair is Erin Barnhardt with the City of Medina (for the monthly luncheon programs)
- Education Committee, Tina Lannes with the City of Albertville is chair for the second year (for training and education events)
- Technology; Almost permanent chair is Joe Rueb with the City of Maplewood (to operate and improve the organization’s e-presence)
- Student Conference; Returning Chair is Amy Sevig with the City of Bloomington (to prepare for and represent MnGFOA at the annual conference)

Please contact Julie Vogel or any of the Board Members if you are interested in participating on a Standing Committee. Committee participation does not require a lot of time and is a great way to meet people and share ideas.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Darin Nelson, past president, has accepted a new position with the City of Shakopee as Finance Director. Darin will start his new position on February 8th. Good luck on your new venture.