

# Municipal Analysts

## BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2014

VOL 24. – NO. 3



### LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

#### Dearest NFMA Colleagues:

My year as your Chair has gone by much too fast! As an organization, we continue to move forward and grow, with membership just under 1400. We are so proud of all that's been accomplished to date in 2014. One of the most noteworthy items was the establishment of the Peter Fugiel Scholarship. Peter was one of this organization's past chairs and founding fathers. He was one of my mentors and a dear friend. The scholarship gives provides a worthy student the opportunity to attend the NFMA Introduction to Municipal Bond Credit Analysis held in Philly each year. We were honored by the response, and this year chose to provide two scholarships. Kudos go to Jennifer Johnston and Lisa Good for their tireless efforts to construct the program's framework and organize the decision process. The NFMA encourages all of you to continue outreach to your alma maters – our goal is to see student membership grow along with career choices in municipal research.

We have had an exceptional array of educational events this year beginning with our New Orleans Advanced Seminar in January – ironically focused on disaster recovery. Bad weather closed down that city and other major hubs – including mine in Atlanta – and forced us to consider cancelling the event. Fortunately, 116 of the 126 expected made it to the event. I wasn't so lucky and chaired my first Board meeting via conference call. Our Annual Conference in Orlando was very well attended by 369 NFMA members and gracious speakers. Our recent High Yield Advanced Seminar in Chicago garnered near record attendance at 170. Thanks to Julie Egan, our Education Chair and her able-bodied committee members for putting on such well-received programs.

Registration continues for our first Advanced Seminar of 2015 in Houston, TX at the Four Seasons on America's Urban Agenda. Dan Berger and Chris Mauro are hard at work on the program. Register soon and don't forget to reserve your room while the NFMA's special rate is in effect.

The Recommended Best Practices (RBP) paper on State General Obligation Bonds has been released for comment and the sister Local RBP is in the works. Thanks to Anne Ross and Nichole Byrd for their efforts to make these papers the best they can be. There are a number of RBPs in the works so take a look at the Disclosure Committee's report for an update – and remember we are always seeking volunteers for these projects!

In an effort to further our main mission of education we have worked closely with MAGNY to broadcast a number of their events to the general NFMA membership for a nominal fee. Many of our members tuned in for presentations on Puerto Rico, the Affordable Care Act and most recently an introduction to the State of California's new and chock-full of information investor website. Thanks to MAGNY and Betsy Hill for allowing us to listen in. Joe Rosenblum, a long-time NFMA and MAGNY member, identified a need to educate our members on the subject of bankruptcy and restructuring under Chapter 9. He took the lead and garnered the participation of some of the nation's top legal talent. Joe organized and hosted two very well attended member conference calls that focused on the Detroit Plan of Adjustment and Puerto Rico's Debt Enforcement and Recovery Act. Now that the Detroit plan has been sanctioned by the court, Joe has organized one more educational call to keep us informed – the link to register is on our web site. Thank you, Joe – from all at the NFMA for your efforts on our behalf.

We are happy to report that Bill Oliver has accepted our invitation to remain as industry liaison for 2015. Bill has worked tirelessly since he came on board to promote the NFMA and its central mission of education to other industry groups, the broker-dealer community, issuers and legislators. His efforts and others in the organization have resulted in collaborative efforts with GFOA, NASACT, NAST and others on better overall disclosure for states and local governments, and more particularly on privately placed bank loans.

Lisa Good, your officers and Bill Oliver spent a day late in October in Washington D.C. visiting with members of the SEC's municipal division, the MSRB and the resurrected Treasury Office of State and Local Government. We chatted about a number of items specific to municipal disclosure and looked for ways collaborate and also where our organization might be called upon to educate and inform these entities as well as legislators and their aids on our market. We were well-received by all and we intend to make this an annual event, and may tag the visit to our twice yearly participation in the MSRB Municipal Roundtable meetings.

*Continued*

The NFMA's Board of Governors has been hard at work all year with what I would characterize as “housing items”. The Finance Committee led by Lisa Washburn, Treasurer, has worked to tighten and further identify budget line items, and instituted a formalized spending policy based on guidelines suggested by our accountants, Schneider Downs. These actions will help preserve the NFMA's financial future, enable us to be more transparent to our members and provide us with opportunities as they present themselves. The Constitution Committee, led by Rachel Cortez, has burned the midnight oil going through our document to uncover items that may have become obsolete or that need clarification. We applaud their efforts and look forward to the finished product. We are also working on a formal process to vet new constituent societies seeking admission to the NFMA. Eric Friedland is leading that charge. I'm sure he would welcome ideas and helpers.

Finally, this has been the most fantastic year for me! It is a tremendous responsibility to take charge of this prestigious organization and your confidence in me to lead has not gone unnoticed. I can tell you that without Lisa Good and Betsy Harkins, the NFMA would never have become the respected organization it is today. We owe both a debt of gratitude for their inspired service. Please make it a point to say thank you to them.

I remember my indoctrination into MAGNY in 1980 when I was very green behind the ears and in awe of the great minds sitting in the MAGNY luncheon room at the Downtown Athletic Club the afternoon I was to give my obligatory speech. My knees were shaking. I never thought I'd measure up. When I was done speaking and answering the questions posed by the audience, I heard the applause! It was the sweetest sound I had ever heard – it was the sound of acceptance. MAGNY doesn't put its neophytes through the speaking process any longer but that organization and every other constituent group that has become a part of the NFMA can be proud of itself and the talented individuals that are their members. Thank you – all 1300-plus of you – for putting your confidence in me this year. We have one month to go and there is still much to be accomplished. My successor, Jennifer Johnston, is already working with me on a smooth transition.

**As we approach the holiday season and begin to slow down, I wish you all peace for the 2015 New Year and beyond.**

*Yours truly,  
Susan Dushock  
2014 Chair*

## DISCLOSURE

On November 5, the NFMA released the Recommended Best Practices (RBP) in Disclosure for State Government General Obligation and Appropriation Debt, with special emphasis on interim disclosure. This project was completed by the G.O. and Dedicated Tax RBP Disclosure Subcommittee chaired by Nicole Byrd and Anne Ross. This RBP is part of an update of the GO RBP originally published in 2001. Comments are being accepted through March 5, 2015. The subcommittee is also working on a separate RBP for Local General Obligation Bonds, which is the second part of the update of the 2001 GO RBP. The subcommittee is also leveraging its work on G.O. debt disclosure as part of its development of a new RBP for Dedicated Tax Bonds.

Robert Doty and Gil Southwell have completed the Conflicts of Interest White Paper and the full Board has already provided comments. This White Paper is now being reviewed by our outside editor and will be available for public comment by the end of the year or early next.

Robert Doty, Gil Southwell and Dean Lewallen continue to make significant progress on the Charter School RBP. The committee is currently working with industry experts to ensure a substantive final product. The Charter School RBP Committee is targeting a Spring 2015 release.

The Disclosure Committee also plans to update two more existing RBPs: Water and Sewer and Toll Roads. The Committee expects that the Water and Sewer RBP will address the disclosure of water supply and water quality issues, and that the update of the Toll Road RBP will incorporate issues related to new types of financing mechanisms that have been developed since the original RBP was published.

We are in the process of selecting co-chairs for each of these RBPs. Please contact Jason Kissane or Mark Stockwell if you are interested in participating in the W&S or Toll Road RBP projects.

*Jason Kissane and Mark Stockwell  
Disclosure Committee Co-Chairs*

## Treasurer's Report

**Financial Snapshot: As of 9/30/2014 the NFMA's net assets (unaudited) were slightly over \$1.5 million.**

We manage our money conservatively with PNC (checking and savings) and four Vanguard Funds (Money Market, Total Stock Market Index, Total International Index and Bond Index Funds). We periodically rebalance the investment portfolio during the year. The last rebalancing took place at the end of July to achieve our target asset allocation of 10% Prime Money Market Fund, 35% Total Stock Market Index, 10% Total International Index and 35% Total Bond Index. At the end of Q3 our investment earnings were \$45,817, led by gains in our Bond Index and Total Stock Index Funds. Another rebalancing will take place before the end of the year.

The Finance Committee members include Jennifer Johnston (co-chair) and Lisa Washburn (co-chair), Susan Dushock, Julie Egan, Lisa Good, Kurt Forsgren, Chris Nowakowski, Sweta Singh and Dana Ringer. Since the May Board Meeting the committee has been active on several fronts:

- 1) The committee researched and recommended obtaining a Directors and Officers and Employment Practices insurance policy. Three bids were received. The coverage was similar in all of the policies and the bidding companies were rated by A.M. Best. Upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee the Executive Committee approved securing \$1 million of coverage from Atain Specialty.
- 2) The Finance Committee also developed and presented to the Board a Reserve and Spending Policy. The Board approved the Policy at the Chicago meeting.

**Sufficient reserves are critical to the NFMA for two key reasons:**

- Insulate the organization from unanticipated circumstances (e.g. conference cancellation, drop in sponsor support)
- Provide an additional income stream to fund organizational priorities such as member support, scholarships and program enhancement.

Schneider Downs provided input into the target reserves. The Board approved to target the amount of reserves to the greater of 2.5x operating expenses or \$2 million. In order to maintain a sustainable level of reserves to insulate the organization from unanticipated circumstances and also support organizational priorities of the NFMA, up to 4% of the market value of the Reserve Fund may be distributed annually to support budgeted organizational priorities based upon a three-year rolling average of investment earnings.

We have spent a lot of time discussing the \$2 million reserve amount. The reserve earnings would enable us to grow successful initiatives, such as the Peter Fugiel Scholarship, and protect us from losses to ensure the organization's long-term sustainability.

One of the most significant financial events that could happen to the organization is the need to cancel a conference—this almost happened this past winter when widespread and severe snowstorms hit much of the country in the days leading up to the January Advanced Seminar. Of course, the costs associated with the cancellation of the Annual Conference would be much higher. For example, in 2017 the NFMA will hold its Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Cancellation of that conference would result in a liability up to \$328,000 under our contract with the hotel. Additionally, other costs and the revenue loss associated with the event would raise the financial impact to NFMA to over \$500,000.

- Room and Food and Beverage Liability per contract: \$248,000 for hotel rooms and \$80,000 for food and beverage costs
- Refund of conference registration fees: approximately \$172,000
- Processing fees for refunds: approximately \$13,000
- Additional costs incurred (e.g. speaker honorarium and travel; any other liabilities as a result of cancellation): approximately \$7,500-10,000

If you have any comments or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [lwashburn@mma-research.com](mailto:lwashburn@mma-research.com) or 908-273-2142.

*Lisa Washburn*  
2014 Treasurer



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Every society has now offered the GASB education outreach. Thank you to Dean Mead and GASB for the excellent information. We certainly appreciate your time and effort throughout that endeavor.

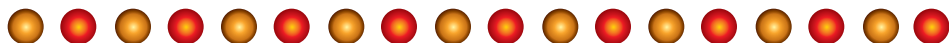
Congratulations to Dan Berger, Chris Mauro and the Advanced Seminar committee for providing a top notch high yield conference in Chicago this past October. It was well-attended and provided thought-provoking and educational panels. As this newsletter arrives in your inboxes, the annual Introduction to Municipal Bond Credit Analysis in Philadelphia will have recently taken place under the capable leadership of Anne Ross and her new co-chair Betsy Hill. We were excited to welcome the two recipients of our first ever Peter Fugiel Scholarship to the Intro Course.

Please mark your calendars for the Advanced Seminar in Houston, Texas, titled America's Urban Agenda and Its Impact Upon the Municipal Bond Market, on January 22 and 23, 2015.

Finally, thank you to the many conference planning committee members who think about how to put the best panel together over many hours and participate in many lengthy conference calls. Your time commitment and knowledge is appreciated and provides such wonderful educational opportunities to the NFMA membership.

*Julie Egan*

*2014 Education Committee Chair*



## Does What Happened in Detroit Stay in Detroit? Come to Las Vegas to Find Out!



**Planning for the NFMA's 32nd Annual Conference is in full swing.** We return May 12-15, 2015, to the Four Seasons in Las Vegas. Our committee, which includes representatives from each NFMA society and most facets of our business, is bringing in the best speakers to address national topics such as tax burden, state revenue forecasts and ACA, and some regional focus on gaming, water and Puerto Rico. And what are the odds that we're heading into our next economic downturn?

It is a safe bet that if you come to the Annual Conference your take will include a wealth of information. Your winnings will also include a great opportunity to connect with fellow analysts from across the United States.

*Mary Francoeur and Scott Andreson*

*Annual Conference Co-Chairs*

## Advanced Seminar

The NFMA Winter Advanced Seminar will focus on "America's Urban Agenda and Its Impact Upon the Municipal Bond Market." This event will be held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Houston, TX, from Thursday, January 22 through Friday, January 23, 2015. We are accepting registrations, and topics include Urban Economic Revival, Sustainability, Mass Transit, Non-Traditional Municipal Funding Sources, Affordable Care Act, Unfunded Pension Liabilities and the Urban/Suburban Conundrum.

The Luncheon Keynote will be delivered by William Fulton, a nationally recognized urban-planning expert and Director of Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research. Mr. Fulton previously served as director of the Planning Department for the City of San Diego, and as a city councilmember, Deputy Mayor and Mayor of Ventura, California. Houston Controller Ron Green will speak on Friday morning.

*Dan Berger and Chris Mauro*

*Advanced Seminar Co-Chairs*

# MSMA

Minnesota Society of Municipal Analysts

The Minnesota chapter held its summer social with a members only ride on the new mass transit line connecting downtown Minneapolis with downtown St. Paul. In September, we hosted Strong Towns' Chuck Marohn for a lively discussion about urban planning from the point of view of a civil engineer. Our October event was a luncheon with University of Minnesota's professor of Law, Amy Monahan for a discussion on the legal aspects of pension and OPEB reform for state and local governments. Our next event is our annual Winter Social slated for December 11th. We held our elections for next year's Board with the following results: President Tim Russell - US Bank Asset Management; Vice President Ty Schoback - Columbia Management; Treasurer Jonathan Lynn - Stonebridge Capital; Secretary Mercy Ndungu - Metropolitan Council; At-Large Matt Hilliard - Sit Investment Associates. Lastly, the Minnesota chapter reached its 20 year anniversary as a society within the NFMA. Membership, attendance, and interest in our chapter continue to be.

*Brian Olson*

*MSMA President*





Chicago Municipal Analysts Society

The CMAS had a busy summer. Kicking it off in June, was a presentation discussing the impact of sports teams on local economies. Professor Robert Baade, the A.B. Dick Professor of Economics and Business at Lake Forest College, was our presenter. Domestically, Professor Baade has advised on the impact of Super Bowls, World Series, and stadiums to local economies, and also has consulted internationally for the Olympic Games and World Cups. We were very lucky to have him. Professor Baade's general sentiment is that investment in stadiums to support sports teams or events are not beneficial to local economies given the exorbitant costs. Keeping with the sports theme, the event was held at Ditka's downtown restaurant.

In July, the CMAS hosted its annual summer outing at the beautiful Clark Street roof top of ZED 451 in downtown Chicago. The weather was absolutely perfect, which truly is a rarity in Chicago.

The CMAS hosted "A Healthcare Reform Panel Discussion Where Are We Now?" in September. The event was held at Season's 52 in Downtown Chicago. The panel was diverse and included: Francis Fraher, Director of Finance at Northwestern Memorial HealthCare; Gregory H. Hagood, Senior Managing Director at SOLIC Capital Advisors; and Dr. John Jay Shannon, CEO of Cook County Health. CMAS Vice President, Dana Ringer, Director at Fitch Ratings, did a great job of moderating the event.

In November, the CMAS hosted a higher education panel moderated by Jessica Wood, Director at Standard & Poor's in S&P's offices. The panelists included: Greg Alt of Illinois State University, Jeff Bethke of DePaul University, Eric Jones of Loyola University, and Rowan Miranda of the University of Chicago.

Our annual holiday party will be held in mid-December at Bin 36, where members will indulge in a wine-tasting event. In January, CMAS will host its 4th Annual Outlook. Diane Swonk, the Chief Economist at Mesirow Financial, will once again be our keynote speaker.

*Chris Nowakowski*  
CMAS President



Southern Municipal Finance Society

The Southern Municipal Finance Society recently elected three new Board members:

- **James Gilliland**, Diversified Trust in Nashville, TN;
- **Adebola Kushimo**, Moody's in Dallas, TX; and
- **Alicia Stephens**, PNC in Raleigh, NC.

In September, the SMFS held a GASB workshop presented by Dean Mead in Richardson, Texas. Future education events include an economic update via teleconference, presented by Regions Bank. Also, the SMFS is planning a Public Utility and Renewable Energy Conference in conjunction with UNC Chapel Hill's Environmental Science Center.

*Barbara VanScoy*  
SMFS Chair



California Society of Municipal Analysts

Faced with severe drought conditions, the CSMA held a water and drought related one-day conference on September 18. The event was held at the headquarters of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Speakers included key officials from regional and local water agencies. In addition, we heard from a representative of the state Department of Water Resources. There were also two presentations from economists with a special focus on the prospects for economic development in light of the drought. The event had a good turnout, including many attendees from outside of the southern California region.

We are looking forward to our holiday parties—one to be held in San Francisco on December 15 and one in Los Angeles on December 18. Please save the date!

We will announce the 2014 recipient of the Amy Doppelt Award at the San Francisco gathering.

*Gabe Petek*  
CSMA Chair

## GASB/GASAC Project & Resource Update

The NFMA is a long-standing member of GASAC (Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Board), and through GASAC, the NFMA has the ability to voice its opinions on the various GASB governmental accounting projects and Exposure Drafts. As the NFMA is one of only a few “buy-side user groups” on GASAC, it is our goal to maintain a strong presence in GASAC and on GASB deliberations. This update should help keep NFMA members informed of pending GASB project deliberations and helpful resources offered by GASB to buy-side analysts. If you wish to become more involved in formulating NFMA responses to GASB/GASAC project deliberations, please consider joining the ad hoc NFMA/GASAC Committee by contacting Gilbert Southwell at [gsouthwe@wellscap.com](mailto:gsouthwe@wellscap.com). Check out the GASB website for resources of value to NFMA members at [www.gasb.com](http://www.gasb.com).

### GASB/GASAC Project Deliberations of Importance to NFMA Members:

At GASB/GASAC's latest meeting in November, 2014, the following “discussion” projects important to NFMA members were addressed-so your input is welcome! Please access to the GASB website and click the link in the upper right entitled “Recent Minutes and Major Tentative Decisions” for the status of all pending GASB/GASAC projects.

- 1) GASB requested GASAC's input on the recognition and measurement of the OPEB liability (“OPEB Liability Discussion”), and whether such recognition and measurement should follow current guidelines in GASB Statement No. 45 (current funding-based approach) or newer pension liability guidelines in GASB Statement No. 68. As part of that discussion, the relevant discount rate needed to assess the OPEB benefit liability was discussed. Another discussion topic was whether small OPEB plans (under 100 members) could report their OPEB liability using a simpler “alternative measurement method”. A final discussion topic was the need for and scope of an OPEB liability and healthcare cost trend sensitivity analysis in the statement footnotes. If you have any views or comments on the OPEB liability Discussion, contact Gil Southwell.
- 2) GASB has requested GASAC input on the scope of governmental accounting/disclosure for asset retirement obligations (beyond the current GASB Statement 18 for municipal solid waste landfills) such as nuclear facilities, other landfills, coal mines, treatment plants, dams, quarries, and other abandoned sites/facilities (ARO Discussion). GASB is assessing the basis for and timing of the recognition of an ARO and whether recognition can be based on more than a legal/contractual obligation, i.e., could be recognized based on a “moral” or “economic compulsion”. Another discussion topic was proper accounting for the ARO itself and the expensing of the ARO. Valuation of the ARO can be difficult and NFMA recommended that an independent/professional cost study be the main basis for any material ARO liability valuation rather than the government's own liability estimates. The final discussion point was on the need to follow FASB Statement 143 in capitalizing the ARO costs as an asset. The NFMA did not support this final concept as being too confusing. If you have any views or comments on the ARO Discussion, contact Gil Southwell.
- 3) GASB requested GASAC input on several fair value matters including fair valuation of natural resources (e.g., mineral rights, and oil and gas assets) and interest rate SWAPS (“Fair Valuation Discussion”). The natural resources fair value discussion noted the need for a uniform accounting treatment of these assets as investments, and the appropriate fair value approach (amortized cost vs current fair value) based on (estimated vs proven) reserves. The interest rate SWAP fair value discussion under GASB Statement 53 noted the need to account for the interest rate SWAP is a governmental liability. Two main methods of fair valuing an interest rate SWAP liability were discussed: close-out/early termination method and the SWAP market settlement/novation method. The NFMA commented that the close-out/early termination method was more appropriate as governments rarely (if ever) are in a position to novate their SWAP, and by using the close-out/early termination liability, the government can also more accurately disclose collateral posting thresholds and amounts in the derivatives footnotes. If you have any views or comments on the Fair Value Discussion, contact Gil Southwell.
- 4) GASB has requested further GASAC input on the priority of certain new accounting standard setting topics and reexaminations of existing accounting standards (“New Topics Discussion”). NFMA favored new accounting standard setting topics for direct borrowing/bank loans, financial performance measures, and interim financial reporting. NFMA favored reexamination topics for capital asset impairments (crumbling infrastructure concerns), conduit debt, going concern opinions, footnote disclosures, statistical section and troubled debt restructurings. If you have any views or comments or opinions on the New Topics Discussion, contact Gil Southwell.

### GASB Resources Helpful to NFMA Members (Available through the GASB website):

- 1) GASB has a free quarterly electronic newsletter called GASB Outlook, and is now offering GASB's printed newsletter called The GASB Report for free. So consider subscribing to both to keep updated on GASB matters that impact NFMA members as users of government financial statements! For example, GASB Outlook has a link to the pending Discussion and Comment Projects noted above plus further details on each Discussion/Comment Project plus a summary of all of GASB's recent material activities; and
- 2) GASB recently published its 2nd edition of “Analyst's Guide To Government Financial Statements” and “What You Should Know About Government's Business Type Activities”.

*Gilbert Southwell*

*NFMA Representative to GASAC*

# BMAF

Boston Municipal Analysts Forum



Looking back on the year, the BMAF had a full calendar and still a couple of more events to go before we close our books for 2014. We have been very excited about introducing our events to the deep student base in the greater Boston area, and have received positive feedback from the local area schools. Additionally, we have worked on enhancing our bylaws and also making it easier for our membership to access all our post-event notes and slides on the BMAF website.

The year began with a municipal market outlook featuring two well-known market strategists, followed-up by our State of the States meeting in February. In March, we held a very timely and well-attended session on the headwinds facing the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, featuring former Governor Luis Fortuño. We kicked off our summer agenda with a guided tour of the Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant hosted by the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority Island, attended by over 50 of our members, followed shortly thereafter by the annual BMAF golf outing at nearby Granite Links Golf Club. In late July, we hosted a full-house focused on pension and OPEB obligations, featuring analysts from the three major credit rating agencies. Our autumn schedule included a higher education roundtable lined up for November, followed by a dialogue with Gordon Van Welie, the CFO of ISO (Independent System Operator) New England. We also have been collaborating with the Commonwealth in anticipation of the 2014 Massachusetts Investor Conference this December. We plan on winding-up this year's BMAF calendar with our annual Bowl-A-Rama, so dust off those bowling shoes!

Finally, the BMAF Board would like to welcome Megan Poplowski of Eaton Vance as the new BMAF Treasurer for 2015.

*Sweta Singh*  
BMAF President

## INDUSTRY PRACTICES

The Industry Practices Committee acts on behalf of the Board of Governors, providing a means by which the NFMA conveys our views on the municipal market to other industry groups and to regulators.

Through the efforts of our Industry Liaison, Bill Oliver, the organization is participating in many industry organizations' conferences. Our primary goal at these events is advocate for enhanced disclosure and increase the visibility and acceptance of the NFMA's White Papers and Recommended Best Practices.

As a follow-up to this committee's work on coordinating the industry paper on bank loans, Geoff Buswick and Jeff Previdi have been working on a follow-up piece. This new paper will provide the NFMA's perspective on the critical importance of disclosing bank loans and recommended practices on what items to disclose, when to do so and where to post the information. At present, a draft of the paper is being reviewed for comment by the Board.

If there are market related issues or projects that you would like to bring to our attention, please feel free to contact us at [jburger@standish.com](mailto:jburger@standish.com) or [lwashburn@mma-research.com](mailto:lwashburn@mma-research.com).

*Jeff Burger and Lisa Washburn*  
Industry Practices Co-Chairs

The NFMA  
Wishes Everyone  
a Safe  
and Happy  
Holiday Season.



## Membership Committee



*Scarlett Swerdlow*



*Eric Reese*

As announced at the Annual Conference in May, the NFMA has established a scholarship program in memory of former NFMA chair Peter Fugiel who passed away earlier this year. The scholarship to the NFMA's Introduction to Municipal Bond Credit Analysis Seminar will be awarded annually to a student in recognition of Dr. Fugiel's work both as a practitioner of municipal credit analysis and a professor and educator. We reached out to more than 40 MPA and MPP programs advertising the scholarship as well as the student membership program. We had a huge response to the scholarship and due to the large number of outstanding candidates, the Executive Committee decided to award two scholarships to the 2014 Intro Course and acknowledge five deserving students as honorable mentions. The 2014 Fugiel Scholarship winners are **Eric Reese**, a MPA student at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and **Scarlett Swerdlow**, a MPP student at the University of Chicago. The Honorable Mentions were awarded to Ayman Bari (University of Illinois, Chicago), Daniel Hughes (University of Illinois, Chicago), Matthew Garvey (Northeastern University), Carly Minster (University of Minnesota), and Qin Zhang (New York University).

For more information on the Fugiel Scholarship or our student membership program please visit our Student Membership Page. If you would like the NFMA to reach out to your alma mater in the future, please contact Jennifer Johnston.

*Jennifer Johnston*  
2014 Membership Committee Chair

## MAGNY

Municipal Analysts Group of New York

The beginning of the MAGNY season traditionally brings a change in the MAGNY Board. The composition of this year's MAGNY Board is as follows: Kristin Stephens – MAGNY Chair, Sandra Brinkert – Treasurer, Amy Lasky – Secretary, Betsy Hill – Membership Chair, Dan Wilson – Program Chair, and Chris Mauro – Immediate Past Chair.

Our first luncheon of the season featured California Comptroller John Chaing, who addressed the state's fiscal situation and demonstrated his new website [Bythenumbers.sco.ca.gov](http://Bythenumbers.sco.ca.gov). For our October luncheon, we focused on the credit of the State of New Jersey. Our guest speakers included John Sugden, Senior Director at Standard and Poors, and Jim Diffley, Senior Director at HIS Economics. For our November luncheon, we turned our attention to current issuance trends in the municipal market. The event featured presentations from Tom Kozlik of Janney Montgomery Scott, Bill Glasgall of The Volcker Alliance, and Richard Anderson, President of the New York Building Congress.

Finally, in October, MAGNY once again joined with SIFMA to host a seminar entitled "What Municipal Analysts Need to Know about Governmental Accounting". Dean Mead of GASB was the instructor of this day-long session. The event was held at the SIFMA Conference Center in New York.

*Chris Mauro*  
MAGNY Immediate Past Chair



Thanks to all of the NFMA Sponsors  
for 2014, especially Diamond and  
Platinum Sponsors, listed below:

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Wells Fargo

### PLATINUM:

Black Mountain Systems

DIVER by Lumesis

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Raymond James

S&P Capital IQ

To participate in the support of the NFMA and its educational  
efforts, contact Lisa Good at [Lgood@nfma.org](mailto:Lgood@nfma.org).

## NFMA CALENDAR

### December 10 at 3pm Eastern –

NFMA Members Only

Teleconference on Hot Legal Topics  
in Restructuring and Chapter 9  
Bankruptcy: The Lessons from  
Detroit's Now Approved Plan  
of Adjustment.

### January 21, 2015 –

Board of Governors Meeting, Four  
Seasons, Houston, TX

### January 22 & 23, 2015 –

NFMA Advanced Seminar on  
America's Urban Agenda, Four  
Seasons, Houston, TX.

### May 12, 2015 –

Board of Governors Meeting, Four  
Seasons, Las Vegas NV

### May 12-15, 2015 –

NFMA 32nd Annual Conference,  
Four Seasons Las Vegas, NV.

### May 3 – 6, 2016 –

NFMA 33rd Annual Conference,  
Westin Michigan Avenue,  
Chicago, IL

### May 16-19, 2017

NFMA 34th Annual Conference,  
Mandarin Oriental,  
Washington, D.C.

## NFMA

The Municipal Analysts Bulletin is  
published by the National Federation  
of Municipal Analysts.

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