

NonProfit Financial Managers

A Resource for the areas of Finance, IT, Human Resources, and Office/Facilities Management

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For information, go to npfm.org, or contact Mitzi Fennel at 617-547-1063 x235 or Jessica Zander at 617-850-1752.

Mark Your Calendars

All of our meetings take place on the **last Tuesday** of each month. No pre-registration required. Upcoming dates:

- ◆ **October 28: Privacy Issues**
- ◆ **December 2: To Be Determined**

NPFM Membership Information

The annual membership fee of \$100 covers monthly mailings and other operating expenses. The membership period is from September to August. A part-year membership for \$60 is offered for those joining after January 1st, which covers membership through August. Full-time students are welcome to join at any time without paying a fee.

In addition to attendance at monthly meetings, members receive a monthly newsletter and access to the NPFM e-mail forum. Lunch is provided for all attendees at meetings. There is a \$12 meeting fee for non-members, and since membership is by organization, there is no limit of individuals from any one organization who may attend the meetings.

R.S.V.P.'s for the meetings are not required.

For renewals or new membership fees, please make your check out to:

NonProfit Financial Managers
C/O Child Care Resource Center
130 Bishop Allen Drive
Cambridge, MA 02139

Contact Mitzi Fennel at 617-547-1063, x235 for more information.

The Next Meeting

Topic: Privacy Issues

Date: Tuesday, October 28th

**Location: United South End Settlements
566 Columbus Ave., Boston**

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

James Stanton, a Consulting Manager with Grant Thornton, will join us to discuss data privacy. The discussion on privacy will focus on the type of data collected from the following groups: donors, employees, and clients. Mr. Stanton will discuss key considerations around data collection, storage, and access.

Mr. Stanton is a member of Grants Thornton's Boston Not-For-Profit group. He advises clients on business risk and internal control issues. His nonprofit clients span a wide array of industries including colleges and universities, independent private schools, social service organizations, and cultural institutions.

Recap of September Meeting

Massachusetts has the largest number of nonprofit organizations per capita and the 4th largest overall after California, New York, and Washington, DC. David Magnani has just completed his first year as Executive Director of the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network, the third attempt to organize all nonprofits in the state under one umbrella. Previous attempts had unsuccessfully competed with the success nonprofits had experienced in organizing themselves by sector, i.e., Mass. Council of Human Service Providers, Mass. Association of CDCs, and similar organizations. The Massachusetts Nonprofit Network incorporates representatives from smaller groups to better meet the needs of all nonprofits.

The mission of the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network is three-fold: 1) increase public awareness; 2) advocate for public policy; and 3) build capacity within the non-profit sector.

Public Awareness

What is the message? **Nonprofits build strong communities.** Nonprofits are Effective, Efficient, and Essential. Overhead rates are typically half the rates of those in the for-profit sector.

Advocacy

Federal reauthorization of the college loan provision of the higher education financing bill will take effect November 9, 2008. This bill provides for forgiveness of up to ½ of college loans for graduates who work in the public or nonprofit sector for the ten years following graduation. This bill should aid in the hiring of graduates with a bachelor's or higher degree at the salaries non-profits can generally afford. Unfortunately, this provision is not retroactive to cover those of us who still have school loans outstanding. There is also a concerted effort to increase the IRS deduction for volunteers who travel on behalf of nonprofits from the current rate of \$.15 per mile.

In Massachusetts, advocacy efforts have focused on the establishment of a Nonprofit Awareness Day, raising the threshold of the Public Charities requirement for accounting review from the current \$100,000, and the vote against Question 1 on the November ballot.

According to David, passage of Question 1 would repeal the state income tax as of January 1st with disastrous results for nonprofits with contracts to provide services for the state government. With turnout predictions as high as 80% for this election, it is imperative to get information on Question 1 to all voters, especially newly-registered or low-income voters who may not be familiar with all the services that are funded through the state income tax. More information about the referendum is available at www.massnonprofitnet.org.

Capacity-Building

On October 24th, the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network is sponsoring a conference called Strengthening Nonprofits in an Age of Precious Resources. There are 27 workshops planned including Liz Walker discussing her work for Darfur, and Steve Grossman

talking about Presidential politics. Registration information is available at www.massnonprofitnet.org.

The Network also offers member services like a group purchasing plan, a trainings list, a resource directory, and health care access.

David wound up the program by making a pitch for acting counter to our natural inclination to bunker down in the face of bad financial news. In a recession, revenues drop as demand for services increases. According to David, together we can defeat Question 1, reduce the cost of compliance with the new 990, influence the state regulation of nonprofits, and recruit the volunteers we need to keep providing services. We can work with other organizations to share resources and build an online community of like-minded non-profits.

You can visit www.massnonprofitnet.org and join the organization.

Job Openings...

The NPFM group has a section on their website for job postings. Check out our website at www.npfm.org for a complete list of jobs. Contact David Richardson at dr44@verizon.net with questions or postings.

NPFM E-mail Forum

One of the benefits of membership in NPFM is a subscription to our e-mail listserv. We encourage members to post questions, announcements and new developments in finance and administration. All new members who provide e-mail addresses are automatically subscribed. To post messages send to npfm@topica.com

NPFM Steering Committee

The Steering Committee consists of several members who are responsible for the meeting topics, speakers, and other details surrounding the group. If you are interested in joining the steering committee, or in submitting ideas for future sessions, please contact any of the existing members, by e-mail or in person at a meeting.