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IGFOA partners with CM Services, Inc. to deliver more value to members

The Illinois Government Finance Officers Association and CM Services, Inc., announced a new partnership to raise the level of association support services, gain enhanced buying power and reduce overhead costs.

An IGFOA Executive Board task force began reviewing opportunities to improve association management services this past June, and with the Executive Board's input and approval, recently finalized a contract with CM Services. IGFOA President Tom Kuehne (Finance Director/Treasurer for the Village of Arlington Heights) cited the following benefits to the Association:

- move accounting and banking services, currently handled by IGFOA Board volunteers and staff, to central staff and software
- increase IGFOA's buying power for supplies and services such as insurance and printing and
- expand IGFOA's capability to tailor membership services

Rick Church, Head Coach, CM Services, Inc., welcomed the opportunity to work with IGFOA and emphasized that CM Services "strongly believes in partnering with associations to develop, maintain, and advance their missions."

Mr. Kuehne also thanked the Northern Illinois University for hosting IGFOA the past three years and noted that IGFOA expects to continue the relationships built while at the Center for Governmental Studies, particularly with the Accounting and Public Administration programs, along with affiliated local government associations. Robert Gleeson, Ph.D. Director NIU Center for Governmental Studies offered that, "We too look forward to continued good relations with IGFOA as you go about serving the needs of your members."

Aside from phasing in new contact information, IGFOA member services will continue to be provided without interruption. IGFOA members will receive updated telephone numbers and mailing address as the office moves in early 2011.

About IGFOA

Founded in 1958 the IGFOA is the statewide association of government finance professionals. Its mission is to promote excellence in governmental finance through leadership, education, professional development, peer support, and communication so as to advocate best practices and advance the competence and effectiveness of local government finance officers in Illinois. Membership in the Illinois GFOA helps government finance officers and professional staff to improve their workplace knowledge, skills and performance through the exchange of information and focused training.

Membership includes monthly email newsletter, weekly jobline newsletter, the on-line Membership Directory, access to the Members Information Exchange, exchange of documents used by government finance professionals in the Resource Center, the Financial Services Directory, discounted seminar and conference fees, chapter membership, advocacy on financial and technical issues of importance to IGFOA members, numerous opportunities for professional skill building and networking and a resource for information on hot topics.

About CM Services, Inc.

CM Services is an AMC Institute Charter Accredited association management company. This accreditation recognizes that CM Services professionally implements appropriate business practices. It also demonstrates the significant commitment CM Services has to its association partners.

CM Services' business philosophy is simple: Partnership. Focused long term cooperation between individuals and/or organizations and CM Services to achieve complimentary goals. The company has a strong, established reputation for excellent customer and association service and ascribes to the following values: Be trustworthy, Commit ourselves to each other, our company and the industries we serve, Act responsibly, Care about others, Grow every day, Have fun.

Answers to common questions that arose while the Executive Board worked on this arrangement are shared below. If you have additional questions, please contact IGFOA Executive Director Marianne Shank at 815-752-8959.

When will IGFOA move? Who should I contact if I have questions?

IGFOA is slated to move in February 2011. The new address is 800 Roosevelt Road, Building C, Suite 312, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137. CM Services, Inc. will be assigning a dedicated phone line for IGFOA members and announcements will go out to all members when the number changes in 2011. In the meantime you can reach IGFOA at 815-752-8941.

What will happen to the IGFOA staff?

Marianne Shank, Executive Director and Ruth Limpers, Meetings and Membership Coordinator will continue to serve as lead staff for IGFOA as part of the CM Services team. Partnering with CM Services will provide access to staff and vendors to support Marianne and Ruth as they deliver member services. In addition, CM Services commits to working with the IGFOA Executive Board to assure staff are cross-trained and to develop a succession plan should staff change in the future.

Will membership dues increase?

IGFOA has no plans to increase member dues in FY11. IGFOA and CM Services will be working together in the coming year to broaden IGFOA's member base and manage the association's costs.

Will this mean any other changes to the organization?

IGFOA will continue to be a member-directed association that relies on its members' work and guidance in its various committees. IGFOA's headquarters will move to CM Services in Glen Ellyn, with a change in mailing address and phone number.

What input will the Executive Board have regarding the cost of services, staffing decisions, and member services?

The IGFOA Executive Board will remain responsible for setting the strategic direction of the association, including member services. The Executive Board will work closely with CM Services to develop an annual budget to implement their strategic plan. Rick Church, CM Services notes that "Our basic partnership philosophy assures that the association maintains its financial viability and that CM Services' goal can only be met if our association partners are fiscally sound." In conducting due diligence, the IGFOA Executive Board task force found that CM Services is well regarded by long-term association partners for working with boards to address economic realities through innovation and belt-tightening. Other associations also lauded CM Services for great member services and effective communications with boards, volunteers, and members.

For additional information about CM Services, Inc. contact:

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For additional information about IGFOA contact:

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