



Association of Government Accountants

“Advancing Government Accountability”



Notes of Principal Interest

2005-2006 Chapter Year

Issue 1 September 2005

AGA Mission Statement

AGA serves government accountability professionals by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

Meeting Notice

September 21, 2005

Combined AGA Meeting and Audio Conference

(2 Hours of Free CPE)

St. Vincent's Desoto Room

12:30 to 3:00 pm

Details are on Page 2

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President's Message

By Marion Carlton

Enthusiasm can be contagious, especially at the annual AGA Professional Development Conference (PDC) and the Orlando PDC was no exception. This year's conference, attended by over 1600 people from all over the country, provided an opportunity to hear speakers such as Cynthia Cooper, former vice president of internal audit at WorldCom and Retired Army General Jack Keane.

Several people from the Central Arkansas Chapter were able to attend this year's conference including Bob Broughton, Kathleen Wingo, Brenda Jackson, Sandy Becker and myself. I am sure that we all agree that the PDC offers an excellent educational experience and ample opportunity to discuss governmental issues with other professionals from all parts of the country. I hope throughout this coming program year we can share some of this PDC enthusiasm with everyone in the chapter.

The national AGA staff did a tremendous job with this year's PDC. For more information about this year's PDC, you can go to the AGA national web site (www.agacgfm.org/pdc2005). The date for next year's PDC is already posted on the website so start planning for next year!



Celebrate Central Arkansas AGA Chapter 2005-2006 Program Year

**Join us for a special kick-off for our
2005-2006 program year**

What: Audio Conference on Ethics

When: September 21, 2005

Time: 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Where: De Soto Room, St Vincent's Infirmary

2 CPE hours available – FREE

Special Request from Your Board Members:

Since this is our first chapter meeting after the hurricane, we would like to have everyone bring an item to donate to the Katrina Relief efforts. We have donated to the National Chapter but this is for local relief funds. You may also donate cash at the door. Please respond to deanna.richardson@dfa.state.ar.us by September 14th so we can get an estimate of the number attending. We have to order the CPE certificates from national.

Central Arkansas AGA is pleased to participate in an audio conference addressing ethics presented by AGA, in conjunction with the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT), and the National Association of Local Government Auditors (N.A.L.G.A.).

Ethics is an individual and leadership issue. Ethics can affect a career, create obstacles and help determine one's success in an organization. What is intriguing about ethics is that people seem to get into difficulty when the rules are not specifically spelled out or they are not aware of their own organization's code of ethics. A recent major study on corporate ethics by the firm KPMG LLP underscores this reality.

To discuss the increased emphasis on ethics, the reasons why technology may be contributing to ethical issues, how some situations can be legal but unethical, how ethics can be a positive challenge for practical people and what the recent study on corporate ethics involving thousands of employees tells us, are Leon Young, Associate Professor, University of Maryland, and Scott Avelino, Director of Forensic Services, KPMG LLP.

Please join us for two hours of lively discussion about this important and timely topic.

Don't miss this!!

AGA CENTRAL ARKANSAS CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 1, 2005

1st Floor Conference Room, DFA Building
1509 West 7th Street
Teri Matthews, Secretary

Members Present:

Marion Carlton, President
Kathleen Wingo, President-Elect
Brenda Horner, Treasurer
Shirley Manning, Education Chair
Deanna Richardson, Programs Chair
Lisa Ricks, Membership Chair

Danny White, Community Service Co-Chair
Sandy Becker, Community Service Co-Chair
Richard Drilling, Co-Webmaster
Don Bellcock, Co-Webmaster
Teri Matthews, Secretary

The minutes of the June 6, 2005 executive committee meeting were read.

It was noted that executive committee members are performing a lot of the registration responsibilities that members believed PSI was to take over. Richard Drilling made a motion to approve the minutes. Danny White seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Marion Carlton mentioned that the Baton Rouge chapter hires a convention coordinator to organize seminars. Kathleen Wingo suggested the seminar coordinator that the Baton Rouge chapter uses be contacted for more information. Marion stated that we need to clarify our contracting documents. Kathleen suggested we formulate contract guidelines. Don Bellcock made a motion to form a committee to propose contract guidelines. Richard Drilling seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Marion Carlton appointed Don Bellcock (chair), Lisa Ricks, and Kathleen Wingo as committee members, and asked them to propose contract guidelines for the next monthly meeting.

Marion reminded executive committee members of the August 30 deadline for the Chapter Recognition Program plans. Kathleen Wingo suggested we track our progress in the newsletter.

Richard Drilling stated that we are looking at a proposed website for \$250.00. Don Bellcock mentioned that the website consists of 10-15 pages including contact information. The website will be updated monthly with the newsletter.

The board will vote via e-mail on a website name.

Sandy Becker made a motion to spend up to \$300.00 for the website and maintenance, and up to \$40.00 for a domain name. Kathleen Wingo seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Sandy Becker presented the financial statements and asked for clarification on our travel reimbursement policy. The general agreement was to follow the Federal guidelines. Richard Drilling made a motion to approve the financial statements. Danny White seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Marion Carlton requested that Sandy Becker and Brenda Horner develop a budget for the year. Sandy stated that we need to net \$7,000 from seminars to cover expenses. Marion asked Shirley Manning to propose seminar ideas to present at the September executive committee meeting.

Brenda Horner expressed a need for supplies, such as stamps, envelopes, etc. Deanna Richardson made a motion to allow Brenda to spend up to \$75 on supplies. Kathleen Wingo seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Brenda Horner asked if the board wanted to renew the bulk mail permit. Sandy Becker stated that the permit is used when advertising seminars. Richard Drilling made a motion to renew the bulk mail permit. Lisa Ricks seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Marion Carlton mentioned the need for a stockpile of gifts under \$25 to give to speakers. Sandy Becker made a motion to spend up to \$230 to purchase speaker gifts. Richard Drilling seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS CHAPTER OFFICERS 2005--2006

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SEMINAR NOTICES:

AGA and Providential Services, Inc.

Central Arkansas AGA Chapter is Co-Sponsoring A Governmental Accounting Series with Providential Services, Inc. (PSI) for the fall of 2005. Some seminars in this series have been presented but the following list is still open and available:

September 08 th	Internal Control Fraud & Ethics
September 26 th	Internal Control Fraud & Ethics
October 3 rd	Introduction to Governmental Accounting I: General Government Transactions
October 4 th	Policy Manual II
October 11 th	Introduction to Governmental Accounting II: Special Transactions and Financial Reporting
October 12 th	Understanding a CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report)
November 17 th	Policy Manual II
November 18 th	Accounting for Governmental Assets
November 22 nd	Understand Fraud Risk Factors in Governmental Entities-A SAS-99 Approach
November 29 th	Accounting for Governmental Liabilities
November 30 th	Understanding a CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report)
December 5 th	Policy Manual II
December 6 th	Recording Governmental Revenue and Other Financing Sources

Additional Information on these classes are available in the brochure emailed, by contacting Sherri Cathey at 501-847-5213 (email sherri@provsevicess.com) or Shirley Manning at 501-682-5241 (email shirley.manning@dfa.state.ar.us) Information is also available on Providential Services' website (www.provservices.com)

Arkansas Chapter of Certified Fraud Examiners:

The next meeting of the Arkansas Chapter of CFEs will be held at the **University of Arkansas System Administration Building, Board of Trustees Room, located at 2404 N. University, Little Rock**, Arkansas from 9:30 A. M. to 3 P. M. Mr. Toby Bishop, President and CEO of the Worldwide Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, will present a two-hour session on "Current Issues In Fraud". Mr. Jacob Flournoy, University of Arkansas System Internal Audit Director, will present a two-hour session on " Fraud Investigation". Forensic Accounting Professors in the State have been invited to attend the meeting. Please RSVP to Jana Moon at 501-683-8600 or <mailto:jmoon@lapo.state.ar.us> by September 8, 2005 if you are going to attend. We need an accurate count on the number of meals to order.

Date:	September 15, 2005
CPE Credit:	Four (4) hours (4 meetings per year)
Cost:	\$20 for 1year Membership plus \$10 for lunch (May be paid at door)

Future Meetings & Speakers:

Date	Speaker	Topic
Oct. 17, 2005	David Mosley & Shaleen Jacobson JPMS Cox, PLLC	E-mail Etiquette & Documentation
Nov. 21, 2005	Nancy Harris, UAMS	Stress Management
TBA	December, 2005 Holiday Party	
Jan. 17, 2006	Herbert Hemidez	Project Management
Feb. 21, 2006	Kim Hardwick	CGFM Certification: What is it and Why do I care?
Mar. 20, 2006	TBA	TBA
Apr. 17, 2006	Carl Inacone	Fixed Asset Accountability / Unique Inventory Issues
May 15, 2006	TBA	TBA
TBA	June, 2006 Awards Banquet	

ATTENTION: NEW CHAPTER WEBSITE

(This is our new Chapter website – However, the server is in New Orleans and it will be a while before it is up and running. Please keep checking the site. There will be a formal announcement as well.)





Benefits of the CGFM Certification, by Kim Hardwick, CPA, CGFM

The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) certification has been around since 1994. Needless to say, many of you have heard of the certification and probably know someone who has it. You may have even been thinking about getting the certification yourself. Here are some benefits that may sway your thinking into action!

Better Marketability. At one time or another, all of us have undoubtedly been convinced that we were underpaid and overworked. The CGFM certification may be the key that will open the gateway for you to secure a better paying job; it can very well set you above other applicants with equal experience but who do not have the CGFM certification.

Increased Learning. Many people have worked for government employers for many, many, years. However, because government programs are vast, and agencies are huge, many of us aren't exposed to the entire picture of what is involved in government financial reporting. By studying the CGFM material and taking the three tests, this experience will provide you with a much broader picture of how government programs operate. Your

understanding of state and local government, as well as the federal system, will be greatly enhanced.

Personal Achievement. Don't let anyone fool you. The CGFM exams will require some work. However, discipline and determination don't need to happen all at once – just one exam at a time. You have up to three years to pass all three tests and the tests can be taken in any order you wish. If you enjoyed History and Civics in school, take Exam #1 *Governmental Environment*, first. If you are an auditor, the material in Exam #3, *Governmental Financial Management and Control*, may prove to be surprisingly easy. If you are a degreed accountant, Exam #2, *Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting*, will provide some familiar topics to ease the anxiety of learning topics that may be unfamiliar to you. The CGFM certification is a mark of distinction and excellence in Federal, State, and Local Government.

Bottom Line. As one of my old college professors used to say: *This stuff isn't hard; it is just new.*"

Studying for CGFM Examination 1?

The new study guide for CGFM Examination 1 is here! See the national website for details and ordering information. www.agacgfm.org





Central Arkansas Chapter Welcomes the following New Members for May, June and July of 2005.

Mr. Robert Burns
Ms Suzanne M. Davenport
Mrs. Deborah Lynn Harper

Ms Elizabeth Harrison
Ms Jawanda Holloway
Mrs. Dhamnayanthi Mahadevan

News From National

There has been a change at national, The Regional Coordinator positions for Early Careers and Membership have just merged this summer. Don Bellcock will have a change of title and will share responsibilities with Marci Tureaud. This would change his title to "Regional Co-Coordinator of Early Careers and Membership"

Current News

AGA Announces Hurricane Relief Effort

Hurricane Katrina has devastated an entire region of the nation, where AGA has several chapters and many members. As a result, the Association is coordinating a fundraising campaign to assist those in need. The Association is collecting donations, which will be distributed to the AGA Chapters in the affected areas. The chapters will then determine how best to use the funds. AGA members are urged to make donations to the AGA Hurricane Relief Fund, which will directly benefit AGA members in need.

Make your checks payable to AGA, note "Hurricane Relief Effort" in the memo and send them to AGA, 2208 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301-1314. If you would like to make a contribution via credit card, please contact John Harris with the Finance Department at 703.562.0360, or fax your information to 703.519.0039. **All donations are tax deductible (Federal Tax ID #53-0217158)**. Because the need is urgent and immediate, please send your donation as soon as possible. If you have questions, please contact the AGA National Office at 800.242.7211. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

****Hurricane Katrina****

The thoughts of the entire AGA family are with our friends in Louisiana and Mississippi, where we have several vital chapters and many members. We will report any news we hear about our AGA members in this hard-hit region, so please check back to the AGA homepage for updates.



Community Service Opportunities for September

By Danny White and Sandy Becker Community Service Co-Chairs

Governor Mike Huckabee has proclaimed September as Arkansas Volunteer Month to honor one of the Natural State's most valuable resources – our volunteers. Volunteers raise the quality of life by helping the hungry and homeless. Volunteers protect the environment and coach our kids. Volunteer Month is an opportunity to say “Thank you” to our fellow citizens who give so freely of themselves. Show your appreciation to a volunteer you know – or become a volunteer yourself! Cultivate caring: Volunteer! For more information about Arkansas Volunteer Month contact: Selena Ellis at 501 682-7540.

September is the time for cleanups – help keep Arkansas the “Natural State”. See these websites for when and where.

<http://www.npld.com/involved/arkansas.cfm>

www.petitjeanstatepark.com

lakecatherine@arkansas.com

The Greater Arkansas Chapter of the American Red Cross is in need of blood donations. Call the Red Cross Center 501 614-4410 or drop in at 401 South Monroe (across from the Little Rock Zoo) to donate.

The Arkansas Bicycle Club's ARKY 100 ride will be September 25, 2005 in Sheridan. They need people to man the rest/refreshment stations. See <http://www.arkansasbicycleclub.org/> for more information on the Arky 100.

Note: The Chapter will be collecting items and donations at each event or meeting this year.



**Central Arkansas AGA
Balance Sheet
August 31, 2005**

Assets:

Current Assets	
Checking	\$ 46,341.26
CDs	<u>6,449.67</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 52,790.93</u>

Liabilities and Capital:

Total Liabilities	\$17,175.00
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Capital

Beg Bal Equity	\$ 9,862.89
Equity – Retained Earnings	26,500.69
Net Income	<u>(747.65)</u>
Total Liabilities and Capital	<u>\$ 52,790.93</u>

Note:

Copies of previous months are available by contacting Brenda Horner, Treasurer at Brenda.horner@dfa.state.ar.us

HAVE YOU MOVED, HAD A NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OR E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGE???

Please update your information on the AGA National Website www.agacqfm.org and notify Lisa Ricks, Membership Chair at lisa.ricks@arkansas.gov

Editor's Notes:

To all who submit articles and information for the Newsletter, The editors would like to say a large **THANK YOU!** Please continue to do so by contacting either Kathleen Wingo at kathleen.wingo@arkansas.gov or Sherri Cathey at sherri@provservices.com. In order to get the newsletter out before each Monthly Meeting, we need to have all articles in by the 8th of the month! We also welcome comments and suggestions.

We also want to add our personal request for donations to the Katrina Relief fund; this will be an ongoing need for some time.

Kathleen Wingo, Co-Editor