



Capitol Topics

December 2011

President's Message

AGA Austin held its' first 4-hour CPE event. Did you go? Great topics and the casual atmosphere, made this a remarkable learning experience (the pastries helped with that too). As agencies see their budgets shrink, we know that funding for things like training are miniscule. That's why AGA Austin is looking forward to providing more CPE events at a reasonable cost for our members.

Do you have any feedback to suggestions for future events? We would love to hear from you. We look forward to seeing you at our next event!

I. Mara Ash
President, Austin Chapter

Upcoming CPE Event

Planning & Conducting Interviews in Audits and Fraud Investigations

Date: Thursday, December 8, 2011
Time: 11:30 am - 12:50 pm
Place: Corazon at Castle Hill
1101 West 5th Street
Speaker: Dr. Carolyn Conn, CPA, CFE
Associate Professor of Accounting,
St. Edwards University
Registration: Patricia Aguilera
patty.aguilera@ers.state.tx.us

Dr. Carolyn Conn is an Associate Professor of Accounting at St. Edward's University. She has a BBA in Accounting from Stephen F. Austin State University and an MBA and Ph.D. (Accounting) from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Dr. Conn has held several administrative positions in higher education in Texas, including: Payroll & Budget Director at Lamar University in Beaumont, Controller at Lamar-Orange, and Associate Vice-President of Financial Services & Treasurer at Texas State University in San Marcos. Her presentations and publications have been in the areas of fraud/ forensic accounting and ethics. She is a CPA and a Certified Fraud Examiner.

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Seasons'
Greetings



Community Service

PLAY BINGO LADIES LUNCHEON

The Play Bingo Ladies Luncheon hosted by the Centers for Child Protection on October 29, 2011 was a ton of fun to both the women who were participants in the event and the volunteers who helped put the event together. The room was set up in zebra print and the women who were playing bingo joined in the Halloween weekend fun and dressed in costumes and fun hats.

Each table of women had a fun theme. Several tables had a witch theme. Two tables had a hat theme in which the host of the table made a hat to fit each person at the table. The volunteers had a lot of fun monitoring the silent auction tables and seeing all the great costumes and hats. The event was filled with excitement as women won the bingo games and tables won prizes. Each table that won tried to outdo the last winning table on excitement.



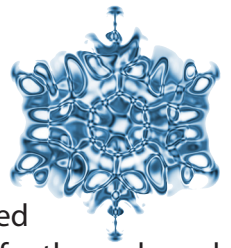
Let's give a big hand to Lynda Baker, Michelle Bauman, Lesli Cathey, and Debi Weyer. A special thank you goes out to family and friends of AGA members, Carolyn Cadena, Kirby Cathey, and Bonnie Phillips for helping with this great fun event.

DANCING WITH THE AUSTIN STARS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2011

Centers for Child Protection are hosting the Fifth Annual Dancing with the Austin Stars! The Centers for Child Protection's mission is to reduce the trauma for children during the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases. Each year, the success of this event has allowed the Center to provide more services to kids, teens and their families including pet therapy, an interactive ropes course, and psychiatric services.

This unique event will be held at the [Hilton Austin on 500 East 4th St from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Sunday, December 4th](#). The event will feature Austin celebrities paired with professional dancers for a ballroom dance performance and a unique

evening of entertainment that you will definitely enjoy! The 2011 event will be a night of fun as a new group of community members' dance-off for the coveted mirror ball trophy to raise money for the abused children of Austin. The festivities will include a live auction, a raffle drawing for a Lexus vehicle, and dancing. A whole lot of fun packed into one evening. If you would like to volunteer or want more information, please email Lynda Baker at bright_sunny_disp@yahoo.com.



TAX ASSISTANCE

Community Tax Centers program needs over 700 volunteers to help complete the 20,000 tax returns anticipated for this year and bring in over \$32 million in refunds to the Austin economy. In order to secure those 700 active volunteers the Center will need to recruit more than 1000 people. This year the Center will have 10 area sites running in Austin, Round Rock, and Del Valle. The Center provides free tax assistance for the low income families and individuals in the Austin area. This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity that is really helping to lift people out of poverty and increase spending in the Austin economic market. The website is www.communitytaxcenters.org. Please contact Jackie Blair, the Volunteer Coordinator for the Community Tax Centers program for more information at jackie.blair@foundcom.org or 512-610-7377. If you volunteer, please turn in your hours to Lynda Baker at bright_sunny_disp@yahoo.com.

HOLIDAY GIVING

We are excited about sponsoring a family of 8 with the Centers for Child Protection. The children are victims of abuse and neglect. Please bring wrapped gifts and donations to the December luncheon on December 8th. These donations will be delivered to the Centers for Child Protection right after the meeting. To ensure that gifts are distributed evenly, please contact Lynda Baker at bright_sunny_disp@yahoo.com to sign up for an item and obtain the child's name.


The wish list and donation guidelines are described as follows:

Name	Age	Gender	Shirt Size	Pant Size	Shoe Size	Special Request
Child 6	2	F	4	4	8	Baby doll with bottle and blocks
Child 5	4	M	5	5	6	Cars and Soccer ball
Child 4	6	F	6	6	12	Hello Kitty, dolls, and a kitchen set
Child 3	7	F	8	10	2	Hello Kitty, dolls, and a kitchen set
Child 2	10	F	10	12	5	Art, Hello Kitty, Barbie, Barbie house set, and desk
Child 1	13	M	Adult M	16 Husky	Adult 8½	Mens clothing/shoes. Favorite colors green and blue
Dad	29	M	M	30 x 28	8 - 8½	
Mom	32	F	M	5/7	7-7½	Clothes for children

Gift Guidelines:

- If possible, please wrap gifts. If they are wrapped please provide a detailed list of the contents.
- Do not put any locating information such as your address, phone number or last name on the gifts.
- The children we serve are victims of abuse and neglect. Provocative clothing, explicit music or t-shirts, etc. are not appropriate. We also ask that you not give items that have been used or worn.
- Each gift should be labeled with a gift contents tag attached to indicate family number and the recipient's name. Gifts can be placed in a large bag and labeled with the family number for easier transportation.

In addition to the tag that has the children's name and From Santa, please loosely add this tag.



Family Number: 1

Name of Child:

Detailed Contents of Gift:

Treasurer's Report

FOR THE MONTH ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2011

Beginning cash balance per book	\$6,479.08
Plus: Revenues	
Luncheon meetings	195.00
Dividend	0.54
Total Revenues	195.54
Funds Available	6,674.62
Less: Expenditures	
October luncheon meeting	456.60
Annual audit fees	25.00
One audio conference CD	95.95
Total Expenditures	577.55
Ending cash balance per book	6,097.07
Adjustments:	
Outstanding checks	244.44
Ending cash balance per bank statement	5,852.63

For more details, Please visit our website at <http://www.agaustin.org/TReports.html>

Bronze Sponsorship



Membership

NEW MEMBER

Please join us to welcome Patricia A. Robinson who joined our chapter in November 2011.

ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to W. Scott Erwin who reached his one year anniversary in November 2011.

Research

WHY DO THEY CALL IT THE “YELLOW BOOK”?

The Yellow Book goes by many names:

- Government Auditing Standards,
- Generally Accepted Government Audit Standards,
- GAGAS (I love that one... pronounced “gag us”), and, of course,
- The Yellow Book.

If you are a CPA, you can earn free CPE credit by testing the self-study course, “The Yellow Book Interpreted” Qualifications and deadlines apply.

Until very recently, to get the standard, you had to purchase an actual little Yellow Book from the government. Now the standards and all of the related updates are available on the GAO’s website at www.gao.gov. As of this writing, the 2011 Internet Version of GAGAS is online. The reason they have only an internet version is that the AICPA (American Institute of Certified Public Accountants) is going through a significant rewrite of their auditing standards, which they call “the clarification project.” The GAO will finalize their version once they are certain that the AICPA standards turn out as they expect.

Why does the Yellow Book exist?

The GAO is the legislative auditor for the federal

government. The GAO changed their name from the General Accounting Office to the Government Accountability Office. They first published the Yellow Book back in the 1970s as a guide for their own auditors. At some point, they decided to share their guide with the public.



In 1984, Congress passed a law called the Single Audit Act. The Single Audit Act is what made the Yellow Book a bestseller! The purpose of the law was to reduce the number of audits that recipients of federal grants had to tolerate. Before the Single Audit Act, it was common for several parties – the grantor (the feds), the state agency responsible for administering the grant, and the sub-recipient of the grant – to audit a particular grant. Once I was the accountant for two new federal grants. I was audited by the federal grantor, the state auditor, and the internal auditor – all within the span of a month!

But with passage of the Single Audit Act, the Yellow Book became a more significant standard for a larger group of auditors. The Single Audit Act (interpreted by the OMB in OMB Circular A-133) states that the audit should be conducted in accordance with all the requirements contained in the Act and also follow Government Auditing Standards. Specifically, OMB Circular A-133 says, “...audits will be conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.” And, as we know, generally accepted government auditing standards is nicknamed the Yellow Book.

The Yellow Book has to be called into play by someone else

Just because the Yellow Book exists does not mean you have to follow it in conducting a governmental audit. The Yellow Book has to be called forth by something or someone external to it. The GAO doesn’t say it exactly the way I did.

Please [click here](#) for more information on this article.

- Leita Hart-Fanta, CPA