



CAPITOL TOPICS

DECEMBER 2012

PRESIDENT MESSAGE



The Holidays are fast approaching! Through our community engagement and active giving, the Austin Chapter has made a positive impact here in Central Texas and I know that will continue into the New Year. Many thanks to you all for your generosity with efforts including Food Bank, Austin Dancing with the Stars, charity bingo and our Holiday Family giving. If you are interested in these efforts and others, please contact Lynda Baker to help out. You can reach Lynda at bright_sunny_disp@yahoo.com - Thanks Lynda!

We've enjoyed a good year thus far with engaging speakers and interesting topics. I'll strive to keep that trend active during our upcoming December luncheon. Please attend if you have any questions about the roles that we may have in developing privacy frameworks for our employers. Your chapter officers and chairs have worked hard to foster engagement with local professionals and to continue the string of successful luncheons and evening events. If you have any feedback on future events or topics you'd like to see, please let me know. We hope to see you soon and if not, happy holidays to you and your families.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul Morris
President, AGA Austin Chapter



Upcoming Event

Identity Theft - Corporate Risks and Controls

This session will provide a review of common risks to data at rest and in transit between entities; discussion of controls that can minimize risk to client and employee data; and a look at entity management and auditor roles in an entity's overall privacy framework.

Date/Time: Thursday, December 13, 2012 - 11:30am-1:00pm
Location: Scholz Garten - 1607 San Jacinto Blvd Austin TX 78701
* Parking at the top of Garage "B"
CPE Credit: 1 Hour
Registration: Send email to Adana Barry - Adana.Barry@austintexas.gov

(If you prefer a vegetarian dish, please let Adana know when registering)

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HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the October 18, 2012



Call to order

Paul Morris called to order the Executive Committee Meeting at 12:00 PM on Thursday, October 18, 2012.

Roll call

The following members were in attendance physically at the ERS Conference Room – Longhorn Annex: Paul Morris, Aaron Dvorak, Mari Queller, Sharita Coyle, and Eddie Chan. The following members were in attendance via conference call: Autumn Bellfield, Adana Berry, Kadie Weyer, and Debi Weyer.

Approval of Minutes

- The Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for August 16, 2012 has been approved via e-mail by the majority of the Executive Committee members.
- A motion was made to approve the Luncheon Minutes for September 20, 2012 and Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for September 27, 2012. The motion was seconded and approved by the Executive Committee.

AGA Wishes

You A

Happy Holiday



Educational Update

For the second luncheon on October 11th, 31 people attended, \$855.00 was collected, and \$475.00 was paid out in expenses.

Charitable contributions

- The Austin Chapter has chosen not to accept the Wreaths Across America challenge from the San Antonio Chapter. However, there was a motion to donate \$150.00, which will sponsor 10 wreaths. The motion was

seconded and approved by the Executive Committee.

- **Ryan Woodward**, a federal employee who has attended both luncheons this year, asked if the Austin chapter would make a donation to the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). A motion was made to donate \$100.00 to a child advocacy related agency. The motion was seconded and approved.

Membership Mixer

Congratulations to our raffle winners:

- **Michael Needham** (free membership) and
 - **Eddie Chan** (free luncheon).
- We would also like to thank everyone who came out and supported the Chapter's continued growth.

Open position – President Elect

- The President Elect position is now vacant. Responsibilities of the President Elect includes handling awards nomination process as well as keeping track of chapter points on a regular basis.
- Paul Morris is tracking the chapter's points until the position is filled.

Roundtable discussions

- Eddie Chan is looking into database services for online registration. One of the issues that if a hosting service is used a maximum of 10 connections can be used, and if someone registers online and doesn't log off properly, their connection will be unavailable for anyone else to use.
- A motion was made to buy a second voice recorder so the Secretary and backup Secretary can each have a recorder. The motion was seconded and approved.

For details of our meeting minutes, please visit our website at:

<http://www.agaaustin.org/ECMinutes.html>



Upcoming Event

Thursday, December 13th 2012

Identity Theft – Corporate Risks and Controls

Speaker



Paul Morris, CPA, CIA
Director of Internal Audit (DFPS)
President, AGA Austin Chapter

Membership News

A Welcome to our newest members

- Charmaine Horton, Employees Retirement System (ERS).
- Erin Williams, Employees Retirement System (ERS).
- Heath Roberie, University of Texas at Austin.

ANNIVERSARIES



10 Years
 Mrs. Sandra Vale Moore,
 CGFM, CPA

15 years
 Ms. Henrietta Cameron-Mann

If you have an anniversary approaching, please let us know.



Treasurer's Report

For the period ending 10/31/2012

For the period ending 10/31/2012			
Beginning Bank Balance 09/30/2012			\$8,458.91
Revenue:			
	Luncheon 9/20/12		\$315.00
	Credit Cards - Square Luncheon 10/11/12		\$213.92
	Luncheon 10/11/12 \$210.00, \$95.00 for Patty Pratt New Memberhsip		\$305.00
	Dept of Family Protective Services		\$130.00
	General Land Office		\$20.00
	Membership Fees from Nat'l		\$32.50
	Dividend through September 30, 2012		\$0.71
	Total Revenue		\$1,017.13
Funds Available			\$9,476.04
Expenditures:			
Date	Check No./Credit Card.		
10/02/12	CC	USA Hosting	\$87.89
10/05/12	2160	TX Bd of Public Accountancy	\$400.00
10/13/12	CC	Scholz Garten Luncheon 10/11/12	\$475.54
10/17/12	CC	Nat'l - Membership Dues for Patty Pratt	\$95.00
10/18/12	2161	*Eric Cruz Scholarship winner for 2011-2012	\$165.00
10/24/12	CC	Ronald McDonald House Charities	\$150.00
	Total Expenditures		\$1,373.43
Ending Bank Balance 10/31/12			\$8,102.61
Check Register Reconciliation:			
Ending Bank Balance 10/31/12			\$8,102.61
Outstanding Checks:			
Date	Check No.	Description	
	Total Outstanding Checks		\$0.00
Outstanding Deposits:			
	Date	Description	
	Total Outstanding Deposits		\$0.00
Adjusted Ending Bank Balance @ 10/31/12			\$8,102.61
Total Chapter Cash Available Per Check Register @ 10/31/12			\$8,102.61
Cash On Hand:			
		CU Min Savings Balance	\$5.00
		Luncheon Bank	\$40.00
* This completes the \$250.00 Scholarship to winner Eric Cruz			



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Play Bingo Ladies Luncheon

The Play Bingo Ladies Luncheon hosted by the Centers for Child Protection on October 27, 2012 as a ton of fun to both the women who were participants in the event and the volunteers who helped put the event together. Let's give a big hand to **Lesli Cathey** and **Mackinsey Cathey** for helping with this great fun event.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

The **AGA** Austin Chapter **donated \$100** to Capital Area Food Bank for the Thanksgiving Food Drive. The mission of the Capital Area Food Bank is to nourish hungry people and lead the community in ending hunger.

Dancing with the Austin Stars

Centers for Child Protection held the Sixth Annual Dancing with the Austin Stars! The Austin AGA Chapter assisted with the Stars at the **Hilton Austin on Sunday, December 2nd**. Many thanks to Lynda Baker and her team of volunteers who represented the chapter.

Updates are coming up in January on this outstanding event!!!

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 **Nick Banach**, the Volunteer Coordinator for the Community Tax Centers program for more information Nick.Banach@foundcom.org or call **512-610-7396**.

*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 7** with the Centers for Child Protection. The children are victims of abuse and neglect. Please bring wrapped gifts with the tag below and donations to the **December luncheon**. 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.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

"Tax ID Theft on the Rise"

More than 640,000 taxpayers were affected by identity theft last year, up from 270,500 in 2010, according to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, and taxpayers whose identities are stolen receive confusing and conflicting instructions from the IRS.

Tax-related ID theft can take several forms, noted Raul Vargas, manager of fraud operations for IDTheft911, which works with major insurance and financial institutions. "Historically, people have committed fraud for years, by taking a legitimate tax refund that has all of the taxpayer's accurate information on it, and redirecting the funds from the return to a fraudulent account," he said. "In the past this was a fairly small operation, but it's gotten a lot larger lately. They can either take a legitimate return and redirect the funds, or file a completely fictitious return where only the name and SSN are accurate, but the actual taxpayer has no knowledge of the return."

The next step in the process was when e-filing became popular and easy to do, around the 2009 filing season, Vargas indicated. "There was a large increase in two different types of strategies that fraudsters used. The first was to set up bogus brick-and-mortar tax filing locations, and give them a name of one of the widespread franchises services," he said. "These locations would pop up and then disappear just as quickly. They would save peoples' returns and file them in one large batch, with a bogus account. On the day they filed, they would know the payout schedule and have all the funds directed to the same account on the same payout day, and then disappear."

Please follow this link to read more about the article.
http://www.accountingtoday.com/ato_issues/26_11/Tax-ID-theft-on-the-rise-64492-1.html