



# CAPITOL TOPICS

FEBRUARY 2013

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### President

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### President-Elect Vacant

### Immediate Past President

Mara Ash  
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### Secretary

Autumn Bellfield  
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### Treasurer

Mari Queller  
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### Research Chair

Vacant

### Education/Programs Committee

Debi Weyer  
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### Communications Committee

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### CGFM Committee

Bernard Ndoping-Angandje  
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### Community Service Committee

Lynda Baker  
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### Awards Committee

Patty Aguilera  
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### Membership Committee

Kadie Weyer, Chair  
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Aaron Dvorak, Co-chair  
Aaron.Dvorak@ers.state.tx.us

### CPE Events Committee

Adana Barry  
Adana.barry@austintexas.gov

### Chapter Historian

Sharita Coyle  
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### Webmaster

Eddie Chan  
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### Regional VP

Bob.Broughton@arkansas.gov

## PRESIDENT MESSAGE

February already – we are quickly winding through the AGA year. With the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Regular Session well underway, many of our state government friends and colleagues are busily working, supporting their Government Relations staff. We'll see what changes are afoot for Texas State Government. I've found that one of the greatest benefits of AGA membership is the exposure to the challenges and accomplishments of several agencies outside of my own. We have much to gain from those relationships. If you can, please come by our February 14<sup>th</sup> luncheon to hear Legislative Budget Board Executive Director Ursula Parks. Ms. Parks will discuss the State budget process for us, and we look forward to her presentation. It promises to be very informative and interesting. I also need to note that we have launched our online registration process, and by all accounts its quick, easy and working well – please check out the link on our training page!

There are three more luncheons planned for the remainder of the year. We look forward to connecting with you at Scholz's. We have additional community volunteer events approaching, so watch for this chance to represent the profession and the chapter. In coming weeks we'll have more information regarding how you can help us at an event introducing government accounting to students at Texas State University. Please join us for these opportunities and more.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Morris, Chapter President



## Upcoming Event

Ms. Parks has been directly involved in the development of budget and policy recommendations for numerous state agencies and institutions within all state government functions; for much of her tenure she was involved specifically in the area of public education finance. She is an expert not only in big-picture state fiscal policy but also in the minutiae of developing state appropriations.

**Date/Time:** Thursday, February 14, 2013 - 11:30am-1:00pm  
**Location:** Scholz Garten - 1607 San Jacinto Blvd Austin TX 78701  
**\* Park 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)

# HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the January 17, 2012



Since its inception in 1994, the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) has become the standard by which government financial management professionals are measured. Its [education](#), [experience](#) and [ethics requirements](#) have served to elevate the most seasoned financial professionals.

More than 15,000 individuals have received the designation so far. Now it's your turn. Experience the benefits of certification first hand—the CGFM is the mark of excellence in your profession.

For more information, Please follow this link. <http://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification/The-Value-of-CGFM.aspx>

## **Call to order**

Paul Morris called to order the Executive Committee Meeting at 12:00 PM on Thursday, January 17, 2012.

## **Roll call**

The following members were in attendance physically either at the ERS Conference Room – Longhorn Annex or via conference call: Paul Morris, Aaron Dvorak, Mari Queller, Sharita Coyle, Autumn Bellfield and Mara Ash

## **Old Business and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The Executive Committee minutes for November and December 2012 were sent out via e-mail on December 22, 2012. The minutes need to be approved electronically via e-mail. So far, four people have approved the minutes. Two more approvals are needed.

## **Education**

- January 2013 luncheon went smooth although the Scholz Garten staff was a little noisy at times.
- The speaker did use the audio/visual equipment. Eddie did bring a backup projector just in case there were technical issues with the audio/visual equipment.
- Please begin to think about where you would like to have future luncheons located. There were some suggestions at the meeting today, which include Crowne Plaza, Joy East, Texas Land & Cattle, and Catfish Parlour.
- Our AGA chapter is going to invite [Debbie Alvarado](#) to an Executive Committee meeting to talk about how we can partner with Becker to increase membership and education.

- Mara is going to send out a brief description and guest link for a credential/certification tracking website. This website allows users to track the CPE taken and apply that CPE to one or different certifications earned. This website may benefit our chapter by driving traffic to our luncheons. We will take a vote on this at the next Executive Committee meeting.

## **Treasurer's Report Update**

- Our chapter made a profit for the last luncheon. Approximately \$630.00 was received for 21 luncheon participants, and approximately \$495.00 was paid out in expenses.
- Keep in mind that the focus on the chapter should be on education, professional development, and community service, and not so much about making a surplus of money.
- So far this year, our chapter has donated \$500.00 to community service events, and as of December 2012 there is about \$7,600.00 available.

## **Roundtable Discussion**

- **Research Chair**– We are looking into filling the position as it is vacant as of right now.
- Autumn - Finishing up luncheon minutes; Executive Committee minutes are up-to-date.
- Sharita – Please continue to send photos for our annual historical book.
- Aaron – Working on the national letter with Kadie.
- Paul – Received responses back from annual financial review and the CCR report was submitted.

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

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

## Upcoming Event

February 14, 2013

### State Budget Process

#### Speaker



Ursula Parks, Director of the Texas Legislative Budget Board (LBB).

Ursula Parks is the Director of the Texas Legislative Budget Board (LBB). Ms. Parks has been on the staff of the LBB since 1993. During her tenure at the LBB, Ms. Parks has worked in various capacities including as a budget analyst, a budget team manager, an assistant director, and as the agency's deputy director.

Ms. Parks has been directly involved in the development of budget and policy recommendations for numerous state agencies and institutions within all state government functions; for much of her tenure she was involved specifically in the area of public education finance. She is an expert not only in big-picture state fiscal policy but also in the minutiae of developing state appropriations.

Ms. Parks is a life-long Austinite, and holds a bachelor's degree from American University.

## Membership News

A **Welcome** to our newest members:

- Tynetta Ballinger– Department of Veteran Affairs.
- Janne Palmer– Texas State University in San Marcos.

## ANNIVERSARIES

### 1 Year

Mr. Alberto Canales  
Ms. Jeanne L. Yanga

### 5 years

Mr. Phillip R. Ashley, CGFM  
Ms. Zulay A. Sanchez, CGFM



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

## Research Article

### The Texas Budget Process: A Primer

The Texas budget process begins during the year prior to each regular session of the state's Legislature, which are held in odd-numbered years.

Each state agency prepares a detailed legislative appropriations request (LAR) under the guidelines of the state's Legislative Budget Board (LBB). These LARs itemize the funding each agency feels it needs to pursue its various tasks, and include performance measures designed to ensure the money is spent efficiently and effectively.

These LARs generally are sent to LBB, the Comptroller's office and several other state agencies by the end of summer or in early fall. The LBB and the Governor's Office of Budget, Planning and Policy hold hearings on their content.

In the fall before the session, LBB uses the LARs as a basis to prepare a draft of the state's general appropriations bill, which will provide state agencies and institutions with funding for the following two fiscal years.

At the beginning of the legislative session, the Comptroller's office issues its biennial revenue estimate (BRE), a careful estimate of the funds likely to be available from taxes and other revenue sources over the next two years. The Texas Constitution makes the BRE a cap on legislative spending for this period.

*Please Follow the link below to read more about the article*  
[http://www.texas Transparency.org/budget/Budget\\_Primer.php](http://www.texas Transparency.org/budget/Budget_Primer.php)

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

**"A Thank You Note from a mother of the family that AGA adopted for Christmas"**



To whom ever gave my children a wonderful Christmas,

Thank you so much it meant a lot to them to have something nice.

It was all greatly appreciated!

Thank you Very Very Much!



**"A Thank you to all of you for making Christmas a better holiday for families, especially children"**



## Treasurer's Report

For the period ending 01/31/2013

**Beginning Bank Balance 12/31/12 \$7,538.60**

**Revenue:**

Credit Cards - Square Luncheon 01/10/13 \$164.98  
Luncheon 01/10/13 \$460.00

AGA National Membership Fees \$25.00  
Dividend through December 31, 2012 \$0.65

**Total Revenue \$650.63**

**Funds Available \$8,189.23**

**Expenditures:**

Date	Check No./ Credit Card.	Description	Amount
01/30/13	CC	Texas Secretary of State - Copy of Articles of Incorporation/verify 990-N filed w/ IRS	\$5.65
01/10/13	CC	Scholz Garten Luncheon 01/10/13	\$495.37
<b>Total Expenditures</b>			<b>\$501.02</b>

01/30/13 CC Texas Secretary of State - Copy of Articles of Incorporation/verify 990-N filed w/ IRS \$5.65

01/10/13 CC Scholz Garten Luncheon 01/10/13 \$495.37

**Total Expenditures \$501.02**

**Ending Bank Balance 01/31/13 \$7,688.21**

**Check Register Reconciliation:  
Ending Bank Balance 01/31/13 \$7,688.21**

**Outstanding Checks:**

Date	Check No.	Description	Amount
<b>Total Outstanding Checks</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>

**Outstanding Deposits:**

Date	Description	Amount
<b>Total Outstanding Deposits</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

**Adjusted Ending Bank Balance @ 01/31/13 \$7,688.21**

**Total Chapter Cash Available Per Check Register @ 01/31/13 \$7,688.21**

**Cash On Hand:**

CU Min Savings Balance	\$5.00
Luncheon Bank	\$40.00