



CAPITOL TOPICS

SEPTEMBER 2013

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PRESIDENT MESSAGE



All, welcome back from a (hopefully) restful summer. We are excited about the start of the 2013-14 year for the Austin Chapter of AGA. As continuing president for the Austin Chapter, I am excited about the continued direction of our group. For the upcoming year, luncheons will move back to Carmelo's – a move that we hope will allow for continued growth in luncheon participation. We plan to continue offering high-quality courses and provide solid networking opportunities for our membership and guests. As in past years, community service will continue to be a large part of what we do; we'll also continue our efforts to interest local university students in accounting, management and finance in a career in government accounting. Please help us by raising awareness of our monthly luncheons and networking opportunities when you can.

Jana Owen will be our luncheon presenter in September at Carmelo's, speaking on "Discovering Your Memory Power". Mark your calendars accordingly. In addition, our annual training calendar is available on our website, and includes information on the presenters lined up for the upcoming year.

I look forward to working with you again this year and hope you'll join our networking and educational opportunities on a regular basis. As always, thanks in advance for your continued support. Respectfully submitted,

Paul Morris
President, AGA Austin Chapter

UPCOMING EVENT

Discovering Your Memory Power

To present you with techniques for achieving a more powerful memory to help you be more effective and reduce stress. After this one-hour course you will be able to remember names and faces, presentations (without notes), to-do lists, numbers, dates, appointments, and information from books and conferences. Results of memory training also include a boost in confidence and better time management! This memory training class is ideal for business professionals.

Date/Time: Thursday, September 12, 2013 - 11:30am-1:00pm
Location: Carmelo's 504 E. 5th St. Austin TX 78701
CPE Credit: 1 Hour
Registration: <http://www.agaaustin.org/aga-austin-reg.html>

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

Historian Report



Membership

As of May 2012, the Austin Chapter had 102 members. As of May 2013, Chapter membership increased to 123 members, an approximate 20% increase from the previous year. During the year, 11 new members (no previous affiliation) joined the Chapter:

Tynetta Ballinger, Department of Veteran Affairs

Sharita Coyle, Texas Department of Family & Protective Services

Charmaine Horton, Employees Retirement System of Texas

Michael Needham, Texas Education Agency

Janne Palmer, Texas State University in San Marcos

Patricia Pratt, Texas Association of Counties

Michael Poolos, Grant Thornton

Lorna Schwimmer, Grant Thornton

Heath Roberie, University of Texas at Austin

Tennyle Walker, Grant Thornton

Erin Williams, Employees Retirement System of Texas

We recognize longtime members who have reached their 5, 10, 15, 20 and 30 year milestone anniversary during the Chapter year because they continue to show their commitment and support for the AGA by renewing their membership each year. Some even volunteer to serve on committees or are on the Executive Committee. Members reaching a milestone in 2012-2013 include:

5 YEARS:

Mr. Phillip R. Ashley, CPA, CGFM

Ms. Jennifer D. Henry

Ms. Zulay A. Sanchez, CGFM

10 YEARS:

Ms. Tamera Lyn Atkins

Ms. Michele T. Bauman

Mrs. Sandra Vale Moore, CPA, CGFM

Ms. Vickie M. Warfield

15 YEARS:

Ms. Henrietta Cameron-Mann

Ms. Dianne H. Casey, CGFM-Retired

Dr. Carlton R. Hakett, CGFM-Retired

Ms. Lucila R. Trevino, CPA

20 YEARS:

Mr. Monday N. Rufus, CGFM

Ms. Helen S. Young

30 YEARS:

Mr. Pete Rose, CGFM

The Chapter also held our Annual Chapter Member Appreciation and Recruitment Mixer on November 7, 2013, organized by our Membership chair and co-chair, **Kadie Weyer and Aaron Dvorak**, respectively. The

mixer, held at Central Market on North Lamar in Austin, was an opportunity for executive committee members and members to relax and be appreciated for all their hard work and involvement in AGA throughout the year, while also promoting AGA by having our members mingle with invited guests who were interested in joining the Chapter. Additionally, our Chapter was honored to host our AGA National President, **Evelyn Brown** at this year's event where she had an opportunity to meet and greet members and guests in a casual venue.

Education, CGFM & Scholarships

In addition to the 10 CPE hours offered via the monthly luncheons, the Chapter was able to offer 6 more CPE hours by hosting three 2-hour audio conferences in conjunction with the luncheons. The audio conference topics included:

- *Data Mining to Prioritize Investigations of Contract Fraud* (Bryan Jones, Director of Data Mining Group, Office of Investigations, Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Postal Service; and Antonia de Medinaceli, Director of Business Analytics & Fraud Detection, Elder Research, Inc.), presented after the November 2012 luncheon;
- *Getting a Handle on Internal Controls* (William D. Miller, CGFM, CIA, County Auditor, Johnson County, Kansas and Member, AGA National Executive Committee), presented after the January 2013 luncheon;
- *Using Performance Information to Drive Performance Improvement* (Harold I. Steinberg, CGFM, CPA, Consultant; and Toni Trombecky, Performance Improvement Officer and Manager, Strategic Planning Division, Federal Aviation Administration), presented after the May 2013 luncheon.

Collectively, the luncheons and audio conferences provided attendees with an opportunity to earn up to 16 CPE hours.

Community Service and Awards

The Austin Chapter is excited to report that we exceeded the number of volunteer hours that are required for Community Service for the 2012-2013 year. We want to thank everyone who helped make this year a success!

A Special Note:

Many of our members volunteer throughout the year on their own with various non-profits including Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, etc. A big thank you to all of those who give of their time and talents to help those who are less fortunate. However, a *Special Thank You* goes to **Lynda Baker** who dedicated her time, love, Passion and efforts to make it all happen. Thank You **Lynda** for all you have done this year. We are so lucky and privileged to have you!



2013 Edition of
CGFM Study
Guide 3

Luncheons

The Chapter was successful in recruiting speakers for nine luncheon presentations. These engagements provided members and guests an opportunity to earn a total of 10 CPE hours. The speakers for those events include the following:

September 2012: **Dr. Urton Anderson**, CIA, CCSA, CGAP, CFSA, CCEP, a Clark W. Thompson Jr. Professor in Accounting Education at the McCombs School of Business, University of Texas at Austin, discussed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform & Consumer Protection Act, the JOBS Act of 2012 and Developments in the SEC and Financial Market Regulation.

October 2012: **Philip Ashley**, CPA, CGFM, Director of Fiscal Management, Comptroller of Public Accounts, presented on the need for government financial reporting transparency and how citizen-centric reporting can improve communications between government and its taxpayers.

Dr. Carolyn Conn and Members of the St. Edward's University finalist team, in the AGA Graduate Finance Case Challenge (placing in the top three), including **Leigh Anne Floyd, Sandra Hernandez, Cynthia Wainwright-Branigan, and Maura Valle**; discussed their experience regarding their project, a Citizen-Centric Report for the City of San Diego, by demonstrating an innovative and creative means of communicating the City of San Diego's financial information to its citizenry using the Citizen-Centric Report format.

November 2012: **Evelyn Brown**, CGFM-Retired, AGA 2012-2013 National President, presented on the topic "Our Professional Journey" and shared her insight on how to acquire adequate skill sets for career development; plotting goals and objectives at different levels in a career path; and the importance of being flexible in your career path.

December 2012: **Paul Morris**, CPA, CIA, Director of Internal Audit, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, presented on the topic of "Identity Theft-Corporate Risks and Control," and discussed common risks to data, controls that can minimize the risk to client and employee data, and the roles of auditors in an entity's overall privacy framework.

January 2013: **Dr. Dwight D. Daniel**, Director, MS in Computer Information Systems, School of

Management and Business, St. Edward's University, presented on the topic of "Cloud Computing- Who Cares" and discussed security issues related to Cloud Computing.

February 2013: **Paul Priest**, Assistant Director of the Texas Legislative Budget Board (LBB), provided attendees with an understanding of the Texas State Legislative Process used by state agencies and institutions of higher education; why enacting a budget is important; the rules of the game; and how the budget is relevant to state agencies and its staff and consumers.

March 2013: **Tonda Hadley**, CPA, CGFM, Director of the Central Regional Office for the Office of Emergency Management Oversight, under the Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, discussed the Capping Report on FY 12 Audits of FEMA Disaster Grants and the difficulties auditors face when auditing disaster grants.

April 2013: **Dade Dowdle**, HORNE, LLP, presented on the topic of "Equipping Local Jurisdictions for Disaster Recovery Program Compliance" and discussed the changes to the guidelines governing FEMA's Public Assistance program between recent disasters affecting Texas, and how to equip decision-makers and record-keepers with knowledge to avoid common pitfalls noted in regulatory compliance reviews in Texas.

May 2013: **Holly Brewster**, Procurement Consultant to Department of Family & Protective Services, discussed procurement risks, and the role and importance of government accountability professionals in the purchase of goods and services by government entities.

Monthly attendance at the meetings averaged 27, which is a 27% decrease from 2011-12 attendance numbers. An attendance breakdown by luncheon follows:

September 2012: 30
October 2012: 23
November 2012: 24
December 2012: 21
January 2013: 20
February 2013: 32
March 2013: 34
April 2013: 35
May 2013: 28



You can register online at:

<http://www.aga-austin.org/aga-austin-reg.html>



Membership Anniversaries (June-September)

1 Year

Mrs. Yolanda Bostic
Mr. Cameron Brown, CPA
Ms. Clarisse Roquemore, CPA

2 years

Mr. Richard Rivas, CGFM
Ms. Mary Braden

3 years

Mr. Richard Wright, CIA, CISA
Mr. Aaron Dvorak

6 Years

Ms. Renae Cotton

10 Years

Ms. Tamera Lynn Atkins, CGFM
Ms. Michelle Bauman

11 Years

Ms. Lynda Baker
Mrs. Jennifer Childress, CGFM

12years

Mr. Man San Chan

13 years

Mr. Robert Lagana, CGFM-Retired
Mrs. Mary Heath, CGFM

15 years

Mr. Alvin Miller, JR., CGFM, CPA

17 years

Mr. Clint Loeser, CGFM
Ms. Tina Harmon, CGFM, CPA

20 years

Mr. Leonard Krugel

45 Years

Mr. James Gerick, CGFM-Retired

Minutes and Treasury Reports

Mari Queller expertly and diligently carried out her duties as Treasurer. To help her complete her task more efficiently, Mari utilized a Square Credit Card reader to process payments via her iPad or iPhone. The Chapter began the year with a cash balance of \$8,700.14 and ended the year with a balance of \$7,945.30. Mari was also instrumental in getting the Chapter's name officially changed to **Association of Government Accountants- Austin** and established our exempt filing status with the IRS. In addition, Mari updated the Chapter's Tax Exempt EIN with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Office (CPA) to reflect our own and not National's EIN. Lastly, Mari set up an account for AGA Austin with the CPA Windows on State Government, Vendor Account Search webpage and queried our ACH deposits/warrants. As a result, the Chapter now has a nice report available to print regarding our transaction history, for which the Chapter Treasurer will have continuous access to and will be able to run from the CPA website at any time.

Treasury Reports can be found at:

<http://www.agaaustin.org/treasurer-report.html>

Research Article

The Journey Continues

Since 1996, the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) and Grant Thornton LLP have jointly sponsored an annual survey of government chief financial officers (CFOs). In 2009, the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT) joined the effort to understand the current issues facing government financial executives, expanding the survey to state financial managers. The goal of the annual survey is to provide relevant thought leadership and resources, as well as a vehicle for practitioners to share their views and experiences with colleagues and policy makers.

Given the recent pace of fiscal austerity measures, new mandates, and major shifts in our healthcare system, the survey represents a good time to stop and assess current financial capability, risks, and the ability to adapt. The survey results indicate that there is much good work in progress in response to these challenges, but it also shows that there is room for improvement going forward in the strategic approach to solving them.

According to the survey, in order for finance offices to continue to provide value to state and local governments, a variety of pressing needs must be met. In response to the ever-present personnel, funding, and technology challenges, these financial leaders require innovative approaches to practical workforce management. They also have an increasing need for more analytic staff to mine large amounts of financial data and present effective, actionable options to decision makers. And finally, they need timely and responsive tools and solutions that optimize leading-edge technology.

Other findings include:

- Clean financial audit opinions are an area of high confidence, with over 88 percent of respondents reporting a clean audit opinion.
- Most executives believe that agency program managers see benefit in the financial statement audit.
- About half of respondents have expanded the scope of their internal control programs to include operational and/or programmatic risk.

Many respondents accomplish cost cutting through across-the-board methods even though they realize this is not effective.

Download a copy of the survey at <http://www.grantthornton.com/~media/content-page-files/public-sector/pdfs/surveys/State-CFO-2013-Survey.ashx>

