



# CAPITOL TOPICS

## NOVEMBER 2013

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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### PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Greetings AGA Austin. November is here and the AGA year is in full swing. Time once again to give thanks - I'd like to thank the AGA executive committee for their hard work. When you register for the luncheon events take a look at our new chapter website design. Very impressive. We could use some assistance in maintaining the site - if you'd like to volunteer on a very part-time basis, please contact Webmaster Eddie Chan at [eddie.chan@ers.state.tx.us](mailto:eddie.chan@ers.state.tx.us) to coordinate. Thanks Eddie, for a job well done.



For your calendar: The primary AGA service event for November is the food drive for the Capital Area Food Bank. We are collecting non-perishable items at the November 14th CPE training luncheon. Please donate and keep up the spirit of giving for which Austin AGA is well-known.

Regarding November's CPE event, our speaker is Bob Childree, Director for Grant Thornton's State and Local Government practice. When you read Mr. Childree's biography you'll understand what an amazing representative he is for our profession. I hope you'll take advantage of the opportunity to meet him and hear his message.

And so we move onward into November. There is more to come, and I look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Morris,  
President, AGA Austin Chapter

## UPCOMING EVENT

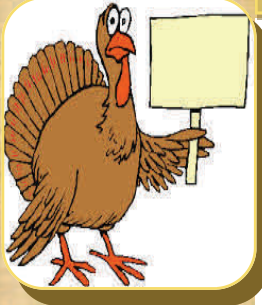
### Challenging Times in State and Local Government

AGA and Grant Thornton LLP surveyed federal financial executives during the spring and summer of 2013, a period marked by continuous budget tumult including implementation of the first phase of the sequester and the resulting furlough of federal employees. The survey identifies those issues that make up a potential New CFO Management Agenda, those key issues that CFOs must address while financial chaos continues in their agencies.

**Date/Time:** Thursday, November 14, 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)**

## HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING MINUTES



### Call To Order

Chapter President Paul Morris called to order the Executive Committee Meeting at 12:00 PM on Thursday, October 17, 2013

### Roll To Call

The following members were in attendance physically either at the ERS Conference Room – Longhorn Annex or via conference call: Paul Morris, Lorna Schwimmer, Eddie Chan, Patty Aguilera, Sharita Jefferson, Priscilla Suggs and Autumn Bellfield.

### AGA Luncheon Prices

1 hour luncheon: \$25 members, \$30 non-members. 2 hour luncheons: \$35 members, \$40 non-members.

### AGA Website

Luncheon dates and speakers will be added to the website.

### Texas Conference for Women

The Executive Committee voted and approved a cross promotion campaign with the Texas Conference for Women. AGA Austin will not incur any costs.

<http://www.txconferenceforwomen.org/>



### National Contract Management Association

The Executive Committee will vote on whether to have a joint presentation with the National Contract Management Association once the subject matter of the presentation is received.

The Executive Committee meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM by Chapter President, Paul Morris.

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

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

## Upcoming Event

### Challenging Times in State and Local Government

(Thursday November 14th @ 11:30AM-1:00PM)

**Speaker: Robert Childree**, Director for the Global Public Sector, Grant Thornton LLP

Mr. Childree has over thirty five years' experience in financial management and governmental accounting systems. He has specific expertise in the area of financial management systems for state governments including accounting, budgeting, procurement, payroll, personnel (HR), financial analysis and financial reporting. Mr. Childree developed and wrote fiscal and accounting policy for the State of Alabama. He has developed and taught financial management courses to the fiscal staff of the State of Alabama and has spoken frequently regarding governmental financial reporting to various organizations across the country.

## November Anniversaries

### 1 YEAR

Ms. Charmane J. Horton  
Mr. Heath A. Roberie  
Ms. Erin D. Williams

### 2 YEARS

Ms. Patricia A Robinson, CGFM  
Ms. Priscilla Suggs

### 3 YEARS

Mr. W. Scott Erwin, CGFM

### 4 YEARS:

Ms. Patricia Aguilera  
Ms. Tonya Sue Netzley  
Mr. Chris J. Glancy  
Ms. Sheila Hammond, CGFM

### 9 YEARS:

Ms. Mari E. Queller

### 15 YEARS:

Ms. Mattye G. Keeling, CGFM—Retired

### 31 YEARS:

Mr. Pete Rose, CGFM



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>

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

### *Play Bingo Ladies Luncheon*

The Play Bingo Ladies Luncheon hosted by the Centers for Child Protection on October 19, 2013 was 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 **Lynda Baker** for helping do setup on Friday, **Debi Weyer, Lesli Cathey and Michelle Bauman** for helping sell teddy bears, and **Autumn Bellfield** for helping sell jewelry during this great event.



**Pictures of AGA members at Play Bingo Ladies Luncheon**

### *Tax Assistance*

Community Tax Centers program needs over 600 volunteers to help us complete an anticipated 18,000 tax returns this upcoming season, helping to bring in over \$30 million in refunds to the Austin economy.

This year the Center will have 5 area sites running in Austin and Round Rock the centers provide 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 <http://www.foundcom.org/get-involved/volunteer-with-tax-centers/> Please contact Jackie Blair, the Director of Volunteer Programs for the Community Tax Center for more information [jackie.blair@foundcom.org](mailto:jackie.blair@foundcom.org) or call 512-610-7377.

### *Food Drive - Thanksgiving*

This year is flying by. Let's think about Thanksgiving dinner!

I know Thanksgiving is one of my favorite times because of all the great food that is brought to the family dinner table.



Our **AGA Austin Chapter** is doing a food drive for Capital Area Food Bank to help provide families a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner. The Capital Area Food Bank of Texas is the largest hunger-relief charity in Central Texas providing food and grocery products, nutrition education and social services outreach to 300,000 clients each year through a network of 300 Partner Agencies.

Please bring any non-perishable items to the November luncheon that you would like to donate so a family can have a wonderful thanksgiving dinner.

*If you would like to volunteer, please feel free to contact **Lynda Baker** at [bright\\_sunny\\_disp@yahoo.com](mailto:bright_sunny_disp@yahoo.com).*

## Research Article

### The Next Step For Government Accountants

At the October monthly CPE luncheon, Sonya Etheridge spoke about auditing for compliance with the requirements of professional designations. Attendees were reminded how many accounting-related designations exist as opportunities to increase our knowledge and our value within our present positions and in the job market. Perhaps the perfect opportunity for government accountants to expand our skill sets is right under our noses.

The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) is a professional certification sponsored by AGA that recognizes the unique skills and special knowledge required of today's government financial managers. It covers governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting at the federal, state and local levels.

The CGFM is the first certification broad enough to cover the whole field of government financial management—federal, state and local. It measures a wide range of knowledge and skills that a professional needs to succeed in the federal government financial environment, or to meet the unique challenges faced by state and local government financial managers.

This designation is recognized as a professional standard. Each year, more and more federal agencies and state and local governments are realizing the value of the CGFM and are formally embracing the designation. It is often listed as a preferred hiring qualification on federal RFPs. The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Board of Regents has also recognized the CGFM, and it is accepted as a waiver for part IV of the CIA examination.

One of the key findings of *AGA's 2010 Compensation Survey* is that those who had earned a CGFM designation reported a higher average salary than those who do not hold this certification: \$105,815 compared to \$78,905, a difference of 34 percent. When compared to the average salary of individuals with no designations—\$68,416—the average salary of CGFMs was 55 percent higher.

To earn the CGFM, candidates must apply for the CGFM Program and meet the following requirements:

**Ethics**—read and agree to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics.

**Education**—have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.

**Examinations**— pass three comprehensive CGFM Examinations, including Governmental Environment; Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting, and Budgeting; and Governmental Financial Management and Control.

**Experience**— have at least two years of professional-level experience in government financial management.

To retain the CGFM certification, all CGFMs must adhere to the AGA's **Code of Ethics**. In addition, to continue using the CGFM designation after their name, CGFMs must be in an active status. This entails paying the **CGFM renewal Fee** by the due date every year and completing at least 80 hours of **Continuing Professional Education (CPE)** every two years in government financial management topics or related technical subjects (within the designated two-year cycle).

Aaron Dvorak, our Membership Committee Chair, recently added the CGFM designation to his resume. If you, too, would like to take the next step, you can learn more at [www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification/overview.aspx](http://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification/overview.aspx).

