



Capitol Topics

September 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back! It's been hard to beat the heat this summer; it just goes on, and on and on. Kind of like our Chapter – but in a good way. As I look at how my term began, I have wondered about how the year will progress and have high hopes. My goal for this year is to improve transparency and accountability. The things your Executive Committee is doing this year to strengthen our internal controls and improve transparency and accountability are:

- Creating policies and procedures for operations
- Establishing vested authorities and limits
- Building business and financial forms to streamline requests

Everyone is feeling the squeeze these days even in Austin. To encourage AGA's community support and a bit of friendly competition, the San Antonio Chapter has challenged us (and the other Region Chapters) to a 'Community Collection' in October 2011, January 2012, and March 2012. We will be reporting our collection efforts to Riley Shaull, our Regional VP, and the San Antonio Chapter. The collection items include: 1) Baby foods during our annual "Baby Shower;" 2) Blood for our local blood banks – just let us know if you donated; and 3) Clothing, which will also be donated to our Chapter supported charities. I know we can beat all of the other Chapters! Plus, we get points for our Chapter Recognition efforts – this year we go for GOLD!

Mara Ash
President, Austin Chapter

UPCOMING CPE EVENT

Collateralized Debt Obligations and the 2008 Stock Market Crash

Date: Thursday, September 8, 2011
 Place: Corazon at Castle Hill
 Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 Speaker: Joe Collins, CFE
 Registration: Patricia Aguilera at patty.aguilera@ers.state.tx.us

Joe Collins is an outspoken critic of "too big to fail banks," ineffective regulation and the moral decline of the financial services industry. He is a former financial advisor and licensed broker with a Fortune 500 company. He spent eleven years as an advisor and managed millions of dollars in OPM - other people's money. Collins is pursuing a new career as a Certified Fraud Examiner. Collins presents a candid view of the Market Disaster of 2008 and the long term effects of combining the banks, brokerages, and insurance companies into the conglomerates they are today.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SPECIAL PLANNING MEETING MINUTES

Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report:

- Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting on April 12, 2011
- Minutes of Luncheon Meeting on April 20, 2011
- Minutes of Luncheon Meeting on May 12, 2011
- Treasurer's Report for the month ending 5/31/2011

Finance and Audit:

- The EC needed a final confirmation of outstanding receivables for the 2010-2011 chapter year from Chris Glancy, Austin Chapter Treasurer.
- Priscilla Suggs would be conducting the annual audit on the chapter's financial records. Chris sent the Treasurer records to Priscilla through Debi Weyer.

Review Strategic Plans:

President

- \$800 for the conference and \$300 for travel expenses associated with the conference for 2011-2012 should remain in the budget.
- Lynne would confirm that Chris filed the annual Secretary of State report for non-profits for 2010-2011.

President-Elect

- All present agreed that the end-of-year awards for committee members are items that can be trimmed from the budget..
- Paul Morris suggested that Executive Committee members should wear T-shirt with AGA logo in all CPE events to help attendees to recognize the Executive Committee Team. Paul took everyone's sizes and would research the costs of purchasing and screen printing the shirts.

Treasurer

The budget for audit (\$25), PO Box Rental (\$60) and Petty Cash (\$40) are still valid and accurate for the coming year.

Secretary

No budget necessary.

Webmaster

Due to overpayment in 2010, the chapter did not owe any fees for 2011. The 2011-2012 web hosting fees will be approximately \$90, but \$100 will be added to the budget.

Program-Education

- Texas State Board of Public Accountancy CPE sponsor fee is \$400 for Program Year 2012.
- John Amidon received a very nice post-it-note set box in a very nice leather-look cases from the Arkansas Chapter. The cost of this set box, including printing charges, is about \$3 each. Debi would contact John for more information about this set box and might purchase some for the speakers' gifts. Therefore, the budget for speakers' gifts might be around \$150.
- Debi would like to partner with Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) for 1 or more events. Mara would contact Isabel Sweet from IIA to discuss these joint function opportunities.
- Debi has secured speakers for
 - September 8th
 - October 13th – GASB Update from Irene Lee (CPA Financial Reporting)
 - December 8th
 - February 9th
 - March 8th
 - April 12th

Luncheon

- The Executive Committee Team considered moving the lunch venue due to the limited size of El Corazon.
- Austin Women's Club was an alternative, but their schedules were not very flexible and very difficult to make advanced reservation.

Community Service

The Executive Committee Team agreed to participate actively in the following charitable events:

- Adopt-A-Family for Thanksgiving (\$100 gift card).
- Adopt-A-Family for Christmas (\$100 card) and to advertise and collect Christmas gifts for the family.
- The Safe Place Baby Shower was a huge success. People seem to be more generous when babies are the object of their charity. The Chapter will continue to sponsor that community service event for 2011-12.
- Golf Tournament – Sponsor a Hole (\$250)

Membership and Early Career

Kadie Weyer had some very good ideas for retaining the current membership levels and increasing chapter exposure during 2011-2012:

- Recognize new members in attendance at the beginning of each CPE event. Patti will forward the attendance list 2 days before the event to

Mara and Kadie so that they would be prepared for introducing new members in the luncheon.

- Any member who recruits a new member will receive a free lunch upon payment of membership subscription from the new member.
- Kadie had created a Twitter page. Currently, the Chapter has 11 followers. Kadie also set up a Facebook page . A link to both would be placed on the Chapter website.
- Paul will provide a description of the annual networking mixer to Jessica at the National Office. This description is a requirement for receiving the member recruitment scholarship.
- The Executive Committee Team decided that a bi-monthly informal mixer at a local establishment would give us more exposure to potential AGA members.
- The first mixer was tentatively scheduled for Friday, September 23rd, at Garrido's.
- The second mixer was tentatively scheduled for Friday, November 11th, at a place to be determined.

CGFM

- Nellie' suggested that letters be sent to members to encouraging CGFM certification.
- Nellie resigned from the CGFM Chairperson position because her family would move to Rhode Island. Bernard Ndoping-Angandje would take over Nellie's CGFM position.

Historian

- Photo Album/Scrapbook (\$50) and Photo Development (\$25) will remain in the budget.
- Executive Committee Team also considered converting the scrapbook into a soft copy.

Research

No budget necessary.

Audio Conferences and Luncheons:

The Executive Committee members in attendance agreed to the following:

- September 8th – luncheon
- October 13th – luncheon
- November – 2 purchased audio conference CDs to be broadcast back-to-back
- December 9th – luncheon
- January – 2 purchased audio conference CDs to be broadcast back to back
- February 9th – luncheon
- March 8th – luncheon
- April 12th – luncheon
- May 12th – 2 purchased audio conference CDs to be broadcast back to back

It was agreed that members would likely be willing to pay \$50 for 4 CPE hours. Actual member/non-member pricing to be determined at a later time.

Discussion on Luncheons:

If the plan discussed above materializes, the Chapter would no longer require a lunch venue to provide phone line for the audio conference.

Mara suggested that the chapter should explore the option to accept credit/debit cards for payment at chapter events. She brought along a gadget called "Square," which allows any phone with the required application to accept payments from major credit cards (Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover).

Square does not charge any monthly merchant account fee, and the transaction fee is 2.75% of total charge amount, which equates to 45 cents expense on a member lunch cost. The chapter will need to open a PayPal account to which Squire will deposit all the credit card payments. This is a very new technology, the Chapter will do the research before offering this new payment method.

For details of our meeting minutes, please visit our website at <http://www.agaaustin.org/ECMinutes.html>

TREASURER'S REPORT

FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2011

Beginning cash balance per Books	\$6,337.90
Plus: Revenues	
Dividend	1.64
Luncheon revenues	2,135.00
Total Revenues	2,136.64
Funds available	8,490.48
Less: Expenditures	
Luncheon payments	1,086.42
AGA info card	15.85
Speaker gifts	145.00
Audit for 2011	25.00
PO box renewal and postage	62.44
Recognition awards to Executive Committees	112.20
Total Expenditures	1,446.91
Ending cash balance per Books	7,043.57
Adjustments:	
Outstanding checks	-
Ending cash balance per bank statement	\$7,043.57

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

BUDGET FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2012

Revenues:

Luncheons (6@882.5)	\$5,295	
CPE Events (4@1660)	6,640	
Total Revenue		\$11,935

Expenditures:

President	1,550	
President-Elect	500	
Secretary	-	
Treasurer	85	
Program-Education	1,190	
CPE Events	90	
CGFM	250	
Research	-	
Web Master	100	
Membership	353	
Early Careers	25	
Community Service	450	
Historian	175	
Citizen-Centric Report	-	
Total Expenditures		4,768
Net increase to Cash in Bank		\$7,167

COMMUNITY SERVICE

COMMUNITY TAX CENTERS VOLUNTEER KICK OFF LUNCH!

Tax season is right around the corner! We are gearing up for another exciting season of tax preparation for the community!

Please join us for lunch on [Wednesday, September 28th from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm](#) to kick off Volunteer Recruitment for the 2012 Tax Season. Come learn about the Community Tax Centers program and what it means to be a volunteer. Take a moment to connect with familiar faces. Get the latest updates on Community Tax Centers and hear about our plans for this upcoming year and how you can be a part of those plans!

Invitation is open to all returning volunteers and potential volunteers. Please invite anyone that might be interested in volunteering and RSVP to [Jackie Blair](mailto:Jackie.Blair@foundcom.org), Manager of Volunteer Programs, at ackie.Blair@foundcom.org by [Wednesday, September 21st](#). For more information, please visit our website at www.foundcom.org and click on the "Get Involved" Section.

The event will be held at Skyline Terrace Training Room - 1st Floor on 1212 West Ben White, Austin, TX 78704. Lunch will be provided, please specify if vegetarian

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

Four new members joined our chapter since May 2011:

Annick M. Barton

Texas Health & Human Services Commission

Mary M. Braden

Texas Department of Health & Human Services

Richard Rivas

Department of Veterans Affairs

Kadie J. Weyer

Texas Workforce Commission

ANNIVERSARY

Please join us to congratulate the following members who reached their milestone anniversary In April 2011:

1 YEAR

Kristen Gonzales-Cedillo

Juanita Johnson-Coolley

Jerri P. Davis

Michael Harrison

5 YEARS

James C. Malone

15 YEARS

Robert Adams, CGFM

Tina L. Harmon, CGFM, CPA

AWARDS

Congratulations to Michele Bauman! Michele recently received the Employee of the month award in June and the 2011 Staff Council Tina G. Schultz Staff Excellence Award in September from the Texas State University at San Marcos. Michele actively participated in our chapter and had been our Membership Chairperson for several years in the past.



Michele (center) with her 2011 Staff Council Tina G. Schultz Staff Excellence Award from the Texas State University at San Marcos.

HISTORIAN REPORT

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Austin Chapter began its new year under the leadership of President Zulay Sanchez. Meetings of the Executive Committee continued to be held monthly at the Employees Retirement System with some committee members participating via conference call. Members that volunteered their time and energy to serve on the Executive Committee and ensure the Chapter's success included:

President-Elect, Mara Ash; Immediate Past President, Eddie Chan; Secretary, Lynne Pfeffer; Treasurer, Chris Glancy; Research Chair, Leita Hart; Education/Programs, Debi Weyer; Communications, Eddie Chan; Community Service, Lynda Baker; Membership, Paul Morris; Luncheon Chair, Patti Aguilera; Historian, Phillip Ashley; and Webmaster, Lynne Pfeffer.

John Amidon and Debi Weyer continued serving in their roles as Regional Vice President and Regional Education Coordinator, respectively.

LUNCHEONS

Chapter luncheons were regularly held each month at Corazon at Castle Hill restaurant on 5th street in Austin. The Chapter was successful in recruiting the following speakers for nine luncheons, giving members and guests the opportunity to receive a total of 9 CPE hours.

September 2010: Ed Parr, author of the book *Natural Born Manager: A Handbook for Accountability Management*, presented on the topic "Can You Find Your Destiny?"

October 2010: John O'Brien, representing the Legislative Budget Board, educated attendees on the state's budget deficit and discussed various methods for how the state Legislature might choose to address it.

November 2010: Marc Garcia, a consultant in private practice specializing in the field of information technology auditing, provided an overview of next generation continuous monitoring systems, which utilize computer-based audit and data analysis software tools.

December 2010: Bob Elder, representing the Texas State Securities Board, discussed common investment scams and how to recognize them.

January 2011: Mike Hay, CEO of Strategic Risk Consulting, presented on the basics of risk management.

February 2011: Dr. Carolyn Conn, Associate Professor of Accounting at St. Edward's University, discussed fraud prevention and detection.

March 2011: Mac McMillan, co-founder and CEO of CynergisTek, Inc., helped attendees to understand the risks associated with litigation readiness and the role that technology plays in the electronic discovery reference model (EDRM).

April 2011: John Amidon, representing the Texas Attorney General's Office, provided attendees with an overview of the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Unit.

May 2011: Phillip E. Flora, principal and managing member of FloBiz & Associates, LLC, presented on the topic of ethics, and the related challenges, opportunities, and impact.

Monthly attendance at the meetings averaged 35, which is a 21% increase over 2009-10 attendance numbers. An attendance breakdown by luncheon follows:

September 2010:	46
October 2010:	45
November 2010:	28
December 2010:	31
January 2011:	31
February 2011:	45
March 2011:	29
April 2011:	33
May 2011:	31

Various members of the Executive Committee carried out the monthly luncheon tasks of checking in members, distributing nametags, and making sure the lunch was served in a timely fashion.

Debi Weyer introduced the speakers and after their presentations presented them with a small token of appreciation. To ensure all luncheon attendees received proper CPE credit, Patti Aguilera provided a CPE certificate to each attendee. In addition, Patti collected program evaluations, compiled the results, and shared them with the Executive Committee to use as a tool to make future decisions about topics, speakers and the location of the luncheons.

MEMBER INCENTIVES & DRAWINGS

Luncheon attendee Michael Moore won a \$25 Cabela's gift card in a special drawing recognizing those volunteers who donated baby care products for the SafePlace shelter donation drive.

We offered one free membership in a drawing at the Annual Chapter Networking Event. Despina Lambros was the winner.

EDUCATION, CGFM & SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to the 9 CPE hours offered via the monthly luncheons, the Chapter was able to offer 8 more CPE hours by participating in four audio conferences sponsored by the National Office. The audio conference topics included: Improving Program Performance & Accountability Through Cooperative Audit Resolution, Was it Fraud or Just Poor Audit Quality, Internal Controls and Management's Risk Assessments – Thoughts on SAS 109 and SAS 115, and Mortgage Fraud and Beyond: Looking Toward the Future.

The Chapter continued the popular practice this year of combining the audio conferences with the monthly luncheons and offering attendees the opportunity to earn 3 CPE credits in a single afternoon. Collectively, the luncheons and audio conferences provided attendees with an opportunity to earn up to 17 CPE hours.

During the year the Chapter purchased one complete set of CGFM study guides and established a program for loaning those guides to members who seek to study and sit for the CGFM exams. This is yet another way the Chapter is actively encouraging its members to obtain a CGFM certification.

Texas Governor Rick Perry declared March 2011 to be Certified Government Financial Manager Month, in recognition of the importance of certified government financial managers in ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in government operations.

MEMBERSHIP

As of May 2010, the Austin Chapter had 90 members. As of May 2011, Chapter membership increased to 100 members, an 11% increase from the previous year. During the year, 19 new members joined the Chapter:

- Juanita Johnson-Cooley, Department of Veterans Affairs
Renae Cotton, Department of Veterans Affairs
- Florence Anderson, Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Jerri Davis, Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Kristen Gonzales-Cedillo, Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Michael Harrison, Accenture
 - Eric Cruz, Employees Retirement System of Texas
 - Aaron Dvorak, Employees Retirement System of Texas
 - Richard Wright, CIA, CISA, Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Terrell Blodgett
 - W. Erwin, CGFM, Texas State University
 - Donald McPhee
 - Caixiang Zhao, University of Texas at Austin
 - Adana Barry, City of Austin
 - Michele Castro, CGFM, Texas State University
 - Katherine Golgert
 - Despina Lambros, University of Texas at Austin
 - Bernard Ndoping Angandje, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
 - Jose Saucedo, Department of Veterans Affairs

The following members reached their 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 year milestone anniversary during the Chapter year. We recognize these longtime members because they continue to show their commitment and support for the AGA by renewing their membership each year and some volunteer to serve on committees or the Executive Committee. Reaching a milestone in 2010-2011:

10 YEARS:

Kip D. Wilson, CGFM

15 YEARS:

Dwight C. Casey, CGFM

David E. Flores, CGFM

15 YEARS (continued):

Steven D. Adrian, CGFM

David L. Spencer, CGFM

Debra L. Weyer, CGFM

Michael S. Abkowitz, CGFM

Sheila K. Ammons, CGFM

Leita Hirsch, CGFM

20 YEARS:

Leslie B. Cathey, CGFM

Stephen H. Niemeier

Tommy Streal, CGFM

The Chapter also held our 1st Annual Chapter Networking Event, organized by our Early Career/Young Professional committee chair, Paul Morris. More than 15 people attended the event at Garrido's. It was a great opportunity for our members to promote AGA and mingle with other people who were interested in joining.

MINUTES AND TREASURY REPORTS

Secretary Lynne Pfeffer captured key points made in the luncheon presentations, as well as the monthly Executive Committee meetings in the form of meeting minutes. Lynne sent the meeting minutes via email to the Executive Committee for review and approval prior to publication in the newsletter and posting on the Chapter's website. Luncheon meeting minutes can be found on the Chapter web site at:

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

Executive Committee meeting minutes can be found on the Chapter web site at:

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

Chris Glancy carried out his duties as Treasurer. The Chapter began the year with a cash balance of \$4,549.09 and ended the year with a balance of \$6,872.99. Treasurer Reports can be found on the Chapter web site at:

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

COMMUNICATIONS – NEWSLETTER

Eddie Chan, newsletter editor, gave the newsletter extra color, included pictures, and applied a variety of holiday graphics making it enjoyable to read. The newsletter was submitted to the National Office for entry in the annual newsletter contest.

WEBSITE

Webmaster Lynne Pfeffer continued to keep the web site updated with newsletters, training events, job opportunities and other documents for our members and visitors to read.

In recognition of the great job Lynne has done, the Austin Chapter was selected as the Honorable Mention winner in the website contest for Group C. President Zulay Sanchez will accept the award on behalf of the Chapter at the AGA

Professional Development Conference (PDC) in Atlanta in July.

The Chapter web site can be referenced at:
<http://www.agaustin.org/index.html>

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND AWARDS

A very special thank you goes out to the many members that participated in the following community service events!

- Lynda Baker and Patti Aguilera organized a Baby Shower (donation drive) for SafePlace, a local women's shelter during the month of September. The Austin AGA Chapter provided 395 diapers; 561 baby wipes; 42 bottles of powder, lotion, body wash, and baby shampoo; 17 miscellaneous items such as clothes and toiletries; and \$60 in cash, checks and gift cards!
- The Chapter again participated in the Community Tax Centers program which provides free tax assistance for the low income families and individuals in the Austin area. This program is targeted at helping to lift people out of poverty and increase spending in the Austin economic market.
- The Chapter held a food drive for canned goods and other non-perishable items in November to benefit low-income families in the Austin area. Thanks to the generosity of our members, we were able to provide over 67 cans of food to the Capitol Area Food Bank.
- The Chapter participated in a job shadowing program with Texas State University in January. The program provided volunteers with opportunities to interact with students in a variety of ways by having the student spend a day with them on the job.
- The Chapter adopted a family of 13 from the Centers for Child Protection and was able to ensure that the family had a great Christmas! Each child received clothes, shoes, toys, gift certificates, and their special requests. In addition the Chapter donated a HEB gift certification for \$100 for the family to purchase food and other needed items.
- Lynda Baker and Patti Aguilera volunteered to help out with the 4th annual Dancing with the Stars Austin which is sponsored by the Centers for Child Protection. The Centers for Child Protection's mission is to reduce the trauma for children during the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases. The event, coupled with the Center's annual luxury car raffle, grossed more than \$900,000!

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

Cheryl MacBride, CGFM, was named the deputy director of services for the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the first female to serve the state's law enforcement agency at the deputy director level.

Phillip Ashley, CPA, CGFM, was promoted to the position of Assistant Director of the Comptroller's Fiscal Management Division.

AWARDS AND ELECTIONS

AGA Austin completed the year with the election of new officers:

President-Elect, Paul Morris; Treasurer, Chris Glancy, and Secretary, Lynne Pfeffer. The new officers were sworn in at the May 2011 luncheon.

President Zulay Sanchez presented the gavel to incoming President, Mara Ash, at the Executive Committee meeting in June.



John Amidon, April luncheon speaker



May luncheon meeting at Carmelo's

SPONSORSHIP

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to AGA Austin Chapter Events

