



Observations



A monthly publication of the Chicago Chapter, Association of Government Accountants

AGA – Dedicated to serving the community and promoting government accountability

October 2009

Issue 2

Upcoming Events

Luncheon:

Monday,
October 19, 2009
11:30 AM

Speaker:

Linda Wawzenski,
Deputy Chief of Civil
Division-US Attorney's
Office

Location:

Metcalfe Building
HUD Conference Room
77 W. Jackson
Room 2205

Price:

\$5 members
\$12 non-members

1 CPE

Please RSVP to:

Diane Terzian
dterzian@hudoig.gov
cc: **Heath Wolfe**
WWolfe@hudoig.gov

Update your member information!

Please review and update your personal information at National's website, www.agacgfm.org. You can update your information in the 'Member's Only' page. This allows us to keep you better informed throughout the year!

Sponsors

Do you know a company looking to sponsor one of our events? It is a great way for them to get their name out to a large distribution list as well as get recognition at our Chapter meetings! For more information, please contact any of the Executive Officers for your Chicago Chapter.



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*Advancing
Government
Accountability*

Association
of Government
Accountants

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October 13, 2009

Dear AGA Chicago Members,

Greetings! Thank you to all for attending last month's meeting. We had a great turnout! I would like to send a warm thank you to Letty Benjamin Jay for speaking to the membership on short notice.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, October 19, 2009 at the Metcalf Building, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL. Our speaker at this meeting will be Linda Wawzenski, Deputy Chief of Civil Division-US Attorney's Office. Our meeting will start at 11:30 AM with a lunch buffet and the speaker at 12:00 PM.

If you are interested in the attending this meeting, please email Diane Terzian at: dterzian@hudoig.gov. Please CC myself on the email, WWolfe@hudoig.gov before close of business October 15, 2009.

I hope to see you all on October 19th! If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (312) 913-8674 or wwolfe@hudoig.gov.

Cordially,

Heath Wolfe

Heath Wolfe
President



Thanks to all for making our September meeting a success!



**Heath Wolfe, AGA Chicago
Chapter President**



**Letty Benjamin Jay
Assistant Inspector General for Audit
Railroad Retirement Board
Guest speaker**



2009-2010 Training Schedule*

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER	LOCATION
October 19, 2009	TBD	Linda Wawzenski, Deputy Chief of Civil Division-US Attorney's Office	HUD Conference Room 77 W. Jackson Room 2205
November 16, 2009	TBD	Bryan Howell, Counsel to the IG, HUD-OIG	Department of Labor Conference Room 230 S. Dearborn, Sixth Floor - Room 619
December 14, 2009	TBD	Brian Miller, Inspector General GSA	Department of Labor Conference Room 230 S. Dearborn, Sixth Floor - Room 619
January 19, 2010	TBD	TBD	HHS Conference Room 233 N. Michigan Ave. Suite 1360
February 16, 2010	TBD	Patrick M. Blanchard Inspector General Office of the Independent Inspector General, Cook County, Illinois	HHS Conference Room 233 N. Michigan Ave. Suite 1360
March 15, 2010	TBD	Renée Brooker, Assistant Director U.S. Department of Justice Civil Division Commercial Litigation Branch Fraud Section	Department of Education Conference Room 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1414
April 16, 2010	PDC	PDC	TBD
May 17, 2010	TBD	TBD	Department of Education Conference Room 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1414

*Dates subject to change

Please RSVP to Diane by October 15th

Diane Terzian

EMail: dterzian@hudoig.gov

Please cc: Heath Wolfe: WWolfe@hudoig.gov

Guest Speaker Bio

LINDA A. WAWZENSKI

Linda A. Wawzenski currently serves as Deputy Chief of the USAO's Civil Division where she has been an AUSA since 1978. As part of her duties she supervises all of the office's civil fraud work, which includes the coordination of parallel criminal cases. She handles a variety of affirmative cases, the majority of which involve health care fraud.

She has handled a wide variety of False Claims Act cases involving multi-million dollar settlements and judgments, most recent of which was a \$36 million settlement with a hospital which represents the largest amount ever realized from a voluntary disclosure.

Over the years she has received awards for her work from DOJ's Criminal and Civil Divisions; from federal agencies such as the Bureau of Prisons, the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban Development; and four Director's awards from EOUSA.

She has made presentations to various national organizations including the American Hospital Association, the American Bar Association, the Health Care Compliance Association, the National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association, the National Conference on Healthcare Compliance, the Radiological Society of North America, and the American Health Lawyers Association.

Please join us on Monday, October 19th in the HUD Conference Room (77 W. Jackson, Room 2205) at 11:30AM!!!



CGFM Corner



The Mark of Excellence in Government Financial Management

CGFM FAQ: What is the CGFM's responsibility for maintaining documentation of CPE?

ANSWER: CGFMs are required to maintain supporting documentation on CPE hours earned for a minimum of three years and provide it to AGA upon request. The CGFM's records must include the following information for each CPE program or activity attended or completed:

- A.** The sponsoring organization (for example, AGA National Office, a local AGA chapter);
- B.** The title of the program, including subject matter, field of study or a brief description of its contents;
- C.** The dates attended for group programs or dates completed for individual study programs;
- D.** The number of CPE hours earned; and
- E.** Evidence of attendance or completion. This might include the following:
 - A certificate of attendance, a CPE form or other evidence or completion of CPE from the CPE provider for group and individual-study programs.
 - A grade report received for a university or college credit course.
 - A letter from the program sponsor, documenting the CPE courses presented and/or developed.
 - A copy of the published book, article, or materials that names the writer as author or contributor, a written statement from the writer supporting the number of CPE hours claimed, and the name and contact information of the publisher, if applicable.
 - An official report from the employer that has the employer's name and lists all of the required information (employee's name, sponsoring organization, title of the program, completion date and number of CPE hours earned).

[AGA Training Opportunities](#) **Click to find events near your area!**

From the National Office

From the National President



ARRA: D-Day (October 10, 2009)

Well, it's here! The first round of reports were due for posting on www.recovery.gov as of this past Saturday, Oct. 10, 2009. Has the process been a success? There is much expectation that it will be, but time will tell.

Accountability and transparency have reached new heights with this online reporting, and there's no turning back. Following a period of data review, the public will soon have access to data at www.recovery.gov. Once the data is live, I anticipate citizens will continue to expect government financial management data from all entities to be provided in a similar format and at similar speed.

Last month, I indicated my plan to use my *TOPICS* columns this year to highlight the many things our staff is doing and the impact they are making throughout AGA. This month, I want to introduce you to Helena Sims, AGA's director of Intergovernmental Relations, who joined our staff in 2007. When Helena joined AGA in this role, no one had heard of or could imagine the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the discussions we are having at all levels of government--this has been an intergovernmental fete never before attempted! [Read the full column.](#)

Hotel Reservations Now Being Accepted for 2010 PDC in Orlando

Make plans now to attend AGA's 59th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC)--*the* premier education and networking event of the year!

Dream. Learn. Achieve. The PDC has it all! Join us **July 11-14, 2010**, in Orlando, FL, to hear dynamic speakers, participate in informative sessions, learn about the latest research, share best practices, discover innovative management techniques and see the technological tools that can aid efficiency and improve effectiveness.

In addition to an outstanding technical education program, and the ability to earn 24 CPE hours, AGA's PDC is packed with opportunities to network with colleagues from around the country and make new friends. While you're here, be sure to experience all the attractions, shopping, fine dining and recreational activities Orlando has to offer.

Information about the agenda, speakers, travel discounts and registration is coming soon. In the meantime you can reserve your spot at the official conference hotel.

We have reserved a block of rooms at the Orlando World Center Marriott to accommodate PDC attendees. The rate is \$108 per night (plus tax) for single and double occupancy. However, **rates are only guaranteed until June 18, 2010, or until the room block is sold out.**

Reservations received after June 18, *or after the room block has been filled*, will be made on a space-available basis, and may be subject to significantly higher rates. Rooms sell quickly...we encourage you to make your hotel reservations early, for the best price and availability.

- To make a reservation, please call the Orlando World Center Marriott at 800.621.0638 and mention you are attending the "AGA PDC" to receive the discounted rate.
- You can also [reserve a room online](#).
- [Download Registration Form](#)

Connect To the Profession Through Chapter Membership

Get Connected! The strength of any association lies with its membership. When you are ready to make new friends, meet colleagues who do what you do, and learn from the most creative people in the field, you can tap into AGA's vast interconnected community. Professionals join and stay with AGA because of the access that it provides to a wide range of industry experts around the country. Your colleagues are often your best source for in-depth insight and guidance.

Government financial managers and other accountability professionals rely on AGA to give them the tools and information they need to stay current on industry news, trends and best practices. Whether you are a new or seasoned professional, AGA provides professional development opportunities and helps you advance your career to the next level. All you have to do is get involved.

Engage with the financial management community through your chapter membership. To learn if there is a chapter near you, click on the Chapter Locator Map. Each of the 100 AGA chapters links with AGA National to share resources, which increases your opportunities for networking and professional development. Many members who live in areas with multiple chapters join more than one to maximize their membership opportunities. If you have not been taking advantage of the many benefits that your chapter provides, take the time to get involved now. Remember: AGA National membership does not include chapter membership. For additional information on how to utilize your member benefits [contact us](#).

Registration is Now Open for Second Annual Federal Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Summit, October 21-22

This year's Summit, sponsored by the Federal ERM Steering Group, U.S. Government Accountability Office, the George Mason University School of Management, U.S. Department of Defense Business Transformation Agency and FederalERM.com features many distinguished presenters and keynote speakers including:

- Gene Dodaro, CGFM, Acting Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office
- Jeffery Zients, Deputy Director of Management & Chief Performance Officer, U.S. Office of Management and Budget
- John Morgan, Special Advisor, Office of the Comptroller General of Canada
- Philip Maxwell, Director for Enterprise Risk Management, Coca-Cola Enterprises, Inc.
- Edie Weiner, President, Weiner, Edrich, Brown, Inc.

You are invited to join other federal leaders committed to seeking new strategic approaches for identifying, assessing, balancing and managing risk across the enterprise in order to best achieve agency objectives.

The summit is targeted for senior management and staff to help better understand what leading federal agencies and best practice entities are doing to take a more comprehensive view of risk management. Keynote presentations and breakout sessions will provide insights that cover real world industry and government examples and provide the opportunity for discussions with and feedback from senior government and private sector executives. Don't miss this chance to draw from the experiences, tools and approaches recognized and used by leading public, private and international organizations.

[Register for the Summit.](#)



"The more members we have, the more we can do. With strength in numbers, we will be heard!"

Share the Magic!

The 2009-2010 "[Share the Magic](#)" of Membership Member-Get-A-Member Campaign offers you the opportunity to win great prizes just for sharing the value of your AGA membership with your friends and colleagues and persuading them to join.

The campaign runs from May 1, 2009-April 30, 2010 and encourages current members to recruit new members. Because we are a membership-driven organization, an effective membership program must be an on-going, year-round process. The power of your organization is directly related to the commitment and active participation of your membership. It is essential that your Association aggressively recruit, retain and engage membership in the organization.

Since you already know the benefits of being an AGA member and have contacts in the financial management profession, this is a great way to increase AGA's membership, which in turn expands your own professional network and allows AGA to better meet your needs. Prizes are awarded to show our appreciation of your support of AGA and your efforts to help the Association grow.

[View the complete list of Member-Get-A-Member Rules.](#)

How to participate:

It's easy! Request membership applications by e-mailing membership manager [Rodneikka Scott](#) or by calling 800.AGA.7211. You can also download an application and give it to your friend or colleague, or direct the person to visit AGA's website to apply online.

What you can win:

You only need to recruit 1 new member to win a prize! All members who recruit 6 or more new members before December 31, 2009 will receive free membership. Better yet, recruit the most new members and win the grand prize of a complimentary registration to AGA's **2010 Professional Development Conference & Exposition** in Orlando, FL, and **two one-day passes to an Orlando theme park**. There are many opportunities to win prizes for you and your chapter. [Click here](#) for a complete list of prizes.

Best of luck! And may the best recruiter win--for themselves and AGA!

Will the Stimulus Have Any Lasting Impact on States and Cities?

Of course we've all heard a lot about the stimulus over the past several months. And we're about to hear a lot more -- the October 10 reporting deadline for states is looming large. But what are the long-term implications of the stimulus? Will it have any lasting impact on states and cities? A panel of stimulus experts tackled that question at last week's kick-off session for Governing's Managing Performance conference in Atlanta. The bottom line? Will the stimulus have a lasting impact? No. Except...maybe. --Zach Patton, *Governing.com*. [Read more.](#)

Federal Stimulus-Monitoring Website Gets An Update

Since February, when the government launched a website to provide a window on the federal stimulus package, critics have been calling for a makeover. Now they have one. The site, unveiled today by the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, was revamped through the use of \$9.5 million in stimulus funds. It provides easier-to-use tools, such as a ZIP Code search that shows stimulus projects in specific communities. The government also has set up a toll-free hot line (1-877-FWA-DESK) for reporting fraud, waste and abuse. "This is definitely a step in the right direction," said Craig Jennings, a policy analyst at OMB Watch, a nonprofit government watchdog group. Still, the Obama administration has a ways to go to complete transparency, Jennings said. The site, *Recovery.gov*, does not include complete data on recipients of stimulus money, and users face significant hurdles to accessing the information that is available. --Joe Markman, *The Los Angeles Times*. [Read more.](#)

States Counting on Cheap Credit to Avoid Spending Cuts

State governments are rushing to borrow money to take advantage of cheap and plentiful credit at a time when tax collections are tumbling. Investors, lured by the safety of taxpayer-guaranteed debt, are lending states money at the lowest interest rates in decades. The borrowing has helped governments increase spending during the recession and avoid some painful spending cuts. Lower interest rates will save governments several billion dollars annually during the life of the debt. --Dennis Cauchon, *USA Today*. [Read more.](#)

Comment Deadline Nears on GASB SEA Performance Reporting Proposal



Friday, Oct. 30 is the deadline for commenting on the Governmental Accounting Standards Board's (GASB) proposed suggested guidelines for voluntary reporting of service efforts and accomplishments performance information. The proposal is available at no charge on the [GASB website](#).

GAO Report: Millions in Fraud, Drug Abuse Clogs Medicaid

As Congress debates the government's role in health care, a new report finds that state and federal officials failed to detect millions of dollars in Medicaid prescription drug abuse. An audit of the government program in five large states found about 65,000 instances of beneficiaries improperly obtaining potentially addictive drugs at a cost of about \$65 million during 2006 and 2007--including thousands of prescriptions written for dead patients or by people posing as doctors. The report, by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), represents "an enormous opportunity to save money," says

Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del. When bills for the doctors' visits are added, along with the potential for Medicaid fraud in states not reviewed by the GAO audit, Carper said: "We're talking hundreds of millions of dollars." --Kathy Kiely, *USA Today*. [Read more.](#)

Call for National Awards Nominations

Who do you know that deserves special recognition for contributions to our field? Please help us acknowledge financial professionals at the federal, state and local level and private sector who are leading the way. (You might even consider nominating yourself.) Nominees do not have to be members of AGA. **Due date Oct. 30, 2009.**

These awards will be presented at AGA's Eighth Annual National Leadership Conference, **Feb. 18-19, 2010** in Washington, D.C.

[View the complete list of awards here.](#)

Job Openings

GS-14 Supervisory Auditor for HUD's Office of Inspector General Relocation is being offered for this supervisory position

http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=83637888&JobTitle=Supervisory+Auditor&q=&jbf574=HUGG&jbf522=&salmin=&salmax=&paygrademin=&paygrademax=&FedEmp=Y&sort=rv&vw=d&ss=0&brd=3876&FedPub=Y&caller=%2fagency_search.asp&submit1.x=106&submit1.y=15&AVSDM=2009-10-01+10%3a42%3a00



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Newsletter Information

Observations is the monthly newsletter of the Chicago Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA). Observations is published six times each year. Subscriptions to Observations may only be obtained by joining AGA. This is the second edition of Observations for the **2009-2010** chapter year. To submit material for upcoming issues, contact Alexandria Hayden at 312/353-3033 (phone) or 312/353-3814 (FAX). **The deadline for submissions to upcoming issues is the second Friday of each month. To update delivery information, contact Alexandria Hayden at 312/353-3033.** If you are not receiving the Chicago Chapter Newsletter electronically, please send your current e-mail address to: Alexandria.Hayden@oig.hhs.gov