



# Observations



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

*AGA – Dedicated to serving the community and promoting government accountability*

*April 2007*

*Issue 4*

**AGA Chicago Chapter would like to invite you to its Professional Development Conference!**

**All are welcome to join!**

Tuesday April 10, 2007

7:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
8 CPEs

233 N. Michigan Ave. Suite 1329  
Chicago, Illinois



## *A message from the Editor...*

Do you know anyone from the Chicago Chapter who has recently been promoted, accepted an award, retiring, new to AGA? Let us know! We can include them in our newsletter! Please forward your submissions to [alexandria.hayden@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:alexandria.hayden@oig.hhs.gov) so that it may be included in the next issue of *Observations!*

Do you know an AGA Chicago Chapter member who is not receiving our newsletters? Please forward me their name and e-mail address; I will add their information to my distribution listing!

## *In This Issue . . .*

President’s Message.....	2
Speaker Bio.....	3
Speaker/ Topic Information.....	7
Final Agenda for PDC.....	8
CGFM Corner.....	9
Links to website.....	10
Contact Us.....	11
January Financials.....	12
February Financials.....	13



**CHICAGO  
CHAPTER**  
Association  
of Government  
Accountants

Chicago Chapter  
P.O. Box 81015  
Chicago, IL 60681-0015

[www.agachicago.org](http://www.agachicago.org)

March 23, 2007

**Dear AGA Chicago Members:**

We are pleased to provide you with this month's **AGA** Newsletter. The February meeting was very successful and guest speaker, Ms. Rene Reyes, received rave reviews from you. Based on your feedback, we have recommended her to be considered for our 2007 AGA National PDC.

We want to invite every one of you and your co-workers to our "**AGA Chicago Professional Development Conference 2007**" to be held on Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at 233 N. Michigan Ave., Conference Suite 1329. We have received confirmation from the following speakers for the conference:

<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Subject</b>
<b>Mr. Jeff Hart</b> , AGA National President	"Logic Modeling as a Tool to Focus on Program Results" (2 CPE)
<b>Mr. Johnny Campbell</b> , DTM The Transition Man	"Effective Leadership & Communication" (2 CPE)
<b>Mrs. Gail MarksJarvis</b> , Chicago Tribune personal finance columnist and author	"Saving for Retirement - Without Living Like a Pauper or Winning the Lottery" (2 CPE)
<b>Mr. Brian Wellner</b> , Editor of the Lakefront Outlook weekly newspaper; winner of the 2006 George Polk Award (mini Pullitzer).	"The Lakefront Outlook's investigation about Alderman Dorothy Tillman and the historic Harold Washington Cultural Center" (2 CPE)

There will be a fourth speaker, and you will receive a total of 8 CPEs. The costs of the conference will be \$60 for active AGA members and \$75 for non-members. The conference begins at 7:00 AM with a continental breakfast and concludes at 4:00 PM with a networking session. Attendees may pay for this conference using a credit card. We will forward the final conference program to you in a few days.

Once again, we need to stress the importance of enrolling new members so that our association can grow in strength and better support our **Nation's Citizens**. You can make a difference by inviting a workplace colleague to attend one of our training meetings. Any person who works in or holds a degree in public administration or a related field in government is welcome. If the guest completes the AGA enrollment forms and pays the annual membership dues, the lunch that day is free.

We urge you to attend our exciting April 10, 2007 PDC event. If you need more information please send me an email at [anibal.marrero@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:anibal.marrero@oig.hhs.gov).

Cordially,

*Anibal Marrero*

Anibal Marrero  
President



*Embracing Diversity to Advance Government Accountability*

# ***Chicago AGA welcomes four exceptional speakers to our annual PDC!***

## **Speaker Bios** **(In order of presentation)**

### **Mr. Jeff Hart, AGA National President**

Jeff was appointed Manager of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) in Denver, Colorado in 1991. He was responsible for managing a variety of regional and national financial and performance audits, program evaluations, consulting and other reviews of EPA, its contractors and grantees. Jeff is presently responsible for managing all OIG evaluations and performance audits of EPA's enforcement, compliance, and environmental stewardship activities nationwide.

Jeff has also served on the National OIG Leadership Group, and was OIG's National Coordinator for EPA's National Environmental Performance Partnership System and Performance Partnership Grant Program. He completed a temporary assignment to EPA/OIG headquarters where he was responsible for developing a National Recruiting and Training Strategy for OIG's new Office of Program Evaluation. Jeff has received a variety of EPA awards including three EPA Bronze Medals, and the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency Award for Excellence.

Jeff is also the National President of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA). Prior to becoming AGA National President, he served 5 years on the Association's National Executive Committee (NEC) including four-years as Senior Vice President At-Large. He is a former chair of the AGA Chapter Assistance Committee and a past member of the National AGA Governance Task Force. He has also served as a member of the National Chapter Assistance and Nominating Committees. Jeff is a Past AGA Regional Vice President (RVP) for the Southwestern Region (two terms), Past President of the Denver AGA Chapter, and has served in various AGA leadership positions since joining the Association in 1977. Jeff received AGA National President's Awards in 1999 and 2001, and a Gold Medal as AGA Regional Vice President in 1999.

Jeff is also serving his third term as an Executive Committee member of the Mountain and Plains Intergovernmental Audit Forum. He previously served on the Forum Executive Committee from 1993 to 1999, and on the National Audit Forum's Strategic Planning Task Force in 2005.

Jeff began his government career in 1977 with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) where he served as a Senior Evaluator and Project Manager in the Denver, Dallas and Frankfurt (Germany) offices. He received a variety of awards while at GAO including the National Operations Improvement Program Award.

Jeff is a cum laude graduate of the University of Colorado at Denver, a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) and a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE).

**Mr. Johnny Campbell, DTM *The Transition Man***

*The following bio is located on Mr. Campbell's website*

<http://www.transitionman.com/>

**Johnny "The Transition Man" Campbell** is the president and founder of *Speak On It*, a company that specializes in helping businesses and individuals get the most out of their lives and business endeavors by teaching them behavioral business strategies and life strategies which will empower them to live fuller lives and make more money.

As a business performance specialist and author, Johnny attributes his personal success in business and life to being a solution-oriented individual. Prior to beginning his career as an entrepreneur, he spent over a decade in the insurance industry, where he worked for several of the largest carriers in North America serving as a Claims Adjuster and Insurance Trainer.

During his time in the insurance industry Johnny honed his razor sharp people skills in the stressful environment of massive downsizing and mergers, when employee morale was at its lowest. He was able to train and inspire hundreds of employees during times of great stress and uncertainty. Johnny attributes his success to his ability to understand human behavior. Based on those experiences gained from being a part of and surviving multiple corporate downsizings and mergers, he has become "The Transition Man".

Today, he travels the country helping individuals and corporations discover how they can overcome the personal and professional obstacles and emerge winners in their careers, personal lives and markets.

**Gail MarksJarvis, *Chicago Tribune personal finance columnist and author***

Gail MarksJarvis is an award-winning personal finance columnist for the Chicago Tribune and the author of a new book, "Saving for Retirement -- Without Living Like a Pauper or Winning the Lottery." In her book, she tells people step-by-step how they can invest wisely and simply, so they don't have to live like a pauper when young, or during retirement. Her columns run in newspapers coast to coast, reaching millions of readers. Among her honors, she has been named "Best Financial Columnist" by Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

MarksJarvis provides financial advice weekly on CLTV, and is heard on Chicago's WGN radio. She has provided financial news and commentary on public television, NPR, and NBC, CBS, and ABC affiliates. Formerly a reporter for public radio's "Marketplace" program and USA Today, she currently serves on the board of directors of the Society of American Business Editors and Writers.

Editorial Reviews

"Leading financial columnist MarksJarvis presents the everyman's guide to saving for retirement. The idea of navigating the world of 401Ks and Roth IRAs leaves many

people scared, cold, or both. This book will help reduce the confusion, anxiety and avoidance that many people associate with saving for retirement. Informed by thousands of calls and emails from readers over the years, MarksJarvis understands exactly what people want and need to know about managing their personal finances. Here, she provides guidance and answers common questions in an organized and reader-friendly style. Readers will learn how to calculate what they'll need for their nest egg, how to open an IRA, make sense of mutual funds and when to consult a financial advisor. Sensible—but not stuffy—this book will convince young people to start saving now, and will help ensure that panicked middle-aged readers will not be spending their golden years in the poor house." --Kirkus Reports



*From the Back Cover*

Award-winning personal finance columnist read by millions of people each week

The Incredibly Simple, Step-by-Step Guide to Investing Money for Your Future!

"A cover-to-cover must-read for everyone 16 to 60 who wants to live the American Dream. The earlier we choosetosave®, the sooner we can stop saving, and the later we start saving the more we need to know in order to catch up. What you need to know; where you can find the answers; how you can take action. It is all here."

–Dallas Salisbury, CEO, Employee Benefit Research Institute and American Savings Education Council ([www.choosetosave.org](http://www.choosetosave.org) <outbind://19/www.choosetosave.org> )

"Bookstores are full of tomes advising people how to save for retirement, yet millions of people are still hopelessly confused about what they should do. Gail MarksJarvis breaks it down into simple steps that anyone can do to ensure a more comfortable retirement. Read this book and prosper!"

–Liz Pulliam Weston, MSN Money Personal finance columnist and best-selling author of Your Credit Score

"You can wallpaper a warehouse with all of the awful investment advice offered up every year in newspapers, magazines, and books. One of the most difficult tasks is to separate the get-rich-quick hype from the truly worthwhile knowledge that will make you wealthy over time. I'm thrilled to say that Gail MarksJarvis has cut through the claptrap of investment cacophony and provided not only a solid plan for retirement saving, but a realistic, common-sense approach to personal finance in general. This is a triumph."

–John F. Wasik, Bloomberg News personal finance columnist and author, The Merchant of Power

**If you'd like to buy a copy of Gail's book, you need to request your copy when reserving your seat for the conference. The book price is \$13. Gail will conduct a book signing session during the second break.**

**Mr. Brian Wellner**, Editor of the Lakefront Outlook weekly newspaper; winner of the 2006 George Polk Award (mini Pulitzer)

*Mr. Wellner's bio will be available at the PDC.*

**Chicago AGA would like to welcome the following presenters to our 2007 Chicago PDC!!!**

Subject	Speaker	Topic
"Logic Modeling as a Tool to Focus on Program Results".	<b>Mr. Jeff Hart</b> , AGA National President	The purpose of this topic is to enhance how the auditors conduct their reviews. Mr. Hart is a Manager of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) in Denver, Colorado. (2 CPEs)
"Effective Leadership & Communication" .	<b>Mr. Johnny Campbell</b> , DTM The Transition Man	This topic has a management approach. (2 CPEs)
"Saving for Retirement - Without Living Like a Pauper or Winning the Lottery" .	<b>Mrs. Gail MarksJarvis</b> , Chicago Tribune personal finance columnist and author	This topic will apply finance concepts. (2 CPEs)
"The Lakefront Outlook's investigation about Alderman Dorothy Tillman and the historic Harold Washington Cultural Center"	<b>Mr. Brian Wellner</b> , Editor of the Lakefront Outlook weekly newspaper; winner of the 2006 George Polk Award (mini Pulitzer).	This topic has a government accountability approach, which will discuss how officials circumvent rules leading to potential waste of government funds. (2 CPEs)

*The fees are \$60 for active AGA members and \$75 for non-members. The following credit cards are accepted: AMEX , Discover, MasterCard, & VISA.*

**2007 AGA Chicago PDC Final Program**  
*Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at 233 N. Michigan Ave., Conference Suite 1329.*  
**7:00 AM to 4:00PM– 8 CPEs.**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
7:00 AM- 7:40AM	Continental Breakfast	<i>Welcoming Remarks</i>
7:50 AM- 9:30 AM	<i>First Session</i>	<i>Mr. Jeff Hart, AGA National President</i>
9:30 AM- 9:40AM	<i>First Break</i>	
9:45 AM-11:10 AM	<i>Second Session</i>	<i>Mr. Johnny Campbell, DTM The Transition Man.*</i>
11:10 AM-11:30 AM	<i>Working Lunch</i>	<i>Catered by Potbelly's</i>
11:30 AM- 1:00PM	<i>Third Session</i>	<i>Mrs. Gail MarksJarvis, Chicago Tribune personal finance columnist and author.*</i>
1:00PM -1:30PM	<i>Second Break</i>	<i>Mrs. MarksJarvis will hold a book signing session.</i>
1:30 PM-3:20PM	<i>Fourth Session</i>	<i>Mr. Brian Wellner, Editor of the Lakefront Outlook weekly newspaper; winner of the 2006 George Polk Award (mini Pulitzer).</i>
3:20 PM-4:00PM	<i>Networking Session</i>	

***For reservations please contact Linda:***

[Linda.lenziRadek@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:Linda.lenziRadek@oig.hhs.gov)

***312.886.4362***

***(No later than April 2, 2007)***

*Potbelly's will cater our lunch. We will have a variety of sandwiches to choose from.*

*During our PDC, we will not conduct a raffle for a free lunch.*

## CGFM Corner



**The Mark of Excellence in Government Financial Management**

**Intensive Review Course** - don't miss this opportunity to take the CGFM exams

Have you applied for the CGFM Program, but are having difficulty committing time to study and take the exams? Would you like to save on exam fees?

Then consider AGA's Intensive Review Course! Already a staple at two of AGA's conferences, it was just offered before the National Leadership Conference (NLC) in Washington DC and once again was sold out.

After attending the two-day review course on February 9-10, the candidates tackled the CGFM Examinations over the next two days (with some taking all three exams in one day!). As a result, 19 of the participants passed all three (or finished up their remaining) CGFM Examinations at this event. Several others passed one or two examinations and are on their way to completing the CGFM process.

While this "intense" experience is not for everybody, participants were attracted to the idea of completing the CGFM process in a short period of time, having a set deadline to take the examinations and saving money (the cost of CGFM Examinations is included in the Intensive Review Course fee and this fee is less than the cost of the three examinations). Holding an Intensive Review Course and CGFM Examinations in conjunction with AGA National Leadership and Professional Development Conferences gives the candidates one more way to reinforce the material and take the CGFM Examinations (candidates can also take the exams at Prometric testing centers anytime).

The extra reinforcement of the material is exactly what some people wanted and needed. The Intensive Review Course is not a substitute for the six days of regular instructor-led training courses. On the contrary, this course is designed as a supplement to previous preparation for the CGFM Examinations. In fact, the majority of the participants have either attended the CGFM training courses or purchased the CGFM study guides before participating in the Intensive Review Course.

AGA plans to continue offering this course and CGFM Examinations at its upcoming conferences. The next Intensive Review Course is scheduled for June

21-22, 2007 (with exams on June 23-24, 2007) in conjunction with AGA's Professional Development Conference (PDC) in Nashville, TN.

For more information or to register, visit <[http://www.agacgfm.org/pdc2007/cgfm\\_exam.htm](http://www.agacgfm.org/pdc2007/cgfm_exam.htm)>. Space is limited - if you are interested in participating, sign up now!



*Visit the Chicago Chapter Website:*

[www.agachicago.org](http://www.agachicago.org)



<p><b><u>Executive Committee</u></b></p> <p><b>President</b> Aníbal Marrero HHS/OIG 312/ 353-3029 <a href="mailto:anibal.marrero@oig.hhs.gov">anibal.marrero@oig.hhs.gov</a></p> <p><b>President – Elect</b> Clemente Torres HHS/OIG 312/ 353-1656 <a href="mailto:clemente.torres@oig.hhs.gov">clemente.torres@oig.hhs.gov</a></p> <p><b>Past President</b> Dan Eckert HHS/OIG 312/ 886-4140 <a href="mailto:daniel.eckert@oig.hhs.gov">daniel.eckert@oig.hhs.gov</a></p> <p><b>Secretary</b> Linda Lenzi-Radek HHS/ OIG 312/ 886-4362 <a href="mailto:Linda.lenziradek@oig.hhs.gov">Linda.lenziradek@oig.hhs.gov</a></p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> Sandy Lawera HHS/OIG 312/ 353-3144 <a href="mailto:Sandy.Lawera@oig.hhs.gov">Sandy.Lawera@oig.hhs.gov</a></p> <p><b>Historian</b> Vacant</p>	<p><b>Program Director</b> Vacant</p> <p><b>Meetings Director</b> Matthew Kroll HHS/OIG 312/ 353-7886 <a href="mailto:Matt.kroll@oig.hhs.gov">Matt.kroll@oig.hhs.gov</a></p> <p><b>Reservations Director</b> Linda Lenzi-Radek HHS/OIG 312/ 886-4362 <a href="mailto:Linda.Lenziradek@oig.hhs.gov">Linda.Lenziradek@oig.hhs.gov</a></p> <p><b>Membership Director</b> Janet Knauff RRB 312/ 751-4683 <a href="mailto:Janet.Knauff@rb.gov">Janet.Knauff@rb.gov</a></p> <p><b>Newsletter Editor</b> Alexandria Hayden HHS/OIG 312/ 353-3033 <a href="mailto:Alexandria.Hayden@oig.hhs.gov">Alexandria.Hayden@oig.hhs.gov</a></p> <p><b>Communications Director</b> Brian Moskal HHS/ OIG 312/ 353-7904 <a href="mailto:Brian.moskal@oig.hhs.gov">Brian.moskal@oig.hhs.gov</a></p>	<p><b>Education Director</b> Frank Moy GSA/OIG 312/ 353-7781, Ext. 112 <a href="mailto:franklin.moy@gsa.gov">franklin.moy@gsa.gov</a></p> <p><b>Webmaster</b> Mark Knudson RRB 312/751-4764 <a href="mailto:mark.knudson@rrb.gov">mark.knudson@rrb.gov</a></p> <p><b>Community Service Director</b> Irene Byrd DCAA 312/ 544-3106 <a href="mailto:irene.byrd@dcaa.mil">irene.byrd@dcaa.mil</a></p> <p><b>CGFM</b> Raul Nieto, CGFM ED/OIG 312/ 886-8651 <a href="mailto:raul.nieto@ed.gov">raul.nieto@ed.gov</a></p> <p><b>Early Careers Director</b> Vacant</p> <p><b>Job Referral</b> Vacant</p>
---	---	--

**Newsletter Information**

Observations is the monthly newsletter of the Chicago Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA). Observations is published nine times each year. Subscriptions to Observations may only be obtained by joining AGA. This is the **forth edition** of Observations for the **2006-2007** 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](mailto:Alexandria.Hayden@oig.hhs.gov)

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS  
CHICAGO CHAPTER  
MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
January 1 to January 31, 2007

**INCOME STATEMENT**

<b>REVENUE:</b>	
Luncheons	\$ -
Dues	\$ -
Charitable Contributions from Chapter Members	\$ -
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<u>\$ -</u>
 <b>EXPENSES</b>	
Meals	\$ -
Postage & Mailing Expenses	\$ -
State of Illinois Fees	\$ 150.00
Cook County Recorder Fees	\$ -
P.O. Box Rental Fees	\$ 106.00
Charitable Contributions	\$ -
Promotional Expenses	
Speaker Expenses	\$ -
PDC Expenses	\$ -
Recruitment Scholarship	\$ -
Misc. Expenses	\$ -
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$ 256.00</u>
 <b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	 \$ (256.00)

**BALANCE SHEET**  
1/31/2007

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash	
Checking Account	\$ 17,867.11
Petty Cash	<u>100.00</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	\$ 17,967.11
 <b>LIABILITIES</b>	 \$ -
<b>NET WORTH</b>	<u><u>\$ 17,967.11</u></u>
 12/31/06 balance	 \$ 18,223.11
 <b>INCREASES:</b>	
Cash Receipts - Checking Account	-
 <b>DECREASES:</b>	
Cash Disbursements	(256.00)
 <b>NET WORTH - END OF PERIOD</b>	 <u><u>\$ 17,967.11</u></u>

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS  
CHICAGO CHAPTER  
MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
February 1 to February 28, 2007

**INCOME STATEMENT**

<b>REVENUE:</b>	
Luncheons	\$ 198.00
Dues	\$ -
Charitable Contributions from Chapter Members	\$ -
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 198.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Meals	\$ 202.45
Postage & Mailing Expenses	\$ -
State of Illinois Fees	\$ 10.00
Cook County Recorder Fees	\$ -
P.O. Box Rental Fees	\$ -
Charitable Contributions	\$ -
Promotional Expenses	\$ -
Speaker Expenses	\$ 27.16
PDC Expenses	\$ -
Recruitment Scholarship	\$ -
Misc. Expenses	\$ -
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 239.61</b>
 <b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	 <b>\$ (41.61)</b>

**BALANCE SHEET**  
2/28/2007

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash	
Checking Account	\$ 17,825.50
Petty Cash	100.00
	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 17,925.50</b>
 <b>LIABILITIES</b>	 <b>\$ -</b>
 <b>NET WORTH</b>	 <b>\$ 17,925.50</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>
01/31/07 balance	\$ 17,967.11
 <b>INCREASES:</b>	
Cash Receipts - Checking Account	198.00
 <b>DECREASES:</b>	
Cash Disbursements	(239.61)
 <b>NET WORTH - END OF PERIOD</b>	 <b>\$ 17,925.50</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>