

OBSERVATIONS

DECEMBER 2012

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GREETINGS!

We need your input!! Please update us with current member news and events within your respective offices. We would love to feature our members and share their news with the membership!

Promotions, retirements, births, job openings—if your office has some news to share, we would gladly insert into our newsletter!

We have tentatively set the schedule for the upcoming year. Please see page two for

more information related to date/ location. Speakers are still being confirmed. Let us know what you want to hear about!

If you have any suggestions on speakers for our AGA continuing education seminars, please contact Matt Matczynski.



CHICAGO CHAPTER RECOGNITION—TOM DILISIO

Thomas DiLisio

Thomas DiLisio is the Financial Manager of the Division of Finance & Administrative Services with the US Department of Labor - Employment Training Administration located in Region V Chicago. Mr. DiLisio is also a Regional Grant Officer and has previously held positions as a senior Systems Accountant and a Program Specialist with ETA, as an Internal Auditor with the Michigan SESA agency, and as a Senior Auditor with the Michigan Office of the

Auditor General. Mr. DiLisio has also held several leadership roles in several national & regional initiatives with ETA, including special assignments in both Bosnia e Herzegovina and Macedonia.

Mr. DiLisio is a member of the Association of Government Accountants, is a Certified Government Financial Manager and Associate Fraud Examiner, and holds accreditation in the Investigation and Prevention of Commercial Fraud. He also serves the AGA Chicago Chapter

Executive Committee as Chapter Treasurer.

Mr. DiLisio's contact information is:

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Holiday Reception
- Toys for Tots
- Chapter Calendar of Events
- CEC Vacancies



President's Message

Dear AGA Chicago chapter members and friends,

Season's Greetings! As chapter president, I first wish to begin my message to you by thanking everyone who attended our November Continuing Education Seminar on Labor Fraud. Our chapter was fortunate to have a Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Dept. of Labor Office of the Inspector General speak on this topic. It was a great presentation on a topic that many of us are not too familiar with, but important nonetheless given how labor fraud and labor topics such as the Davis-Bacon Act impact other government agencies.

If you have been checking your email recently and/or our chapter website, you are likely aware that our next chapter event is the holiday reception. This is an important chapter event as it gives our members the opportunity to network with their fellow chapter members while celebrating the holiday season. Our chapter has made the holiday reception free to our members as a "member appreciation" event to thank you for being an AGA member! This event is one of the many benefits of being an AGA member! The holiday reception is also an opportunity to introduce non-members and in particular university accounting students to the AGA, our chapter, our chapter's activities, and employment in the government accounting profession in general. I hope to see some new faces at the holiday reception, and shortly thereafter have the honor of welcoming new members into our chapter.

Please note that you must RSVP to attend the holiday reception ... unfortunately no exceptions can be made. Anyone who RSVPs after the RSVP deadline of Friday November 30th will be placed on a wait list and will be invited to attend subject to space availability, and no walk-ins will be allowed. The chapter is not trying to be difficult or take away anyone's holiday cheer, but instead is trying to be fair to everyone who wishes to attend, especially given the popularity and incredible value of the holiday reception. A few days prior to the event, the chapter must confirm the number of attendees to ensure an adequate size room and amount of food and beverage to be served is provided. Thus, if you have RSVPed but are no longer able to attend, please let me know so that the chapter can possibly allow another guest on our wait list to attend our event. I appreciate everyone's cooperation and understanding, and I hope to see you at the holiday reception!

As we go about the holiday season, many of us have created "wish lists" of the gifts we hope to receive during the holiday season. The AGA Chicago Chapter has a wish list as well. One of the items on our wish list is to update the chapter website. Your chapter's executive committee has begun the process of planning the update of the chapter website. Currently, it is envisioned that the updates will consist of a new design for the website that will make it more professional in appearance, easier to use with more features and information, and be easier to maintain so as to allow the chapter to keep the website updated in a more timely manner. However, in order to make this wish a reality, we need your help! The chapter is seeking members willing to assist the executive committee in improving the chapter website. Although it would be helpful to have a background and/or experience in website design, the internet, computers, IT-related work, etc., anyone with an interest in helping improve our website is welcome to assist the executive committee. As an incentive and a way of thanking our volunteers for their time and efforts in improving our website, depending on the contribution provided, our volunteers may qualify to receive a free Starbucks gift card, AGA membership, or Chicago Chapter PDC registration! If you are interested in volunteering, or wish to obtain more information, please contact me.

*Advancing
Government
Accountability*

Association
of Government
Accountants

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As we are about to say goodbye to 2012 and enter 2013, it is time to make New Year's resolutions. Have you decided what your New Year's resolution will be? If you are not a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM), why not make 2013 the year you earned your CGFM certification? To assist you with this goal and as a benefit to our members, the chapter has a copy of each of the three official AGA study guides for the CGFM certification. Chapter members can check out the study guides for FREE by emailing me.

I hope you and your family have an enjoyable holiday season. On behalf of the entire Chicago chapter executive committee, HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Cordially,

Matthew Matczynski

Matthew Matczynski
President





Toy Collection

The AGA - Chicago Chapter is continuing our Toys for Tots toy collection that began at the Continuing Education Seminar on November 13th.

Any remaining toy donations can be placed in the chapter's Toys for Tots collection box located on the 22nd floor of the Metcalfe Federal Building (77 W. Jackson Blvd.). The toy collection will end on Monday December 17th.

Please consider donating a toy so that all needy children in the Chicagoland area are able to have a new toy for the holidays.

Please ensure that all toy donations:

- Are new toys only
- Are unwrapped
- Are not toy weapons

Questions? Please contact Matthew Matczynski at Mmatczynski@hudoig.gov.

We are updating our chapter website



But we need YOU to help make it happen!

OUR CHAPTER IS SEEKING MEMBERS WILLING TO ASSIST THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN IMPROVING AND MAINTAINING THE CHAPTER WEBSITE.

Depending on your contribution, you may qualify to receive a free Starbucks gift card, AGA membership, or Chicago Chapter PDC registration!

If you are interested, or for more information, please contact Matthew

Matczynski at Mmatczynski@hudoig.gov by Dec. 14th.

OBSERVATIONS ISSUE 4

CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINARS

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER	LOCATION
January 15, 2013	Cybersecurity, Privacy & You	Timothy Grant, Chief Privacy Offi-	Metcalfe Federal Bldg 77 W. Jackson GSA Room 328
February 27, 2013	AUDIO CONFERENCE: Getting Started With a Fraud Investigation	Allen Brown, CPA, CFE, Assistant Legislative Auditor for Local Audit Services, Louisiana Legislative Auditor.	HHS Conference Room 233 N. Michigan Ave. Suite 1329
March 12, 2013	TBD	TBD	Metcalfe Federal Bldg 77 W. Jackson GSA Room 328



The Wrigley Building, Chicago

HOLIDAY EVENT

December 5, 2012

Exchequer Restaurant & Pub ~ 226 S. Wabash Ave.

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, December 4	11:30AM-12:30PM	Metcalfe Federal Building, Room 325
Tuesday, January 8	11:30AM-12:30PM	Metcalfe Federal Building, Room 330
Tuesday, February 5	11:30AM-12:30PM	Metcalfe Federal Building, Room 330
Tuesday, March 5	11:30AM-12:30PM	Metcalfe Federal Building, Room 330
Tuesday, April 9	11:30AM-12:30PM	Metcalfe Federal Building, Room 330

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars!

We have reserved May 1-2, 2013 to host our Annual Chicago

Professional Development Conference.

CGFM

CGFM is a professional certification recognizing 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.

[Learn more at “The Value of CGFM.”](#)

For more information about CGFM from the Chicago Chapter, please contact the CGFM Director, Raul Nieto at 312.730.1634

Did you know Chicago Chapter members can check out study guides to prepare for the CGFM exam?

Contact Raul for more information!



Willis Tower, formerly known as The Sears Tower

BOARD DIRECTOR VACANCIES

The Chicago Chapter AGA has several Director vacancies which need to be filled. Please volunteer your time for the Chapter.

We meet monthly as a Board and conduct our monthly membership meetings.

Your commitment requires no more than 5 hours of your

time per month.

This is a great networking ability and way to learn about fellow Federal and State agencies are doing.

Please let us know if you can help!

Current vacancies include the following Directors:

- Awards
- Meetings
- Community Service
- Early Careers
- Publicity
- Accountability

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." --John Quincy Adams



CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Minutes of CEC Meeting – Chicago Chapter AGA
November 15, 2012 11:30 AM to 12:40 PM
Metcalf Federal Building, 77 W. Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL**

Attendees:

Matthew Matczynski (President) – in person
 Herbert Kwan (President-Elect) - absent
 Thomas McManigal (Past President) – via phone
 Sandy Lawera (Secretary) – absent
 Tom DiLisio (Treasurer) – absent
 CJ Carter (Program Director) – via phone
 Janet Knauff (Membership) – via phone
 Alex Hayden (Newsletter) – via phone
 Olga Gesell (Historian) – via phone
 Frank Moy (Education) – in person
 Mark Knudson (Webmaster) – absent
 Raul Nieto (CGFM) – via phone
 Steve Whitecotton (Job Referral) – via phone
 Rick Urbanowski (Chapter Recognition) – in person
 Julio Cestero (At Large) – in person

Holiday reception details and advertising – Julio Cestero and CJ Carter volunteered to advertise the event to the local colleges/universities (ex. UIC, Loyola, Depaul, Robert Morris, etc). Julio will send out flyers to the schools. The holiday reception will take place at Exchequer restaurant on Wednesday December 5th from 4:30 to 7:30 PM. It will be a free event and the cap for number of people attending will be 60 (same cap as last year, had actual attendance of 36). RSVPs will be needed for admission to event and deadline for RSVPs is 11/30/12. We need to provide an accurate number of attendees to the restaurant several days before the event, so no exceptions to the RSVP rule can be made. The restaurant (a licensed establishment) is providing any/all alcohol to attendees during the event within its premises, and thus is responsible for alcohol consumption by attendees.

January and February Continuing Education Seminar speakers

We have a speaker for the January meeting, but do not have a speaker yet for the February meeting. Per CJ Carter, in lieu of obtaining a live speaker for the February meeting, she recommended purchasing an AGA audio conference on either 2/6 (on internal controls) or 2/27 (on fraud investigations). We received good feedback from members on previous AGA audio conferences held this chapter year. Vote was taken and passed unanimously to purchase audio conference on 2/27. Only issue remaining is finding space to hold audio conference due to change of date. February meeting was scheduled to be held at HHS building, thus would prefer to hold 2/27 audio conference at HHS or RRB building, and not the Metcalfe building. Executive committee members will check for room availability.

PDC Speakers Discussed possible speakers for the 2013 PDC. CJ is in the process of contacting individuals to set up various times and duration of speaking engagements.

Chapter Communications, newsletter and website. There was much discussion on who and how to improve/maintain the chapter website and related costs. Consensus was that website is out of date and needs to be improved. CJ Carter mentioned it could cost \$1,000 or more to update the chapter website if professionals were hired. It was suggested that at next meeting, holiday reception, and newsletter that Matt make announcements to solicit interest from our members to volunteer on helping the executive committee improve the website. We could provide incentives to our members who volunteer such as a Starbucks gift card or free AGA membership. We are where we are with the website because the chapter lacked the resources/ talent. When the website was designed it may have been the best available design hosted by the best available company, but things likely have changed since that time. The website design and hosting company need to be reviewed. Mark Knudson is doing the best that he can to maintain our website, but the way the website is now, it is difficult to update/change information on it. Without Mark's work over the past few years, our chapter might not currently have a website, and there are AGA chapter that do not have a website. Right now we are paying \$220 a year to have our website hosted, and \$100 every 5 years to register the domain name. Per Olga, you can have a website using Yahoo for as little as \$8 a month. Suggestion that a committee be formed after determining which chapter members are willing to volunteer to work on improving the website. Also discussed having a Facebook account. The national office encourages its chapters to have a Facebook account, and we could earn points for it. However like website, a Facebook account requires talented people to not only set up, but to also maintain and keep current after set up. Discussed that some government agencies have policies prohibiting Facebook use on government time and/or filters that block access to Facebook from government computers, thus making the value of having a chapter Facebook account questionable since our target audience is government employees.

Toys for Tots – Chapter collection boxes will be set up at the Metcalfe building during the month of December. Any executive committee member wishing to obtain a chapter collection box for his/her office should let Matt know.

Other topics were discussed – Trying to increase attendance at monthly Continuing Education Seminars was discussed. Consensus was that it would not be a good idea to provide free admission to executive committee members to the monthly Continuing Education Seminars as a way to get more executive committee members in attendance. Instead, suggestion that we change pricing structure of events. Voted and unanimously approved a new pricing structure for monthly events in which members who do not want lunch are free, non-members who do not want lunch are charged \$5, members who do want lunch are charged \$10, and non-members who want lunch are charged \$15. Discussed that for this pricing structure to work, it would be best to continue providing box lunches as the lunch option vs a buffet as it is easier to police.

Discussion was held on the cloud, and executive committee members roles and responsibilities. Per Olga, we have registered with Amazon and have uploaded meeting information. Discussion on financial information being uploaded to the Amazon cloud and what information, if any, needs to be encrypted. Consensus is that it is best to err on the side of caution and encrypt whatever data we are putting on the cloud that is feasible to encrypt.

Discussion was held on whether we should have a speaker at the holiday reception. Discussed whether it would be possible and appropriate to have a speaker, and if so who and on what topic? Consensus is that a formal speaker would not be a good idea due to room setup and nature of event where participants are welcome to come and go as they please. Thus, no CPEs would be issued. Suggestion that we invite Bobby Derrick to attend holiday reception to talk about membership. However, concerns were expressed that assuming he was available and willing to attend, the chapter might have to pay for his travel costs, which may include a hotel room. Suggestion that instead the president and/or membership director give a speech on membership.

Brief discussion was held on how the chapter can increase the value of AGA membership that we provide to our members. Discussed that our chapter only receives \$7 per member from our members' dues, with the remainder (\$90 for a regular government membership) being retained by the national office. Brief discussion on benefits our chapter provides, such as the holiday reception and CGFM study guides, and benefits provided by national office, such as the magazine, discounted educational events, and discounted professional publications. Also there is the intrinsic value of being a member of a professional organization and supporting an organization that advances government accountability. Thus one might not get \$1 of benefits for every \$1 paid. Ran out of time, so discussion on benefits was tabled to the next meeting, as well as any discussion on holding morning / breakfast meetings.

AGA NATIONAL NEWS

From the National President, Evelyn A. Brown, CGFM-Retired

In my recent chapter visits, I've noticed that there is a considerable focus on education and training in ethics. This emphasis is also evident at the national level. I hope that you read the October 15 issue of the Topics newsletter, and the specific request seeking volunteers to serve on AGA's Ethics Board. Ethics is a critical component in our everyday lives. Our chair, Joseph Oliva, and the current team, are working diligently to: review the Professional Ethics Board Charter, and also to review the AGA Code of Ethics to make recommendations for any changes needed. [Read more](#)



Register Now for the Intensive Review Course and CGFM Examinations

AGA is offering a two-day Intensive Review Course, February 25-26, 2013, with an opportunity to take CGFM Examinations, February 27-28, 2013. The cost of the course is only \$279 for qualified participants. Special Bonus: the CGFM Examinations are offered at no cost to course attendees. [Read more](#)

Perspectives: The Looming Sequestration - What Will It Mean to Financial Managers?

There is much in the news these days about the federal government's potential "sequestration" program, which will result in several billions of dollars in automatic cuts across the federal agencies for fiscal year 2013, and more down the road - Robert Maitner, MPA, CGFM, CDFM, PMP, Senior Manager, *Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP*. [Read more](#)

Chicago Chapter Recognition Program

The Chicago Chapter earned the following Chapter Recognition Program credits during November:

Chapter Leadership, Planning & Participation – **25 credits**

Education & Professional Development – **250 credits**

Certification - **175 credits**

Communications - **539 credits**

Total – 989 credits



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Vacant

Community Service Director

Vacant

Meetings Director

Vacant

Publicity Director

Vacant

Awards Director

Vacant

Early Careers Coordinator

Vacant

AGA CHICAGO CHAPTER

Interested in becoming a sponsor? Please contact us!

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Check us out on the web!

agachicago.org

AGA supports the careers and professional development of government finance professionals working in federal, state and local governments as well as the private sector and academia. Founded in 1950, AGA enjoys a long history as the thought leader for the government accountability profession. Through education, research, publications, certification and conferences, AGA reaches thousands of professionals and offers more than 100,000 continuing professional education (CPE) hours annually.

CHICAGO CHAPTER MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the AGA Chicago Chapter is to carry out an educational responsibility of enhancing public financial management and accountability.

AGA through its chapters is a leading advocate for improving the quality and effectiveness of financial managers and auditors from local, state and federal governments from the Chicago area.

The chapter provides an opportunity for accountants and auditors to meet on a regular basis for training and networking.



View of Oak Street Beach and Lake Shore Drive

Happy Holidays!

Wishing you all the best in the

New Year!

Chicago Chapter AGA

Executive Committee Members