



# Observations



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

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

*February 2007*

*Issue 3*

**AGA Chicago Chapter would like to welcome**

**Ms. Renee Reyes**

**Special Agent for  
DHHS/ Office of  
Inspector General/  
Office of  
Investigations**

**Tuesday February  
13, 2007**

**11:00 AM  
2 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!

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CHICAGO  
CHAPTER

Association  
of Government  
Accountants

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

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

January 26, 2007

**Dear AGA Chicago Members:**

We are pleased to provide you with this month's **AGA** Newsletter. Our very successful November meeting took place at a new location, Houlihan's Restaurant, and it was our first ever Breakfast Educational Seminar. Thirty-six Chapter members heard Sheila Weinberg and Corey Davison discuss "The Fuzzy Math of State and Federal Budgeting" and earned two CPEs.

Our February 13, 2007 meeting will start with lunch at 11:00 a.m. and will be held at 233 N. Michigan Ave., Conference Room 1329. The building entrance is on South Water St., East of Michigan Ave. The cost is \$7 for current AGA members and \$11 for non-members. The topic is: "Ronald A. Mikos: From Healthcare Fraud to Homicide." Mrs. Renee Reyes, Special Agent for the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General, Office of Investigations is the guest speaker. Attendees will earn two CPEs.

We are now focused on planning and celebrating our "**Spring Chicago Professional Development Conference**" on Tuesday, *April 10, 2007* at 233 N. Michigan Ave., Conference Suite 1329. We will share the exciting details and cost of the Conference with you when the final program is approved and the speakers are confirmed. We want to add additional presenters to those pre-confirmed high profile speakers so that we can schedule a day-long event.

Despite our intensive efforts, we could not engage any National Corporate Partners to support this year's special incentives. Thus we are forced to re-think some of our special offers to members who attend meetings.

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.

The National **AGA** has provided us with essential publications that discuss key government accountability issues. They are available free of charge.

We urge you to attend our exciting February training session. 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*

***Speaker Bio***  
***Renee A. Reyes***  
***Special Agent, HHS/ OIG/ OI***

Renee A. Reyes obtained a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago in Criminal Justice. She has worked in the insurance field, and was an investigator with The City of Chicago, Inspector General's Office. She has been a Special Agent with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations since 2000.

## February Meeting Information

**Date:** February 13, 2007

**Time:** 11:00 A.M.

**Meeting Topic:** Ronald A. Mikos;  
From Healthcare Fraud to Homicide

**Speaker:** Renee Reyes, Special  
Agent for DHHS/ Office of  
Inspector General/ Office of  
Investigations

**Location:**  
233 N. Michigan Ave.  
Suite 1329  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

**Price:**  
\$7.00 up-to-date members  
\$11.00 non-members

**CPE: 2 Hour**

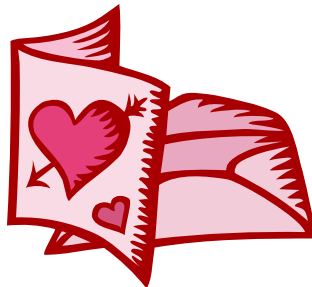
Please call your contact person with  
reservations before 12:00 P.M. on **Wednesday,  
February 7, 2007.**

*Contact persons should call in the names and  
number of reservations to Linda Lenzi-Radek  
at 312/353-2618 or 312/886-4362, or e-mail  
their data to Linda at  
[linda.lenziradek@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:linda.lenziradek@oig.hhs.gov). Reservations  
must be made by the prescribed times in order  
to get an accurate count. If you must miss the  
meeting, please contact Linda Lenzi-Radek  
directly to cancel. This is very important  
because we must pay for all lunches that we  
order. If possible, please cancel your  
reservation by the Thursday preceding the  
meeting to ensure that we are not charged for  
your lunch.*

*To help the line move faster, please have  
exact change or pay by check.*

**COME HUNGRY!!!**

Lunch will include roasted chicken, roast beef, pasta salads and other sides!



## CGFM Corner



The Mark of Excellence in Government Financial Management

### **Annual CGFM renewal time.**

It is time to renew your CGFM designation and/or AGA membership! Below you'll find answers to frequently asked questions about CGFM renewal:

**Q:** How often do I have to renew my CGFM designation?

**A:** CGFM certification is renewed on an annual basis. A renewal invoice is sent out in February and the payment is due by March 31st. If you do not receive an invoice by mid-March, please call AGA at 1.800.AGA.7211.

If your address has recently changed, please be sure to update your contact information with AGA and pay your dues in the "Members only" section of AGA website ([www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)).

**Q:** What are the requirements for maintaining the CGFM certification in an active status?

**A:** To maintain the CGFM certification in an active status, CGFMs are required to:

- Pay the CGFM renewal fee by the due date every year.
- Complete at least 80 hours of continuing professional education (CPE) every two years in government financial management topics or related technical subjects.
- Maintain and, if requested by AGA, provide detailed information on CPE hours completed.

To retain the CGFM certification, all CGFMs must adhere to the AGA's Code of Ethics. By submitting their annual renewal payment, CGFMs affirm that they have and will continue to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics and that they have fulfilled the minimum CPE Requirements.

**Q:** How do I determine my CPE cycle?

**A:** Your first two-year CPE cycle starts on January 1st of the year following the one when your CGFM was awarded (for example, if your CGFM was awarded in 2001, your first CPE cycle was 1/1/02-12/31/03). The award date is listed on your

CGFM certificate. Your current CPE cycle is listed on your renewal invoice. For a table of all CPE cycles visit

[www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/cgfm\\_calendar.aspx](http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/cgfm_calendar.aspx).

**Q:** My two-year CPE cycle just ended on December 31, 2006, but I did not complete 80 CPEs in 2005-2006. Can I make up the deficiency?

**A:** Yes. CGFMs who have not completed the 80 CPE hours in 2005-2006 cycle have until March 31, 2007 to make up the deficiency. Any CPE hours completed toward a deficiency in one period must be documented in the CPE records and may not be counted toward the requirements for the next two-year period. More information on CGFM CPE requirements can be found on [www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/cpe\\_requirements.aspx](http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/cpe_requirements.aspx).

**Q:** I just retired. Do I need to do anything to adjust my CGFM status to "retired"?

**A:** Yes. Individuals who are retired from AND are no longer substantially working in the government financial management community can request an adjustment of their status to "retired" by contacting AGA's Office of Professional Certification (by mail or e-mail at [agacgfm@agacgfm.org](mailto:agacgfm@agacgfm.org) <<mailto:agacgfm@agacgfm.org>> - please provide the date of retirement and confirm that you are no longer substantially working in the government financial management community). CGFMs in retired status are not required to remit the CGFM renewal fee or earn the 80 CPE hours.

If retired CGFMs return to work (substantial employment or contracting) in the government financial management community, they must contact AGA to change their status back to "active."

More information on CGFM renewal policies can be found on [www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/](http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/).



*Visit the Chicago Chapter Website:*

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

# Women For Hire

Here are four reasons why linking to [www.womenforhire.com](http://www.womenforhire.com) can help your members get ahead.

**1)The Women For Hire Advice Section** This section of our website has all the tools your members need to help them in their job search. These pages offer everything from resume and cover letter templates to appearance dos and don'ts and can take them step by step from interview prep through following up and negotiating salary.

[Click here](#) to check out the resources in our advice section

**2)The Women For Hire Network** The Women For Hire online professional network recently hit the 10,000 member mark. The network is a great place for your members to meet up and swap resources and opportunities with other professional women.

**Let us know if you add a link to our site and we will offer your members a free premium upgrade on their network membership:** [leigh@womenforhire.com](mailto:leigh@womenforhire.com)

[Click here](#) to visit our network homepage

**3) Women For Hire Job Board** The Women For Hire Job Board offers your members an opportunity to search positions posted from employers who are committed to hiring women and fostering diversity within their organization. Link to [womenforhire.com](http://womenforhire.com) so they can start searching today.

[Click here](#) to search our job board.

**4) Women For Hire Events** Last but definitely not least, WomenForHire.com provides up to date information on all of our events. A month before each expo we post a list of the employers who will be attending our expos and the positions for which they are hiring. We continue to update this page in the days leading up to the event.

[Click here](#) to visit our expo page

## Save the Date! Include Women For Hire in Your Event Calendar

### Spring Dates

**New York: February 27**  
**Washington, DC March 6**  
**Chicago: March 13**  
**St. Louis: March 15**  
**Dallas: March 27**  
**Tampa: April 3**  
**Atlanta: April 5**  
**Los Angeles: April 10**  
**Boston: April 17**



Women For Hire Expos are a great chance for members to meet face to face with recruiters from 40 to 60 top companies across a wide range of fields. Admission is free and we offer free resume critiquing on site at every event.

Make sure your members don't miss out on this great opportunity by including us in your event calendar for this semester. [Visit the expo section](#) of our site to find the details on the expo nearest you or click on your city from the Spring Expos list in the left hand column.

*Words of Wisdom*  
**By Carole Buncher, CEO**  
*Carole Buncher and Associates: The Competency Company*

PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE

Facing the likelihood of many retirements in the next few years, audit and accounting organizations have been hiring many auditors and accountants. While new hires receive technical training, they often do not benefit from training regarding their agency's culture. Also, new hires frequently are recent college graduates with no prior professional work experience. Following are some tips regarding professional etiquette—the norms and culture—of the audit and accounting community. Professional etiquette, coupled with technical expertise, is the backbone of success.

When meeting with client,

- Use a firm handshake—neither a dead fish handshake nor the crusher hold.
- Be punctual.
- Dress appropriately—first impressions are lasting impressions.
- Be assertive—sometimes being shy can be misinterpreted as being rude.
- Use body language to send a convincing message: erect posture, good eye contact, and a smile.
- Be a good listener. Paraphrase for understanding and ask follow-up questions.
- Be courteous and pleasant.
- Avoid interrupting.
- Avoid debating with the client or members of your interviewing team.

Following these few common-sense guidelines will contribute to your professional success—and in life in general.

For **professional etiquette** training or any of the many other courses we offer (including **interviewing techniques for auditors and accountants, presentation skills, creative problem solving, running effective meetings, supervision, audit fundamentals, and effective communication skills**), call us at 202 363 6645 or see our website: <http://www.carolebuncher.com>. We're proud to specialize in serving the audit and accounting community.



<p><b><u>Executive Committee</u></b></p> <p>President Aníbal Marrero HHS/OIG 312/ 353-3029 <a href="mailto:anibal.marrero@oig.hhs.gov">anibal.marrero@oig.hhs.gov</a></p> <p><b><u>President – Elect</u></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><u>Past President</u></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><u>Secretary</u></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><u>Treasurer</u></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><u>Historian</u></b> Vacant</p>	<p><b><u>Program Director</u></b> Vacant</p> <p><b><u>Meetings Director</u></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><u>Reservations Director</u></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><u>Membership Director</u></b> Janet Knauff RRB 312/ 751-4683 <a href="mailto:Janet.Knauff@rb.gov">Janet.Knauff@rb.gov</a></p> <p><b><u>Newsletter Editor</u></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><u>Communications Director</u></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><u>Education Director</u></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><u>Webmaster</u></b> Mark Knudson RRB 312/751-4764 <a href="mailto:mark.knudson@rrb.gov">mark.knudson@rrb.gov</a></p> <p><b><u>Community Service Director</u></b> Irene Byrd DCAA 312/ 544-3106 <a href="mailto:irene.byrd@dcaa.mil">irene.byrd@dcaa.mil</a></p> <p><b><u>CGFM</u></b> Raul Nieto, CGFM ED/OIG 312/ 886-8651 <a href="mailto:raul.nieto@ed.gov">raul.nieto@ed.gov</a></p> <p><b><u>Early Careers Director</u></b> Vacant</p> <p><b><u>Job Referral</u></b> Vacant</p>
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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 nine times each year. Subscriptions to Observations may only be obtained by joining AGA. This is the **third edition** of Observations for the **2006-2007** chapter year. To submit material for upcoming issues, contact Alexandria Cernich 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  
October 1 to October 31, 2006

**INCOME STATEMENT**

<b>REVENUE:</b>	
Luncheons	\$ -
Dues	\$ -
Charitable Contributions from Chapter Members	\$ -
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
 <b>EXPENSES</b>	
Meals	\$ -
Postage & Mailing Expenses	\$ -
State of Illinois Fees	\$ -
Cook County Recorder Fees	\$ -
P.O. Box Rental Fees	\$ -
Charitable Contributions	\$ -
Promotional Expenses	\$ -
Speaker Expenses	\$ -
PDC Expenses	\$ -
Recruitment Scholarship	\$ 22.03
Misc. Expenses	\$ 65.49
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 87.52</b>
 <b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	 <b>\$ (87.52)</b>

**BALANCE SHEET**

10/31/2006

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash	
Checking Account	\$ 18,671.09
Petty Cash	100.00
	<u>100.00</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 18,771.09</b>
 <b>LIABILITIES</b>	 <b>\$ -</b>
<b>NET WORTH</b>	<b>\$ 18,771.09</b>
 9/30/06 balance	 \$ 18,858.61
 <b>INCREASES:</b>	
Cash Receipts - Checking Account	-
 <b>DECREASES:</b>	
Cash Disbursements	(87.52)
 <b>NET WORTH - END OF PERIOD</b>	 <b>\$ 18,771.09</b>
	<u><u>18,771.09</u></u>

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS  
 CHICAGO CHAPTER  
 MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 November 1 to November 30, 2006

**INCOME STATEMENT**

<b>REVENUE:</b>	
Luncheons	\$ 259.00
Dues	\$ 56.00
Charitable Contributions from Chapter Members	\$ 280.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<u>\$ 595.00</u>
 <b>EXPENSES</b>	
Meals	\$ 612.21
Postage & Mailing Expenses	\$ -
State of Illinois Fees	\$ -
Cook County Recorder Fees	\$ -
P.O. Box Rental Fees	\$ -
Charitable Contributions	\$ 280.00
Promotional Expenses	\$ -
Speaker Expenses	\$ -
PDC Expenses	\$ -
Recruitment Scholarship	\$ -
Misc. Expenses	\$ -
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$ 892.21</u>
 <b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	 \$ (297.21)

**BALANCE SHEET**

11/30/2006

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash	
Checking Account	\$ 18,373.88
Petty Cash	<u>100.00</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	\$ 18,473.88
 <b>LIABILITIES</b>	 \$ -
<b>NET WORTH</b>	<u>\$ 18,473.88</u>
 10/31/06 balance	 \$ 18,771.09
 <b>INCREASES:</b>	
Cash Receipts - Checking Account	595.00
 <b>DECREASES:</b>	
Cash Disbursements	(892.21)
 <b>NET WORTH - END OF PERIOD</b>	 <u><u>\$ 18,473.88</u></u>

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS  
CHICAGO CHAPTER  
MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
December 1 to December 31, 2006

**INCOME STATEMENT**

<b>REVENUE:</b>	
Luncheons	\$ -
Dues	\$ -
Charitable Contributions from Chapter Members	\$ -
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
 <b>EXPENSES</b>	
Meals	\$ -
Postage & Mailing Expenses	\$ -
State of Illinois Fees	\$ -
Cook County Recorder Fees	\$ -
P.O. Box Rental Fees	\$ -
Charitable Contributions	\$ -
Promotional Expenses	\$ 239.40
Speaker Expenses	\$ -
PDC Expenses	\$ -
Recruitment Scholarship	\$ -
Misc. Expenses	\$ 11.37
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 250.77</b>
 <b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	 <b>\$ (250.77)</b>

**BALANCE SHEET**  
12/31/2006

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash	
Checking Account	\$ 18,123.11
Petty Cash	100.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 18,223.11</b>
 <b>LIABILITIES</b>	 <b>\$ -</b>
<b>NET WORTH</b>	<b>\$ 18,223.11</b>
 11/30/06 balance	 \$ 18,473.88
 <b>INCREASES:</b>	
Cash Receipts - Checking Account	-
 <b>DECREASES:</b>	
Cash Disbursements	(250.77)
 <b>NET WORTH - END OF PERIOD</b>	 <b>\$ 18,223.11</b>