



Observations



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

AGA – Dedicated to serving the community and promoting government accountability

February 2011

Issue 4

Upcoming Events

Luncheon:

February 11, 2011
11:30 AM

Speaker:

Paul Lionikis,
Strategic Agency
Relations Director for
U.S. Treasury IPP

Location:

77 W. Jackson Blvd.,
Room 331

Price:

\$5 members
\$12 non-members

1 CPE

Please RSVP to:

Tom McManigal at
tmcmnigal@hudoig.gov
and cc

Matthew Matczynski at
MMatczynski@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!

Renew your membership now! Save Time, Save Effort and Save the Environment by Renewing Your AGA Membership Online—

Going green is easy in 2011 when you renew your membership online. It's not only safe and quick, but it's also the fastest renewal method! To renew your membership and keep receiving member benefits, please login to the website. Remember your membership ID number is your login and the first initial of your first name followed by your entire last name is your password. You can locate your membership number on your membership card, e-mailed renewal reminder and mailed renewal form. The 2011-2012 membership renewal notice will be sent to you via mail within a few weeks. The due date for renewal payments is March 31st, 2011. Don't wait...[Renew Now!](#)

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February 4, 2011

Dear AGA Chicago Chapter Members,

Thank you to all the participants who attended our January luncheon and to the RDA Financial Network. Their federal employee benefits and retirement planning presentation was great. The presentation highlighted a number of important issues including the best time to retire in order to maximize your benefits, how to ensure that your spouse receives healthcare benefits and annuity payments, and options for structuring your retirement to provide benefits to your children.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, February 11, 2011 at 77 W. Jackson Boulevard, GSA Conference Room 331. The speaker will be Paul Lionikis from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston who will be discussing the U.S. Treasury's Internet Payment Platform (IPP) for Electronic Invoicing.

Our Chapter has ordered CGFM study guides for members that are interested in sitting for the examination. The study guides can be checked out for FREE by contacting our CGFM chair Raul Nieto.

We still have open positions on our executive committee and are looking for members who want to get more involved. Please contact me at tmcmanigal@hudoig.gov if you are interested in volunteering. (The Chicago chapter pays board members' annual membership fees if that is any incentive!)

Sincerely,

Thomas McManigal

Tom McManigal
President-Elect

AGA Chicago Chapter

We would like to thank Mr. David Willeumier for speaking at our AGA Chapter meeting last month! Thanks to all who participated!



Mr. David Willeumier, Investment Advisor Representative, RDA Financial Network

2010-2011 Training Schedule

DATE*	TOPIC	SPEAKER	LOCATION
February 11, 2011	Treasury's IPP for Electronic Invoicing	Paul Lionikis, Strategic Agency Relations Director for U.S. Treasury Internet Payment Platform (IPP)	77 W. Jackson Blvd.GSA Conference Room 331
March 14, 2011	TBD	Michael T. Kosanovich, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Chicago FBI	77 W. Jackson Blvd.GSA Conference Room 331
May 4-5, 2011	Two-day PDC** ~~~~~ \$175 cost per member	TBD	77 W. Jackson Blvd.GSA Conference Room 331

*Dates subject to change

** Two-Day PDC with breakfast & lunch/ (early bird discount of \$25 if registered by 3/31/11)

Please RSVP to **Tom McManigal** at tmcmanigal@hudoig.gov **and cc**
Matthew Matczynski at MMatczynski@hudoig.gov

Please join us on Friday, February 11th
77 West Jackson Blvd.,
Room 331 at 11:30AM!!!

Price:
\$5 members
\$12 non-members

Speaker Bio

Paul Lionikis

Paul Lionikis is the Strategic Agency Relations Director for U.S. Treasury's Internet Payment Platform (IPP). IPP is an e-commerce system that allows Federal agencies to exchange electronic purchase orders, invoices and payment information with their suppliers. In this role Mr. Lionikis works with agencies to assist them in understanding and evaluating how IPP will reduce costs and streamline operations.

In 2003, Mr. Lionikis assumed the role of Capture Manager at a Bank One and US Bank joint venture that processed \$750B in Federal tax payments annually. Following the merger of Bank One and JPMorgan in 2004, Mr. Lionikis served as the JPMorgan Treasury Services Relationship Manager for the Department of Defense.

Prior to JPMorgan Mr. Lionikis worked in the banking, securities and pharmaceutical software industries. His experience began in 1980 as a technical consultant developing banking software for wire transfer and foreign exchange. Over the next 23 years, Mr. Lionikis held a series of progressively more senior technical, management and sales roles in the eCommerce and software business sectors.

Mr. Lionikis holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from the Illinois Institute of Technology, with minors in Finance and Mathematics.

CGFM Corner



The Mark of Excellence in Government Financial Management

CGFM Exams

Interested in the CGFM certification? Sign up for AGA's special [Intensive Review Course](#) and take the CGFM Examinations after the NLC. Don't miss this opportunity to earn your CGFM.

The Intensive Review Course will take place from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 21, and Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2011. The CGFM Examinations will be offered by appointment only on Feb. 23-24.

The cost of the course is only \$279 for qualified participants, and it offers 18 CPE hours.

Special Bonus: The CGFM Examinations are offered at no cost to course attendees. The cost of this course is not included in the NLC registration fee.

BEFORE YOU REGISTER, PLEASE READ:

- *What is the Intensive Review Course?* It is a special limited enrollment opportunity for those individuals who have already been studying for the CGFM Examinations and want extra reinforcement of the material. It is a way to save money on the examination fees (and get the course with it!). It is a review of the main topics covered in the examinations. It is an opportunity to add the value of the instructor who can explain concepts, provide examples and answer questions for those who chose the self-study option. It is a refresher course for those who took the AGA instructor-led courses a long time ago. It is a great way to set a deadline for completing your certification examinations and get it done!
- *What it is NOT:* It is **not** a shortcut. The Intensive Review Course is **not** a substitute for the three AGA [instructor-led training courses](#). It is usually **not** enough by itself to prepare for the CGFM Examinations – advance preparation is strongly recommended (see [How do I prepare?](#) for more information). It is **not** an exam prep course with strategies on how to pass the exams.

Registration

To participate in this event, individuals must:

1. Apply for the CGFM Program (submitting CGFM application form, fee and college transcript – see Eligibility section below).
2. Pre-register for this event by submitting the [Intensive Review Course Registration Form](#) and appropriate fee. **Walk-ins will not be accepted.**

The complete application for the CGFM Program must be submitted BEFORE or TOGETHER with the Intensive Review Course Registration Form. Registrations for this event will not be confirmed until after the CGFM application is accepted.

Cancellations must be received by January 24, 2011; refunds will not be granted after this date.

Deadline: Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first-served basis. Space is limited, so we encourage you to sign up early. Registrations will not be accepted after **February 9, 2011**.

Location

The Intensive Review Course and the CGFM Examinations will be held in Alexandria, VA near King Street Metro. The exact address will be provided to all registered attendees.

The facilities for this event are provided by Grant Thornton LLP.

Eligibility

To attend the Intensive Review Course and/or take the CGFM Examinations participants must first apply and be accepted into the CGFM Program. Candidates need to submit the CGFM Program application form with \$85 application fee and a copy of a transcript from an accredited college or university.

The transcript must show that a degree (bachelor's or higher) was awarded and list at least 24 credit hours of courses in financial management or related topics. Applicant's name and the name of the college or university must appear on all transcripts. Please see www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/start/ for more information.

In addition, those individuals who want to complete their CGFM at this event need to submit a [Work Verification Form](#) listing at least two years of professional-level government financial management experience.

Prior attendance of CGFM training course(s) or purchase of the CGFM Study Guides is not required, but is strongly encouraged.

If you have already taken a CGFM Examination and did not pass, you must satisfy the waiting period before taking that CGFM Examination at this event.

Materials

No materials will be provided at the Intensive Review Course. However, participants are encouraged to order CGFM Study Guides at least six weeks before the course date. For more information on study guides visit www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/prepare/studyguide.aspx.

The cost of the study guides is not included in the price of the Intensive Review Course.

Examination Information

Three time slots are available for the CGFM Examinations on Feb. 23–24, 2011:

- 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- Noon – 3 p.m.
- 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.

The actual exam time is limited to 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Space is limited, so participants are encouraged to send in the registration form indicating their preference for an examination date and time as soon as possible. Some of the time slots may fill up and no longer be available. We will confirm your registration and indicate whether we are able to accommodate your request for the particular examination time slot(s).

Individuals who want to take the CGFM Examinations without attending the review course can do so by following the same registration procedures. The fee for taking the three CGFM Examinations is the same as the Intensive Review Course fee—see [Intensive Review Course Registration Form](#) for more details.

The CGFM Examinations are:

- Examination 1—*Governmental Environment*
- Examination 2— *Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting*
- Examination 3—*Governmental Financial Management and Control*

More detailed information on CGFM Examinations content can be found on www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/exams/.

The examination results will be available immediately.

Testing Procedures

You must be at the CGFM Examination registration desk at least 15 minutes prior to the testing time to check in. If you are not at the registration desk at the start of your examination time slot, we cannot guarantee your requested time slot.

Please bring a valid photo ID to the CGFM Examination registration desk—your ID must match the name you provide in the Intensive Review Course Registration Form and on the CGFM Program application form and must contain a photograph and a signature.

Personal belongings, including food, drink, papers, books, writing utensils, electronic and other organizers, cameras, cell phones, beepers, briefcases, bags, purses, pocketbooks and hats, may not be brought near the testing computer station and must be left in the designated area within the testing room. Scratch paper, a pen and a calculator will be provided.

For more information, please contact Crystal Vanison, Certification Program Coordinator, at cvanison@agacgfm.org or 800.AGA.7211, ext. 316. Thank you!



[Current list of active CGFM's!](#)

[Apply for the CGFM designation today!](#)



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

Chicago Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

Association of Government Accountants
Chicago Chapter

January 18, 2011

Present

Tom McManigal, President Elect
Thomas DiLisio, Treasurer
Mathew Matczynski, Program Director
Janet Knauff, Membership Director
Mark Knudson, Website Director
Raul Nieto, CFM
Rick Urbanowski, Job Referral/Chapter Recognition
Olga Gessell, Publicity Director
Zakia Haneef, Awards Director

Absent

Heath Wolfe, President/Past President
Sandy Lawera, Secretary
Alexandria Hayden, Newsletter Editor
Anibal Marrero, Historian
Frank Moy, Education Director
Jolanta Biskup, Early Careers Coordinator

Summary of Discussion

- ❖ Chapter Executive Positions included in the Chapter Leadership Handbook and Chapter Recognition Program were discussed. The Meeting Director position, currently vacant, will not be eliminated. Vacant positions on the board continue to be Meetings Director and Community Service Director. In recognition of the time and effort dedicated to the chapter, board members will be reimbursed for the annual AGA membership dues. Further, a committee was formed for establishing chapter Bylaws and will be headed by the President Elect and the Job Referral/Chapter Recognition Director. The anticipated date for members to critique and approve the Bylaws is May 5, 2011.
- ❖ Three board members volunteered to attend the Sectional Leadership Meeting sponsored by the National Chapter to be held on April 29 – 30, 2011 in Philadelphia, PA. Also, two board members will be selected to represent the Chapter at the National Professional Development Conference sponsored by the National Chapter to be held on July 10 – 13, 2011 in Atlanta, GA.
- ❖ Speaker for the monthly luncheon in April 2011 is selected but not yet confirmed. Also, speakers/trainings suggestions are needed for the professional development conference to be held by the Chicago Chapter on May 4 – 5, 2011. Early-bird registration fee for the members is \$150 and \$200 for non-members, if registration is received by April 15, 2011. The early-bird registration is limited to the first 125 individuals. Regular registration fee for the members is \$175 and \$225 for non-members. Walk-ins are welcome.

- ❖ A new benefit will be provided to members. The Chapter is in the process of purchasing study guides for all three parts of the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) certification. Interested members must attend at least one monthly meeting during a program year and provide a deposit of \$40 at the time of barrowing. The deposit will be reimbursed upon receipt of the study guide. Only one study guide can be barrowed at a time. Raul Nieto, CGFM Director will head up the initiative.

Chapter Recognition Program

(January 2011)

<i>Category</i>	<i>Points Earned</i>
Chapter Leadership, Planning & Participation	25 points
Education & Professional Development	150 points
Certification	125 points
Communications	605 points
	Total - 905 points

From the National Office

National Leadership Conference

AGA's Ninth Annual National Leadership Conference on Feb. 17-18 will be presented at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. Offering 14 CPE hours, the NLC attracts the top leaders in federal, state and local government for two days of spirited dialogue. Hear valuable insights, proven strategies and lessons learned. Discuss the newest management techniques and learn the most recent information on always-changing standards and regulations.

[Register online.](#)

[Print the registration form.](#)

Speakers Include:

- **Gene L. Dodaro, CGFM**, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office
- **Mark Easton**, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), U.S. Department of Defense
- **Ron Elving**, Senior Washington Editor, National Public Radio
- **D. Clark Partridge, CGFM**, State Comptroller, State of Arizona
- **Scott Pattison**, Executive Director, National Association of State Budget Officers
- **Alice M. Rivlin, Ph.D.**, Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution and Member, President's Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform
- **Robert J. Scanlon**, Assistant General Manager, Office of Operational Process and Performance Metrics, Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- **Robert A. Sunshine**, Deputy Director, Congressional Budget Office
- **Anthony P. Scardino, CGFM**, Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
- **Danny Werfel**, Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget
- **Eric Zarnikow**, Former Associate Administrator for the Office of Capital Access, U.S. Small Business Administration

2011 PDC Hotel Scholarships

We are happy to announce that AGA's Chapter Hotel Scholarship program will continue at this year's PDC, which takes place July 10-13 at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis. The scholarship program covers room and tax for two individuals from each AGA chapter for up to five nights.

Members chosen by their chapter to receive the hotel scholarship are responsible for making their own reservations. Once a reservation is made, e-mail the confirmation number and arrival/departure dates to [Jessica Jones](#). There must be a separate name listed for each confirmation number provided. Approximately two weeks prior to the PDC, members participating in the scholarship program will be moved to AGA's master account and have

their room and tax charges billed directly to AGA.

The PDC conference rate is \$132 (plus tax) per night until June 20, or until the room block is sold out. Reservations received after June 20, or after the block is filled, may be subject to higher rates. AGA's scholarship program will not cover rooms booked at a higher room rate. To make a reservation, please call the hotel directly at 866.469.5475 and mention you are attending the "AGA PDC" to ensure you receive the discounted rate. Please do not mention the scholarship, as this may cause confusion when trying to book a room. You may also [reserve a room online](#).

All hotel rooms are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis until the hotel is sold out. We encourage you to make your reservations early. If you have any questions regarding the hotel scholarship program, please contact [Jessica Jones](#).

Audio Conference Schedule Changes

The audio conference on **Audit Tools** has been moved to **March 9**. The audio conference on **Ethics** has been moved to **May 11**. We hope these changes will not affect those of you who already purchased either or both of these audio conferences. However, if your group cannot accommodate the changes, you may request a credit toward a future audio conference. Please direct such requests to [Maria Lucas](#) at 800.AGA.7211, ext. 308. Questions regarding all audio conferences should be directed to [Raymond Harris, CGFM](#), at 518.280.6317.

New AGA Audio Conference

Watch for AGA's new audio conference on Program Integrity set for 2-3:50 p.m. (EDT) **March 30**. Details will be announced soon. This cost-effective educational tool will be discounted at the early registration rate of \$175, or \$74 less than usual. Remember, attendance is unlimited and participants can earn 2 CPE hours for each audio conference. [View the entire schedule](#).

Renewal News for Chapters

If your chapter is planning an event that will pay the annual membership dues on behalf of attendees, please notify AGA Membership Services immediately to assist you with the planning, logistics and recording of the funds to be paid. The AGA membership team is working to make the 2011-2012 membership renewal process as smooth and trouble-free as possible. We want to ensure that all chapter dues payments made for a multiple attendees will be properly credited and processed. Please contact [Pamella Shaw](#) or [Rodneikka Scott](#).

AGA Needs You!

AGA is seeking candidates interested in serving on our National boards and committees. As members of AGA and leaders in your profession, we need you to help this association succeed. Serving as a board or committee member is one of the most important contributions you will make to your career and the profession!

Commitment

All board and committee terms begin July 1. Board terms run for one, two or three years,

depending on the board, and committee terms run for three years. Conference committees each hold a one-year term.

Qualifications

If you are an AGA member in good standing, able to serve a full term of office, and able to participate in board and committee conference call meetings, you are qualified to serve.

[Read specific qualifications.](#)

More Information

Learn more about our boards and committees by visiting the [AGA website](#). If you are interested in serving, [please fill out and submit a sign-up form](#) prior to April 15. Please contact [Louise Kapelewski](#) or call 800.AGA.7211, ext. 321 for more information. Take advantage of this exceptional opportunity today!

AGA Members, Families Eligible for Academic Scholarships

Are you or a family member pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in disciplines such as accounting, auditing, budgeting, economics, finance, information technology, public administration, etc.? If so, consider applying for an AGA National Academic Scholarship today.

Each year, AGA National awards:

- . Up to four \$3,000 full-time merit scholarships
- . One \$1,000 part-time merit scholarship
- . One \$3,000 community service scholarship

Visit the AGA website to download applications for [high school](#), [undergraduate](#) or [graduate](#) students.

The deadline for receipt of applications is **March 31**. Please contact [Louise Kapelewski](#) at 800.AGA.7211, ext. 321, if you have questions. Apply now and take full advantage of your AGA membership.

Call for National Awards Nominations

AGA's National Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for 13 national awards that recognize the leaders advancing our profession and setting the standards of excellence. These awards will be presented during AGA's 60th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC) in Atlanta, July 10-13. In many cases, individuals do not have to be members of AGA to be eligible. All nominations are due by April 15. See a complete list of available awards and [download nomination forms](#). For more information, contact [Louise Kapelewski](#).



For additional information regarding Chapter/ National news and events, please click on the links below:

<u>Helpful Links</u>
<u>Our Website</u>
<u>Our Events Calendar</u>
<u>Our Newsletters</u>
<u>AGA National Website</u>

February Luncheon Menu

- **Italian Sausage** – in natural gravy and cooked with Buona’s traditional herbs and spices, smothered in sweet bell peppers. Served with rolls.



- **Chicken Parmesan** – lightly breaded, tender breasts of chicken with Buona’s own Marinara sauce and imported Mozzarella and Parmesan cheeses.



- **Cheese Ravioli** – thin pasta pockets filled with Ricotta and Romana cheeses, topped with Buona’s own Marinara sauce.



- **Buona Chopped Salad** – Romaine & iceberg lettuce, cucumber, tomato, red peppers, carrots, black olives, red wine vinaigrette, pasta, chips & Gorgonzola cheese.



- Beverage of your choice. Selection may vary.



4:15 PM
12/18/10
Accrual Basis

AGA-Chicago Chapter
Profit & Loss
July through December 2010

	<u>TOTAL</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Other Types of Income	
Miscellaneous Revenue	400.00
Total Other Types of Income	400.00
Program Income	
Luncheon Receipts	712.49
Member Assessments	100.00
Membership Dues	85.44
Total Program Income	897.93
Total Income	1,297.93
Expense	
Contract Services	
License Fee	353.40
Total Contract Services	353.40
Operations	
AGA Dues Reimbursement	216.24
Food	1,518.64
Gift Cards	25.00
Miscellaneous	200.00
Postmaster Box	155.00
Refreshments	19.55
Speaker Expense	499.00
Total Operations	2,633.43
Travel and Meetings	
Travel	551.78
Total Travel and Meetings	551.78
Total Expense	3,538.61
Net Ordinary Income	-2,240.68
Net Income	-2,240.68

Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2010

Dec 31, 10

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

LaSalle National Bank - Other

Petty Cash

LaSalle National Bank - Other

Total LaSalle National Bank

Total Checking/Savings

Total Current Assets

TOTAL ASSETS

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Opening Balance Equity

Change in Net Assets

Net Income

Total Equity

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

100.00

21,499.88

21,599.88

21,599.88

21,599.88

21,599.88

20,656.85

2,103.71

8,240.00

21,599.88

21,599.88

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS - CHICAGO CHAPTER
ANNUAL BUDGET - 2010
 July 30, 2009

<u>REVENUES:</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>	<u>2009 Actual</u>
Luncheon Fees	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,101
Member Dues	\$2,200.00	\$581.00	\$1,619.00	\$2,139
Other	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$4,625
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$11,400.00	\$581.00	\$10,819.00	\$7,864

<u>EXPENSES:</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>	<u>2009 Actual</u>
Food & Beverage	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$5,500.00	\$4,214
Postage & Mailings	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$0
State of Illinois Filings	\$170.00	\$5.00	\$165.00	\$168
Web Site	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$388
P.O. Box Rental	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$70.00	\$66
Charitable Contributions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300
Speaker Expenses	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$66
Speaker Gifts	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300
Recruitment Scholarships	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$522
PDC Conference	\$1,600.00	\$0.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,550
Miscellaneous	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0
TOTAL EXPENSE:	\$9,060.00	\$5.00	\$9,055.00	\$7,574

FUND BALANCE CHANGE:	\$2,340.00	\$576.00	\$1,764.00	\$290
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Fund Balance - July 1, 2009	\$21,044.57	\$21,044.57		
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Projected Balance - June 2010	\$23,384.57	\$21,620.57		
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Executive Committee

President

Heath Wolfe
HUD/OIG
312/ 913-8674
wwolfe@hudoig.gov

President – Elect

Tom McManigal
HUD/OIG
312/ 913-8035
tmcmanigal@hudoig.gov

Past President

Heath Wolfe
HUD/OIG
312/ 913-8674
wwolfe@hudoig.gov

Secretary

Sandy Lawera
HHS/OIG
312/ 353-3144
Sandy.Lawera@oig.hhs.gov

Treasurer

Thomas DiLisio
DOL
312/ 596-5454
Dilisio.thomas@dol.gov

Program Director

Matthew Matczynski
HUD/OIG
312/ 913-8644
MMatczynski@hudoig.gov

Meetings Director

Vacant

Membership Director

Janet Knauff
RRB/OIG
312/ 751-4683
Janet.Knauff@rb.gov

Newsletter Editor

Alexandria Hayden
HHS/OIG
312/ 353-3033
Alexandria.Hayden@oig.hhs.gov

Historian

Aníbal Marrero
HHS/OIG
312/ 353-3029
Anibal.marrero@oig.hhs.gov

Education Director

Frank Moy
GSA/OIG
312/ 353-7781, Ext. 112
franklin.moy@gsa.gov

Website Director

Mark Knudson
RRB/ OIG
312/ 751-4764
mark.knudson@rb.gov

Community Service Director

Matthew Matczynski
HUD/OIG
312/ 913-8644
MMatczynski@hudoig.gov

CGFM

Raul Nieto
ED/OIG
312/ 730-1634
raul.nieto@ed.gov

Early Careers Coordinator

Jolanta Biskup
ED/OIG
312/ 730-1619
Jolanta.biskup@ed.gov

Job Referral

Rick Urbanowski
HUD/OIG
312/ 913-8492
rurbanowski@hudoig.gov

Publicity Director

Olga Gesell
HHS/OIG
312/ 353-7907
Olga.Gesell@oig.hhs.gov

Awards Director

Zakia Haneef
HUD/OIG
312/ 913-8693
zhaneef@hudoig.gov

Chapter Recognition

Rick Urbanowski
HUD/OIG
312/ 913-8492
rurbanowski@hudoig.gov

Newsletter Information

Observations is the monthly newsletter of the Chicago Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA). Subscriptions to Observations may only be obtained by joining AGA. This is the fourth edition of Observations for the **2010-2011** chapter year. To submit material for upcoming issues, contact Alexandria Hayden at 312/353-3033 (phone) or 312/353-3814 (FAX). **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