



# Observations



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

AGA – Dedicated to serving the community and promoting government accountability

January 2012

Issue 4

## Upcoming Events

### Audio Conference

#### Topic:

The New Stewardship Imperative – Federal Financial Management at the Crossroads

#### Location:

Metcalf Federal Building  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.,  
Room 325

#### Price:

\$6 members  
\$11 non-members

2 CPE

RSVP to:

**Matthew Matczynski**

[MMatczynski@hudoig.gov](mailto:MMatczynski@hudoig.gov)

by 12:00 PM on  
**February 6, 2012**



### Update your member information!

Please review and update your personal information at National's website, [www.agacgfm.org](http://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!

### Apply for 2012 National 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! See the newsletter for further details!

## In This Issue . . .

President's Message.....	2
Training Schedule/ Information.....	3
Chicago Chapter PDC Flyer.....	4
CGFM Corner.....	9
Training Opportunities.....	10
Chapter Recognition Program.....	10
Audio Conference Information.....	11
CEC Board Meeting Minutes.....	12
From the National Office.....	14
Helpful Links.....	19
Contact Us.....	20



*Advancing  
Government  
Accountability*

Association  
of Government  
Accountants

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

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

January 26, 2012

Dear AGA Chicago Chapter Members,

Thank you to all who attended our holiday reception at Exchequer Restaurant and Pub. We hope you enjoyed the free food and drinks and took an opportunity to get to know your fellow members a little better and meet new friends. With the continued support of our members, we hope to host more member appreciation events in the future.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday April 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday April 19<sup>th</sup> of 2012! We will be holding our annual conference on these days from 8:30 am through 4:00 pm at the Metcalfe Federal Building located at 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL. We will feature speakers from the National Office, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Social Security Administration, U.S. Trustees Office, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, City of Chicago, Federal Bureau of Investigation, University of Connecticut, and Cotton and Company LLC. The annual conference will be worth 13 continuing professional education credits and we hope to see you there!

As you know, our chapter obtained all three Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) study guides. Please contact our CGFM chair Raul Nieto if you are interested in checking them out. His contact information, along with the contact information of the entire executive committee, is included on the last page of this newsletter.

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](mailto:tmcmanigal@hudoig.gov) if you are interested in volunteering (The Chicago chapter pays board members' annual membership fees and provides exclusive training opportunities).

Sincerely,

*Thomas McManigal*

Tom McManigal  
President



# AGA Chicago Chapter

## 2011-2012 Training Schedule\*

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER	LOCATION
February 8, 2012	The New Stewardship Imperative – Federal Financial Management at the Crossroads	Audio Conference <i>(Details below)</i>	Metcalfe Federal Building 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Room 325
April 18-19, 2012	Annual Chapter Conference	See attached flyer	GSA Conference Room 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Room 331
May 15, 2012	TBD	TBD	DHHS Conference 233 N. Michigan Ave. Suite 1329 11:00AM to 1:30PM

\*Dates subject to change

**Audio Conference 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM.**

Lunch provided, therefore doors open at 12:30 PM (come any time between 12:30 PM – 1:00 PM)

**Location:**

Metcalfe Federal Building  
77 W. Jackson Blvd., Room 325  
Chicago, IL 60604

Note that the date, time, and location of our February luncheon has changed from the events schedule provided in previous communications.

**Price:**

\$6 Member  
\$11 Non-Member

**2 CPEs** provided

Please RSVP to:

Matthew Matczynski at [Mmatczynski@hudoig.gov](mailto:Mmatczynski@hudoig.gov)

Lunch will be provided from Edwardo's (individual order). Thus, the deadline to RSVP is noon on Monday February 6<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, no exceptions can be made.

# 2012 ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Presented by the Association of Government Accountants' Chicago Chapter

*AGA's mission is to serve accountability professionals by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.*

This two-day training is worth **13 CPE hours** approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

**April 18th & 19th  
8:00AM - 4:00PM**

Metcalfe Federal Building  
GSA Room 331  
77 W. Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

**Register by April 1, 2012**

Members: \$195  
Nonmembers: \$295  
Students: \$80  
Group (5+): \$195 per person

## **SPEAKERS:**

Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>

**David Cotton**, CPA, CFE, CGFM,  
Chairman, Cotton & Company LLP  
*Federal Cost Principles and Administrative Rules  
SAS 99 Case Study: Sewer District Fraud*

**Dr. Richard Hurley**, Ph.D., Esq., CPA, CFE, CFF, FCPA  
Professor, University of Connecticut  
*Whistle-Blowing from False Claims Act to Dodd-Frank Act*

**Bobby Derrick**, Field Representative, AGA's National Office  
*Leadership Challenges Created by New Technologies*

**Becker Professional Education**, Sponsor  
*Continuing Professional Education and the CPA Examination*

Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>

**Doug Tillett**, Vice President of Public Affairs, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago  
*Structure and Purpose of the Federal Reserve*

**Brian Etchell**, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
*Hired Truck Investigation*

**Joseph M. Ferguson**, City of Chicago's Inspector General  
*The Role and Mission of a Municipal Inspector General in a Modern City*

**Steve Reynolds**, Director of Reactor Safety, Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
*NRC Actions in Response to Japan Reactor Disaster*

**Mayra Salazar**, Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration  
*Social Security Benefits and Solvency*

**Patrick Layng**, U.S. Trustee, U.S. Trustee's Office  
*Bankruptcy Basics and Fraud*

**Conference application, agenda, and speaker bios attached.**

**Please submit application forms to:**

[mmatczynski@hudoig.gov](mailto:mmatczynski@hudoig.gov) &  
cc: [tmcmanigal@hudoig.gov](mailto:tmcmanigal@hudoig.gov)

Additional information:

1. CPE certificate distributed at conclusion of conference
2. No prerequisites
3. Breakfast and lunch will be provided





## AGA's Chicago Chapter

### 2012 Annual Professional Development Conference

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS:

### David Cotton, CPA, CFE, CGFM

Dave Cotton is chairman of Cotton & Company LLP. The firm primarily assists Federal and State government agencies, grantees, and contractors with a variety of government program assurance and advisory services. Mr. Cotton has served on multiple boards, councils, task forces, and subcommittees within the accounting industry and coauthored "*Managing the Business Risk of Fraud*". Mr. Cotton has directed hundreds of audits, testified as an expert before the United States Court of Federal Claims and currently teaches at George Washington University and the George Mason University Small Business Development Center.

### Bobby Derrick, Field Representative, AGA's National Office

Bobby A. Derrick served 35 years with the federal government and is retired from DFAS Indianapolis where he was Director for Business Management and Network Compliance. Bobby has held many positions within AGA including past National President of AGA (2004-2005), past member of the National Executive Committee (six years), and Senior Vice-President for Regional Services (three years) (SVPRS). Bobby joined the Association in 1974, and has served at the chapter, regional, and national level for many years. He was instrumental in creating several new AGA Chapters and helping revitalizing those Chapters needing assistance. Bobby is a native of Corbin, KY and has an MBA from Eastern Kentucky University.

### Joseph M. Ferguson, City of Chicago's Inspector General

Joseph Ferguson began a four-year term as Chicago's Inspector General on November 30, 2009. Ferguson came to the Inspector General's Office following 15 years with the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) for the Northern District of Illinois. From 1994 through 1999 he represented the United States in cases before the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals involving employment discrimination (Title VII), civil rights, environmental law, and government program fraud. Ferguson's work included a landmark environmental case which was ultimately decided by the United States Supreme Court. From 2000 to 2009, Ferguson worked in the Criminal Division of the USAO, prosecuting public corruption, mail/wire fraud, tax, healthcare and government program frauds, terrorist financing, drug and labor racketeering cases. Ferguson served as the Chief of the USAO's Money Laundering and Forfeiture Section, where he had previously served as Deputy Chief. He also held positions as Deputy Chief of Financial Crimes & Special Prosecutions and Terrorist Financing Coordinator. In addition to his work with the USAO, Ferguson has been an adjunct instructor at both the Loyola University and John Marshall Schools of Law in Chicago. He has also been an instructor at the Department of Justice's National Advocacy Center, which provides training for federal, state, and local prosecutors and investigative agencies. Ferguson received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Lake Forest College in 1982, and his J.D. from Northwestern University Law School in 1990.

### Dr. Richard Hurley, Ph.D., Esq., CPA, CFE, CFF, FCPA

Dr. Hurley earned his Ph.D. in Accounting from the University of Connecticut in 1994; his Juris Doctorate in 1974 from the Albany Law School; a Masters in Accounting from the State University of New York in 1976, and his BS in History from the Maxwell School of Administration Public Affairs at Syracuse University in 1970. Dr. Hurley is a New York licensed Attorney and is licensed to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Tax Court, U.S. Federal District Court, and New York State Court system. Dr. Hurley is a Professor of Accounting for the School of Business at the University of Connecticut and has been teaching courses in Accounting and Security Fraud, Financial Accounting and Reporting, Financial Statement Analysis, and Forensic Accounting and Fraud Examination. For the past two years Dr. Hurley has co-authored a bi-monthly column entitled, Global Fraud Focus for Fraud Magazine, an ACFE publication. Previously, Dr. Hurley has written a column in Fraud Magazine entitled, Fraud Edge, which was devoted to educational issues in the fraud environment. Finally, Dr. Hurley is a Board Member of the Capital District Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.



## AGA's Chicago Chapter

### 2012 Annual Professional Development Conference

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS:

### **Patrick S. Layng, U.S. Trustee, Region 11**

Patrick S. Layng was appointed by Attorney General Erick Holder as U.S. Trustee for the Northern District of Illinois and the Eastern and Western Districts of Wisconsin (Region 11) on December 14, 2010. For the past six years, Mr. Layng was a Regional Criminal Coordinator with the U.S. Trustee Program with responsibility for prosecuting bankruptcy-related cases as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, providing consultation and guidance for law enforcement and USTP personnel on criminal bankruptcy and fraud issues, and lecturing extensively on bankruptcy crimes, mortgage fraud, and related topics. Prior to that, he was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois for more than 14 years. From 1987 to 1989, Mr. Layng was law clerk to the Honorable Stanley J. Roszkowski, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois. Mr. Layng has tried nearly 40 federal criminal trials and argued 14 cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. He received his law degree cum laude from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Law School and his undergraduate degree magna cum laude from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign College of Commerce.

### **Steve Reynolds, Director of Reactor Safety, Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

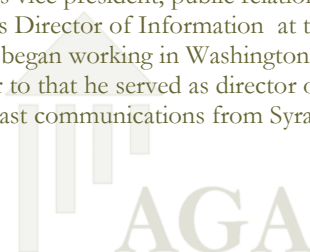
Steve Reynolds serves as the Director for the Division of Reactor Safety and also serves as a Japan Site Team Director for the U.S. NRC. Prior to his current position, Mr. Reynolds served as Deputy Director and Acting Director of the Division of Reactor Projects, and Director of Division of Nuclear Materials Safety. Mr. Reynolds was previously the Deputy Director of the Division of Reactor Safety, a position he was selected for in July 1998. In 1997, he began his assignment as Chief, Independent Corrective Action Verification Program Oversight Branch in the Special Projects Office in NRR. Prior to that, he was the Technical Assistant to the Director, Office of NRR, Leader of the NRC License Renewal Rulemaking Working Group, Technical Assistant to the Associate Director for Advanced Reactors and License Renewal, Senior Project Manager-License Renewal, Project Manager-Decommissioning, and Project Manager-Rancho Seco (1989-1997). Mr. Reynolds joined the NRC in 1986 as a Reactor Inspector in Region III. He had been previously employed as a Nuclear Engineer with the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. Mr. Reynolds graduated from the Florida Institute of Technology in 1981 with a B.S. degree in Ocean Engineering.

### **Mayra Salazar, Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration**

Mayra Salazar is a Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration serving the Chicago Metropolitan Area. She has held many positions with the agency during her extensive career. Currently, her primary responsibilities include reaching out to Chicago's diverse communities and speaking about the importance of Social Security, and educating people about its programs through workshops and seminars. Although Ms. Salazar speaks on all areas of Social Security, she has recently emphasized teaching people how Social Security should factor into retirement planning and how to navigate the Social Security website.

### **Doug Tillett, Vice President of Public Affairs, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago**

Douglas Tillett joined the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago in July 2001 as vice president of public affairs. His current responsibility is to oversee the Bank's strategic media and public affairs programs. Previously, Tillett served as the spokesman for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, where he was assistant vice president, public information from 1997 to 2001. He also served as the New York Fed's corporate secretary in 2000 and 2001. Prior to joining the New York Fed, Tillett worked in Washington, DC, as vice president, public relations for the National Association of Life Underwriters. Before that he served the United States government as Director of Information at the Small Business Administration and as director of public affairs at the U.S. Department of Justice. Tillett began working in Washington in 1986 as a senior account executive at Bailey, Deardourff and Associates, a political advertising firm. Prior to that he served as director of public affairs for the Office of Attorney General of Pennsylvania. Tillett graduated with a B.S. in broadcast communications from Syracuse University and received an M.G.A. in public administration from the University of Pennsylvania.





## AGA's Chicago Chapter

### 2012 Annual Professional Development Conference

# CONFERENCE AGENDA

Wednesday, April 18th			
8:00 AM	8:30 AM	Registration/Breakfast/Introduction	
8:30 AM	10:00 AM	David Cotton, Chairman, Cotton & Company LLP	Federal Cost Principles and Administrative Rules
10:00 AM	11:40 AM	David Cotton, Chairman, Cotton & Company LLP	SAS 99 Case Study: Sewer District Fraud
11:40 AM	12:40 PM	LUNCH	
12:40 PM	2:30 PM	Dr. Richard Hurley, Professor, University of Connecticut	Whistle-Blowing from False Claims Act to Dodd-Frank Act
2:30 PM	3:30 PM	Bobby Derrick, Field Representative, AGA's National Office	Leadership Challenges Created by New Technologies
3:30 PM	4:00 PM	Becker Professional Education	Continuing Professional Education and the CPA Examination

Thursday, April 19th			
8:00 AM	8:30 AM	Registration/Breakfast/Introduction	
8:30 AM	9:30 AM	Doug Tillett, Vice President of Public Affairs, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago	Structure and Purpose of the Federal Reserve
9:30 AM	10:30 AM	Brian Etchell, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation	Hired Truck Investigation
10:30 AM	11:45 AM	Joseph M. Ferguson, City of Chicago's Inspector General	The Role and Mission of a Municipal Inspector General in a Modern City
11:45 AM	12:45 PM	LUNCH	
12:45 PM	1:45 PM	Steve Reynolds, Director of Reactor Safety, Nuclear Regulatory Commission	NRC Actions in Response to Japan Reactor Disaster
1:45 PM	2:45 PM	Mayra Salazar, Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration	Social Security Benefits and Solvency
2:45 PM	3:45 PM	Patrick Layng, U.S. Trustee, U.S. Trustee's Office	Bankruptcy Basics and Fraud
3:45 PM	4:00 PM	Closing comments	



# CGFM Certification

## **Earn Your CGFM in February; Examinations Are Free**

Don't miss the opportunity to take the CGFM Examinations and earn your CGFM at the next Intensive Review Course event in February. AGA is offering a two-day Intensive Review Course on **Monday, Feb. 27, 2012** and **Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012** and an opportunity to take CGFM Examinations on **Feb. 29-March 2, 2012**. 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.

This course is designed as a supplement to previous preparation for the CGFM Examinations, so this is a perfect opportunity for those individuals who have already attended GFM training courses or have been preparing by using the CGFM Study Guides. Enrollment is limited and participants must first apply and be accepted into the CGFM Program, so don't delay.

[More information and a registration form for this event are available on AGA's website.](#)

## **CGFM Frequently Asked Question**

**What is the CGFM's responsibility for maintaining documentation of completed Continuing Professional Education (CPE) hours?**

CGFMs are required to maintain supporting documentation on CPE hours earned for a minimum of three years and provide it to AGA upon request. The CGFM's records must include the following information for each CPE program or activity attended or completed: the sponsoring organization (for example, AGA National Office, a local AGA chapter); the title of the program, including subject matter, field of study or a brief description of its contents; the dates attended for group programs or dates completed for individual study programs; the number of CPE hours earned; and evidence of attendance or completion.

Evidence of completion may include the following:

- a certificate of attendance, a CPE form or other evidence of completion of CPE from the CPE provider for group and individual-study programs.
- a grade report received for a university or college credit course.
- a letter from the program sponsor, documenting the CPE courses presented and/or developed.
- a copy of the published book, article, or materials that names the writer as author or contributor, a written statement from the writer supporting the number of CPE hours claimed, and the name and contact information of the publisher, if applicable.

an official report from the employer that has the employer's name and lists all of the required information (employee's name, sponsoring organization, title of the program, completion date and number of CPE hours earned).



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

[AGA Training Opportunities](#)

Click to find events near your area!

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## **AGA Chicago Chapter Recognition Program (December)**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Chapter Leadership, Planning & Participation	125
Education & Professional Development	100
Certification	50
Communications	225
Membership/ Early Careers	350
Community Service	350 – Toys for Tots

Total – 1,200 credits

# AUDIO CONFERENCE

*The AGA – Chicago Chapter is pleased to announce the following luncheon and audio conference:*

## **The New Stewardship Imperative – Federal Financial Management at the Crossroads**

There are major “drivers” bearing down on government financial management these days, such as the continuing national economic crisis. In the meantime, on the federal level Congress is wrangling on the Hill to cut \$1.5 trillion to \$4 trillion in government spending over the next 10 years while the national election looms in November 2012. For many state and local governments, the situation is not much better, with the same issues and pressures being experienced. These “drivers” are putting tremendous emphasis on cost containment, savings, recouping lost dollars, jettisoning wasteful programs and spending. This audio conference will describe techniques and tools that are proving effective in responding to these pressures.

To share their knowledge and expertise in government financial management and government operations are three Grant Thornton executives: **Nilesh Chudasama**, senior manager, **Tom Coccozza**, director, and **James G. Huse Jr.**, senior advisor.

The audio conference will include two hours of lively discussion about this important and timely topic. In addition to the speakers’ commentary, about 20 minutes is set aside for Q & A.

Per the AGA national office, this audio conference offers important information that is applicable to almost everyone in the government accountability profession. Thus, the AGA Chicago Chapter recommends that you consider participating in this audio conference by attending our chapter’s February luncheon.

**Date:** Wednesday February 8, 2012.

**Time:** Audio conference starts at 1:00 PM and ends at 3:00 PM. As lunch will be provided, doors will open at 12:30 PM (thus feel free to arrive any time between 12:30 PM – 1:00 PM).

**Location:** Metcalfe Federal Building, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Room 325 Chicago, IL 60604

Note that the date, time and location of our February luncheon has changed from the events schedule provided in previous communications.

**Learning Objectives:** To learn how certain techniques and tools can be used to contain costs.

**Prerequisite:** None required.

**Advance Prep:** None required.

**CPE:** Two credit hours.

**Field of Study:** Accounting (Governmental)

**Cost:** \$6 members, \$11 non-members

**To Register:** Please RSVP to Matthew Matczynski at [Mmatczynski@hudoig.gov](mailto:Mmatczynski@hudoig.gov) no later than noon on Monday February 6<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, no exceptions can be made.



# Board Meeting Minutes

## Association of Government Accountant's Chicago Chapter December 13, 2011

### Present

Tom McManigal, President  
Mathew Matczynski, Program Director  
Rick Urbanowski, Chapter Recognition Director  
Anibal Marrero, Historian  
Steve Whitecotton, Job Referral Director  
Janet Knauff, Membership Director  
Olga Gesell, Publicity Director  
Mark Knudson, Webmaster  
Crystal Currier, Awards Director

### Absent

Herbert Kwan, Accountability Director  
Alexandria Hayden, Newsletter Editor  
Sandy Lawera, Secretary  
Thomas DiLisio, Treasurer  
Frank Moy, Education Director  
Jolanta Biskup, Early Careers Coordinator  
Raul Nieto, CGFM Chair

## Summary of Discussion

### Chapter/National Events

Discussed specifics relating to the Holiday Party/Recruitment Event on December 15th

- We will not offer a raffle for Holiday Party. Will consider something for the annual conference
- Crystal C. will create the name tags for the attendees
- Matthew M. created and distributed a list of attendees with their organization and whether they are interested in joining AGA

Discussed specifics on the Sectional Leadership Meeting (SLM)

- SLM will be held in Indianapolis on April 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>
- Raul N., Janet K., Matthew M. and Tom M. are interested in attending

Discussed our Annual Conference

- Event scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at the GSA meeting rooms at 77 West Jackson Boulevard
- All speakers have been selected. Chapter will start advertising the event in the upcoming newsletter
- Approved the cost for participants at \$195 for members/groups and \$295 for non-members. Chapter will cover the member registration fee for interested non-members who attend at the non-member price
- Tom M. will chair the oversight and scheduling committee
- Steve W. will chair the publicity committee
- Rick U. will chair the registration committee
- Matthew M. will chair the coordinating committee

February luncheon

- Contacted USPS and DHS OIG to speak at our event. Will also distribute audio conference information to CEC as another option

### CEC/National Positions

- Looking to fill RVP and President Elect positions that are presently vacant

## From the National Office

### **From the National President, Richard O. Bunce Jr., CGFM, CPA**

Happy New Year! I hope that you and your families had a wonderful holiday season. We're about halfway through the 2011-2012 program year, but many tremendous chapter, regional and national events are still scheduled. I hope you take advantage of all that AGA has to offer in the coming months.

**National Officers:** On Dec. 27, AGA's National Nominating Committee released its slate of National Officers for 2012-2015. **Mary E. Peterman, CGFM, CPA**, a member of AGA's Virginia Peninsula Chapter, has been selected by the committee as National President-Elect. Mary is a Past National Treasurer and a former member of the National Executive Committee. Mary has many years of service in local government, and served at the federal level with the U.S. Coast Guard and the Transportation Security Administration. Mary is currently a vice president with Savantage Solutions.

**David A. LeBlanc, CGFM, CFS**, a member of AGA's Boston Chapter, has been selected as National Treasurer-Elect. David is the Director of Audits for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and currently serves on the National Finance and Budget Committee. David has served on several chapter and national committees, and in 2010 received a National Chapter Service Award.

In addition to the National President-Elect and National Treasurer-Elect, the Nominating Committee selected two Senior Vice Presidents and 11 Regional Vice Presidents. [View the full slate.](#)

The Nominating Committee is still seeking member volunteers to serve as Regional Vice Presidents for the North Central, Southeast and Pacific Rim regions. Talented networks of volunteer leaders and the National Office staff can assist you in these positions, so the task is not as daunting as it might first appear. This is a great opportunity to expand your leadership skills while serving AGA. If you're interested in applying or learning more about these positions, please contact [Lisa Casias, CPA](#), chair of the National Nominating Committee. [Read more.](#)

### **Audio Conference Speaker Suggests 'Makeover' for Government**

The house of government is broken, and it needs a serious makeover from top to bottom. So says **Ken Miller**, founder of the Change and Innovation Agency, who is speaking at AGA's **Jan. 25 audio conference**, which is worth 2 CPE hours. Set for 2-3:50 p.m. EST, Miller discusses how the processes of government became so complicated and inefficient and how to start cleaning up the mess. Miller, who wrote *Extreme Government Makeover*, suggests simple ways that public-sector leaders can rebuild government so it is stronger, leaner and better equipped to help citizens. Miller will share clear and concise tips on increasing government's capacity.

If you need some new ideas to jumpstart your agency or government to think differently, don't miss this audio conference. In addition to the speaker's commentary, about 20 minutes is set aside for Q & A.

**Cost:** \$249 per site (unlimited attendance) if you register on or before **Friday, Jan. 20, 2012** and \$299 thereafter.

**Special Promotion:** Government agencies and AGA Corporate Partner members who register five or more offices will receive a 20 percent discount (\$200 per site).

**Individual Option:** Two, three or four individuals can register at \$50 per person. Contact [Maria Oquendo](#) at 800.AGA.7211, ext. 308, for registration details.

[Register online.](#)

[Print the registration form](#) or the [Special Promotion Registration](#) and fax it to 703.684.6933.

### **Two Members Win Big By Updating Their Profiles**

AGA thanks all our members for taking the time to update their AGA profile information during the month of December.

With annual renewal season beginning soon we appreciate you for updating your profiles before Dec. 31. By doing so, you enabled AGA to keep in contact with you and ensure that our services and events remain focused on your needs in 2012. Two winners were drawn out of thousands who updated their profiles to win Apple iPads.

Join us in congratulating **Martha Reynolds**, a member of AGA's Charleston WV Chapter, and **Ronald Scott Royster, CGFM**, a member of AGA's Kansas City Chapter.

If you haven't updated your profile, make sure you stay connected by updating it today. Simply go to [AGA's homepage](#) and log in using your member ID. Your six character password is your first initial immediately followed by your last name (unless you have changed it). If your first initial and last name is fewer than six characters add a zero (example: Jane Doe would be jdoe00). Remember to renew your membership online before **March 31, 2012** and look out for more opportunities to get involved.

Thank you for being a member of AGA and for your contribution to building a more diverse and inclusive financial management community.

## Consider Volunteering for AGA's National Boards and Committees

AGA is seeking candidates interested in filling vacancies on national boards and committees. Serving as a board or committee member might just be the most important contribution you will make to your own career and the profession. Take advantage of this exceptional opportunity to:

- Contribute to the growth and success of your professional association.
- Network with a dynamic group of accountability professionals.
- Develop your leadership skills.
- Develop solutions to meet present and future challenges.
- Stay apprised of hot topics in financial management.

**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.

**Qualifications**--If you are an AGA member in good standing, able to serve a full term of office, and can participate in board and committee conference calls, you are qualified to serve. [Specific qualifications for each committee are listed here.](#)

Learn more about the activities our boards and committees perform by [visiting the AGA website](#). Contact [Louise Kapelewski](#) at 800.AGA.7211, ext. 321 for more information. Please fill out the [online sign-up form by March 30.](#)

## AGA Needs National Award 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:

- Robert W. King Memorial Award
- Einhorn-Gary Award
- Frank Greathouse Distinguished Leadership Award
- Achievement of the Year Award
- Educator Award
- Cornelius E. Tierney/Ernst & Young Research Award
- Chapter Education Award
- Chapter Service Award
- Community Service Award
- International Achievement Award
- Chapter CGFM Award
- Emerging Leader Award of Excellence
- Regional Coordinator Award

These awards will be presented during AGA's 61st Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition in San Diego, CA, from July 29-August 1, 2012. In many cases, individuals do not have to be members of AGA to be eligible. All nominations are due by **Friday, April 13, 2012.** [Nomination forms are available online.](#) For more information, contact [Louise Kapelewski](#).



## **Apply for 2012 National 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 to AGA members and their family members
- Up to two \$1,000 part-time merit scholarships to AGA members and their family members
- One \$3,000 community service scholarship

The **deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, March 30, 2012.** [Download a copy of the application](#), or contact [Louise Kapelewski](#)

## **States Oppose Obama Health Care Medicaid Law**

Twenty-six states challenging President Barack Obama's sweeping health care overhaul filed a U.S. Supreme Court brief last week arguing the law unconstitutionally expands the Medicaid program for the poor and disabled. By threatening a loss of federal funds, Congress unconstitutionally coerced states into expanding their Medicaid programs, the states led by Florida argued. They said states have no real alternative but to keep participating in Medicaid. "Forcing states to vastly expand their Medicaid programs or risk losing all funding is an abuse of federal authority," Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi said in a statement, calling it an "overreach of government power." The Obama administration brief on the Medicaid issue is due by Feb. 10. Administration attorneys previously have rejected any suggestion the Medicaid provision was unconstitutional. A federal judge and an appeals court ruled against the states. --*Reuters*. [Read more.](#)

## **Federal Agencies Tighten Belts with Buyouts, Early Retirements**

While Republican presidential hopefuls are talking about pink slips and the joys of firing people, many agencies in the Obama administration are quietly paying employees to leave their jobs. Buyouts and early retirement programs are the scalpel Uncle Sam uses before he has to turn to the hatchet of layoffs. "I don't think it is any secret that going forward the federal government will be on a strict diet and will require some belt tightening," said John Berry, director of the Office of Personnel Management. Federal-employee belts are the ones likely to get a lot of that tightening because the salary lines of agency budgets consume a lot of money. --Joe Davidson, *The Washington Post*. [Read more.](#)

## **FASAB Seeks Comments on Its Three-Year Plan**

Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board has issued Report to Stakeholders: FASAB Three-Year Plan. According to FASAB Chair Tom Allen, "Publishing this report makes board activities more transparent so that stakeholders have greater opportunities to engage the board. One of the most important decisions we make is where to focus our efforts. Stakeholder input on our plans would provide an essential ingredient to standards-setting and I encourage readers to submit their ideas." The report provides information about current projects as well as projects considered by the board in past agenda setting discussions. Readers are encouraged to submit their ideas and comments by Feb. 7, 2012. Comments should be directed to Wendy Payne, CGFM, FASAB executive director, at [fasab@fasab.gov](mailto:fasab@fasab.gov).

## **GASB Local Government User Guide Now Available**

The newly updated and revised edition of *What You Should Know about Your Local Government's Finances: A Guide to Financial Statements* is now available. The new guide offers an easy-to-understand primer on the annual financial reports of local governments and includes the major new reporting requirements issued since the publication of the original guide. Additional information is available at [www.gasb.org](http://www.gasb.org) by clicking on the store tab.





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## **Newsletter Information**

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