

OBSERVATIONS

FEBRUARY 2013

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FEATURED AGA MEMBER BIO	1
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2
AUDIO CONFERENCE INFORMATION	4
CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINARS	6
UPCOMING CEC MEETINGS	6
CEC MEETING MINUTES	8
AGA NATIONAL NEWS	10
CEC CONTACT INFORMATION	12

FEBRUARY 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 six 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—FRANK MOY

Frank Moy is an audit manager with the GSA OIG Office of Audits - Chicago Field Audit Office. His audit team conducts audits of companies that hold multi-million dollar Federal contracts. Some of these audits involved auditing construction costs for contractor filing claims against the Federal Government. Other audits involve assisting the Department of Justice in

various court proceedings involving GSA contracts. Most of the audits conducted are to evaluate pricing proposals for contractors for GSA products and services contracts. Frank Moy is married with three sons and lives in Libertyville. Frank Moy graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago, is a CPA, CIA and CGFM. Prior to working for GSA, Frank was

an internal auditor with the Internal Revenue service for almost seven years. Frank Moy has been a volunteer tax preparer for the past few years. His hobbies include reading, bicycling, golf, bridge and volleyball. Frank Moy serves the AGA Chicago Chapter Executive Committee as Education Director.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Chapter Calendar of Events
- CEC Vacancies



President's Message

Dear AGA Chicago chapter members and friends,

*Advancing
Government
Accountability*

Association
of Government
Accountants

Chicago Chapter
P. O. Box 81015
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Greetings! As chapter president, I am pleased to announce that our chapter has begun seeking nominations for the chapter's executive committee for chapter year 2013-2014. For those of you who may not know, the chapter's executive committee is a group of dedicated member volunteers who are responsible for setting chapter policies and procedures, as well as being responsible for the overall operations of the chapter. They are the people you come in contact with (such as the person you collect your money at chapter events), as well as those who work quietly behind the scenes and ensure important chapter activities occur (such as the people involved with writing the newsletter, maintaining the chapter website, filing the important paperwork so that the chapter can issue valid CPEs, etc.). The members of our chapter's executive committee are the heroes who work to make the chapter as great as it is, and who help advance government accountability.

Volunteering on the chapter's Executive Committee brings many benefits. As an executive committee member, you may qualify to have your chapter dues reimbursed or obtain a free Chicago Chapter PDC scholarship. Being on the Executive Committee is a great way to network and meet professionals from a variety of government agencies and other employers. By volunteering on the chapter's executive committee, you will be presented with many opportunities to develop key skills such as leadership, public speaking, negotiation, etc. But most importantly, by being on the executive committee, you are able to help improve our chapter and improve government accountability. No experience is necessary to be on our chapter's executive committee, so don't be afraid if you do not know much about AGA or our chapter ... our current executive committee members are willing to help you out! Additionally, if you wish to join the chapter's executive committee but do not want to jump in right away, you may volunteer to assist a current executive committee member for the first year. This is an excellent way to learn about and ease into the duties and responsibilities of being on the chapter's executive committee.

Now that I have hopefully sparked your interest in joining the chapter's executive committee, the following is a list of executive committee positions that you may seek:

President-Elect	Community Service Director
Secretary	Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Coordinator
Treasurer	Early Careers Coordinator
Program Director	Job Referral Director
Meetings Director	Publicity Director
Membership Director	Awards Director
Newsletter Editor	Chapter Recognition Director
Historian	Accountability Director
Education Director	Webmaster

Each executive committee position involves unique duties and responsibilities. For brevity, I will not be listing these duties and responsibilities here. However, if you are interested in learning more about any of the executive committee positions listed above, I encourage you to contact me. I would be happy to discuss in detail with you any executive committee positions that you may be interested in, and answer any questions you may have. Additionally, please feel free to contact any of the other chapter executive committee members for information on the chapter's executive committee.

If you wish to join the chapter's executive committee, the process is simple. First, select an executive committee position that you would be interested in holding. Next, either obtain a nomination from another chapter member for that position, or you may self-nominate yourself. Finally, if another chapter member is seeking to obtain the same position, an election of the chapter members will be held to determine who obtains the executive committee position. If no other member is seeking to obtain the same position, no election will be held, and you will obtain the position.

If an election is held for any executive committee positions, candidates who do not win such an election but still wish to serve on the chapter's executive committee may volunteer to assist an executive committee member. Or, as mentioned above, if you do not want to jump into things right away by seeking an executive committee position, you may always volunteer to assist a current executive committee member.

The chapter is accepting nominations and self-nominations for executive committee positions from now until March 20th. Please send all nominations to Matthew Matczynski at Mmatczynski@hudoig.gov and copy Tom McManigal at Tmcmmanigal@hudoig.gov no later than Wednesday March 20, 2013.

Changing subjects, I want to thank everyone who has attended our recent Continuing Education Seminars. The chapter has experienced high attendance levels at our recent seminars, and has received a lot of positive feedback on the participant evaluation forms. Even with the high attendance and positive feedback, the chapter still wishes to make improvements to future seminars and other chapter events. Thus, if you have any ideas for improvements to our future seminars and chapter events, and/or have any ideas for speakers/topics for future events, please contact me or any of the other executive committee members. The next Continuing Education Seminar is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12th. More information on this seminar will be provided as the date of the event draws nearer.

As I have mentioned before, if you are not a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM), why not consider joining your colleagues by obtaining this important 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 consider joining the chapter's executive committee. Happy February!

Cordially,

Matthew Matczynski

Matthew Matczynski

President

Pictures from the January Continuing Education Seminar on Cyber Security, Privacy & You. Thank you to everyone who attended this interesting and timely seminar!



Chapter History Request



Have you been a member of the AGA – Chicago Chapter for longer than you can remember?

Are you a chapter history buff (can you name the past five Chicago chapter presidents)?

Can you remember anything memorable about our chapter that happened five or more years ago?

Can you list your favorite memory of the AGA Chicago Chapter?

If you can answer yes to any of these questions, we need your help!

The AGA – Chicago chapter is in the process of archiving our rich chapter history; however, we need your help! In particular, we are seeking information on past chapter activities, memorable chapter events and speakers, chapter documents (such as old newsletters / communications), and even personal chapter memories. If you have any information / documents you wish to share, or would like to assist in the archiving of our chapter's history, please contact Matt Matczynski at Mmatczynski@hudoig.gov.

OBSERVATIONS ISSUE 6

CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINARS

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER	LOCATION
March 12, 2013	TBD	TBD	Metcalfe Federal Bldg 77 W. Jackson GSA Room 328



The Wrigley Building, Chicago

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Date	Time	Location
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 Education Requirement Updated

To recognize the diversity and ongoing changes in the government financial management profession, AGA's Professional Certification Board has updated the eligibility requirement to take the

CGFM examinations. [Read more](#)



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

Contact Raul for more information!



O'Hare Int'l Airport

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The AGA Chicago Chapter AGA has several Director Executive Committee vacancies which need to be filled. Please consider volunteering 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 opportunity and way to learn about what fellow Federal and State agencies are doing.

Please contact any Director for information detailing the positions available.

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

--John Quincy Adams

agachicago.org

**ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS
CHICAGO CHAPTER**

BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 17, 2013

Present

Mathew Matczynski, President
Herbert Kwan, President-Elect
Tom McManigal, Past President
Sandy Lawera, Secretary
Thomas DiLisio, Treasurer
Cynthia "CJ" Carter, Program Director
Alexandria Hayden, Newsletter Editor
Olga Gesell, Website Director & Historian
Frank Moy, Education Director
Raul Nieto, CGFM

Present

Steve Whitecotton, Job Referral
Julio Cestero, Early Careers & Accountability Director

Absent

Janet Knauff, Membership Director
Rick Urbanowski, Chapter Recognition
Mark Knudson, Webmaster
Eddie Jones, Community Service Director

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Welcome New Executive Committee Member

Eddie Jones from Homeland Security OIG volunteered to be the Community Service Director.

2013-2014 Executive Committee Nomination & Election Process

The chapter plans to begin collecting CEC nominations in February, and plans to announce to members the start of the collection of nominations in the February newsletter. This is earlier than previous years, and will allow for more time to hold elections, if needed.

If there are any contested positions, an election will be held to determine who gets the position.

Matt will be collecting nominations & self-nominations. For those individuals currently on the CEC, Matt requests that you let him know if you desire to continue being on the CEC next year.

Vacant positions: President Elect, Meeting Director, Awards Director, Newsletter Editor, Chapter Recognition, and Publicity Director.

CEC members can and are encouraged to hold more than one position and/or can also be an assistant for another CEC position.

Sectional Leadership Meeting (SLM) - Louisville, KY, May 16th to May 18th

Annual AGA seminar to learn AGA policy & procedures.

National office covers hotel, airfare or car (mileage), & meal (at event) expenses.

Other expenses (ex. luggage fees, taxi to/from airports, etc.) are covered by the chapter or individual.

Deadline is March 15th to inform the national office who our chapter's attendees are. Thus, discussion will be held at next CEC meeting regarding the SLM. In the meantime, if interested in attending, email Matt.

PDC Pricing & Paper Reduction Costs

Pricing will remain the same as last year except that student pricing will reflect a reduced rate:

Members: \$195

Nonmembers: \$295

Students: \$25

Group (5+): \$195 per person

Members one-day rate \$100

Nonmembers one-day rate \$150

Discussed whether all PDC participants want/need hard copy paper handouts and whether such handouts are retained after PDC. Paper handouts are costly and likely are not highly valued by all PDC participants; thus, chapter will post PDC handouts on chapter website for participants to print out prior to attending PDC.

A limited number of paper handouts may be provided for those participants who forgot or had problems.

Testing will need to be done to see if electronic handouts are feasible for the PDC. Olga will provide a link to CEC members to test the uploading and downloading of documents.

SUMMARY OF MEETING-Continued

Holiday Reception Result Information/Analysis

Successful event resulting in potential recruitment of new members.

Chapter was successful in obtaining information on non-member attendees, such as employer and contact information, as well as non-members intentions on joining AGA and participating in future chapter events.

No students or walk-ins attended. An attendee whose job involves contact with college students mentioned that this (December 5th) was either the week before final exam week or final exam week at many local colleges, which might have been a key factor in why no students attended unlike the previous year.

Had 10 people who RSVPed cancel at last minute but after our deadline to confirm our attendance number with Exchequer, or simply not show up. Thus, chapter paid for 10 people who did not show. Last year experienced a similar number of cancelations / no-shows, but also had a similar number of walk-in attendees which resulted in chapter paying for close to the number of actual attendees.

Food was scheduled to be served at 5:00 PM, but was delayed 10 to 15 minutes as only about 7 attendees were present for the first 45 minutes of the event. Thus, 4:30 PM start time may have been too early. Attendees from outside the city of Chicago showed up around 6:00 PM, and many people were still in attendance at 7:30 PM when event ended.

Had 2 non-member participants attend who had no interest in AGA and no interest or background in accounting/auditing. These individuals attended as they wanted to network with government employees. For future events, may want to do a better job obtaining participant's intentions when RSVPing if chapter wishes to discourage such people from attending. However, this also shows an interest in the general community for networking opportunities with government employees. May want to allow such people to attend / consider events to fill this need, but may be outside the scope/mission of our chapter and AGA.

Suggested that if a similar reception is held next year, a fee be charged to attend. Also suggested that a discount coupon for a future chapter event in the amount of the fee could be handed out at the door. Doing this would in essence make the cost of attending the event "free" to those individuals who show up at the reception (thus an incentive), while penalizing those who do not show, and potentially increasing participation in future chapter events by members and non-members.

CEC Reimbursement

Treasurer Tom DiLisio will provide all CEC members with a reimbursement request form with an option of free registration for the 2013 chapter PDC or reimbursement of your annual membership dues. Form needs to be filled out and returned to Mr. DiLisio.

Request For Another "Member Appreciation" Event

Request made for another "member appreciation" event to be held to increase value of AGA membership.

Discussed various options, such as a baseball game, educational event, and joint event with another AGA chapter. Discussed that such event should have a networking component. No consensus reached on event, and discussion was tabled for future CEC meeting.

Request To Purchase AGA Ethics Audio Conference On May 22nd

Request made for chapter to consider purchasing AGA Ethics audio conference on May 22nd.

Currently, chapter has no May Continuing Education Seminar scheduled, due to PDC being May 1-2.

Discussed that Certified Fraud Examiners (CFE)s need 2 CPE hours in ethics, which is difficult to obtain. The AGA audio conference is for 2.0 CPEs, which would make the event attractive for CFEs to attend. As national office hosting audio conference, national office is providing the CPEs; thus they are NASBA CPEs.

Chapter has the budget to purchase this audio conference, only issue is finding space to hold event. Will look at GSA, HHS, and RRB conference rooms to see if space is available.

Discussed that chapter should attempt to advertise this event to CFEs, and possibly reach out to the local ACFE chapter regarding the event. Discussed that a benefit of holding this audio conference is that it would likely result in new first-time participants.

Request To Change \$7 Annual Chapter Membership Fee

Due to lack of time, this item was tabled to the next CEC meeting.

Request To Consider Chapter Creating Own Audio Conferences

Due to lack of time, this item was tabled to the next CEC meeting.

AGA NATIONAL NEWS

Webinar - Introduction to the CGFM Program

Mar. 6 | 2-3 p.m. EST | No Fee to Attend

Questions about the CGFM certification benefits or process? This webinar will introduce you to the CGFM program, review the eligibility requirements and discuss the benefits of earning your CGFM. At the conclusion of the presentation, you will have an opportunity to ask questions about the program/certification. [Read more](#)

Graduate Students: Compete in the Government Finance Case Challenge

April 5 | Online

AGA invites graduate students from around the nation to compete in the Government Finance Case Challenge. Student teams will collaboratively analyze data for a specified U.S. city government and develop a Citizen-Centric Report. Submissions will be judged and the top three teams will earn a scholarship to attend the finals in Dallas. [Read more](#)

Leadership Positions Available on 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 a member will make to their career and the profession. Learn more about the myriad of activities our boards and committees perform by visiting the [AGA website](#). Contact us by March 29, using the [online sign-up form](#). Your submission will be considered for vacancies on committees you are interested in. [Read more](#)

Call for 2013 National Academic Scholarships

Are you - or a family member - pursuing a degree in a discipline such as accounting, auditing, budgeting, economics, finance, information technology or public administration? Apply for an AGA National Academic Scholarship today! Applications due by April 12. [Apply now](#) and take full advantage of your AGA membership.

Chicago Chapter Recognition Program

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

Chapter Leadership, Planning & Participation – 25 credits

Education & Professional Development – 300 credits

Certification - 625 credits

Communications - 591 credits

Membership – 100

Total – 1,641 credits

Additional Articles

The 30 Biggest Risks Facing the Federal Government in 2013

This month, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) updated its biannual High Risk List. The list includes 30 topics the GAO says are of greatest risk to the federal government in 2013. Many of the areas added to the list in 2011 have seen significant improvement, so much so that two items were removed from the list this year. In their place, two topics have been added to the High Risk List: limiting the fiscal impacts of climate change and mitigating gaps in weather satellite data - Mark Micheli, *Government Executive*. [Read more](#)

White House Details Sequestration Cuts by State

The White House kicked off a week of warnings about the sequestration by issuing reports Sunday on how the looming \$85 billion in automatic budget cuts will affect each of the 50 states. Among the examples: A slowdown of Superstorm Sandy cleanup in New Jersey, teacher layoffs in Ohio, reduced ship maintenance in Virginia, fewer vaccinations in Georgia, military base cutbacks in Texas and California, and similar reductions in states across the country, said the reports - David Jackson, *USA Today*. [Read more](#)

Helpful Resources to Make Your Job Easier

Whether detecting fraud, assessing risk, identifying internal control weaknesses, resolving audit findings or issuing CCRs, AGA offers "how-to" guides to assist government financial and grants management professionals. Please share these resources - developed by AGA's Partnership for Intergovernmental Management and Accountability -- through your chapter website. [Read more](#)



CHICAGO CHAPTER

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Vacant

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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.

Pictures used throughout the newsletter are courtesy of:
www.city-data.com/album/album-Chicago-Illinois.html

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.

