

OBSERVATIONS

DECEMBER 2013

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WELCOME!

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!

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



**SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:**

- Food Drive Results
- Toys for Tots

**Wishing you and your loved ones all the
best this holiday season!**

**~Chicago Chapter Executive
Committee Board**



President's Message

Dear AGA Chicago Chapter Members, Friends, Accounting Students, and Job Seekers.

I am so happy to be the President of the Chicago Chapter. The Executive Committee has two seminars planned for January and February 2014.

*Advancing
Government
Accountability*

*Association
of Government
Accountants*

*Chicago Chapter
P. O. Box 1744
Chicago, IL
60604-9998*

www.agachicago.org

January 8, 2014 Seminar. The January seminar features James H. Holzrichter Sr. James blew the whistle about fraud and mismanagement at the major contractor located in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. His book, "A Just Cause" describes how and why he became an undercover informant and the events following the contractor's discovery of his cooperation with the Defense Department Inspector General Investigative Office (DCIS). James and his family became homeless and lived in a homeless shelter while DCIS prepared its presentation the criminal case to the Grand Jury. James is a very brave man. James writes about moving into a homeless shelter . . . "The stink of human feces and urine filled the hallways," He writes about youngest son's discovery of animal entails on his doorstep the day the contractor served papers for its five-year litigation to retrieve the \$164 million settlement of the case. Please visit James' webpage and look for the CNN and National Public Radio interviews.

February 2014 Seminar (date to be determined). Sheila Weinberg, Founder and CEO of the Institute for Truth in Accounting speaks to our group. Read the Institutes' Blogs about Chicago's financial budgeting gimmicks and Illinois' inability to hire enough doctors to the poor. The website is: <http://www.truthinaccounting.org>.

I am grateful to our Executive Committee. The Executive Committee planned the December 6th holiday buffet supper. I enjoyed the delicious food and the company of accounting and accountability professionals. My letter gives me the opportunity to extend seasons' greetings to our members, friends, students, and jobseekers. I hope to see you all very soon. I want to hear from you. Your suggestions and comments are welcome.

Elaine Igelman, CPA (Retired)

President, Chicago Chapter

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New to AGA? Here are the highlights of our last year!

[2012-2013 Year-End Review](#)

OBSERVATIONS ISSUE 4

CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINARS



The Wrigley Building, Chicago

Date	Topic	Speaker	Location
January 8, 2014 12:00-2:00PM Doors Open @ 11:30AM	Whistleblowing	Mr. James Holzrichter	HHS Conference Room 233 N. Michigan Ave. Suite 1329
Pricing: Members: \$15 (No Lunch Provided) OR \$25 (with Box Lunch) Non-Members: \$25 (No Lunch Provided) OR \$35 (with Box Lunch) RSVP by January 6th to Alexandria.Hayden@oig.hhs.gov			

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS



Date	Time	Location
January 14, 2014	11:30AM	Metcalfe Federal Building room 329, 77 W. Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL
February 11, 2014	11:30AM	Metcalfe Federal Building room 329, 77 W. Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL

CGFM

**Online CGFM
Preparation Option**

AGA now offers an online guided self-study that covers the topics of Course 1: Governmental Environment. [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.

“A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus”

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Thanksgiving

Food Drive Results

The AGA Chicago chapter conducted a food drive at our November Continuing Education Seminar on Wednesday November 20th.

A special thank you to those who contributed to this food drive. As a result of the generosity of our chapter members and seminar participants, those who are less fortunate in the Chicagoland area will have a happier holiday by having more to put on the table.



ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS CHICAGO CHAPTER

BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 12, 2013

Present

Elaine Igelman, President
Matthew Matczynski, Past President
Frank Moy, Education Director
Olga Gesell, Website Director & Historian
Alexandria Hayden, Newsletter Editor
Steve Whitecotton, Job Referral
Janet Knauff, Membership Director
Raul Nieto, CGFM
Eddie Jones, Community Service Director

Present

Amanda Cross, Awards Director
Rick Urbanowski, Chapter Recognition

Absent

Thomas DiLisio, Treasurer
Cynthia "CJ" Carter, Program Director
Julio Cestero, Early Careers & Accountability Director

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Quorum

Matt took a roll call and announced that there was a quorum.

President-Elect Position

Matt mentioned that the chapter currently does not have a president-elect. This is an important position to fill, as the president-elect assists the chapter president for a year and during that time learns the duties and responsibilities of being chapter president as well as learns how the chapter is run. Thus, it is important to fill this critical position so the president-elect can get on-the-job training. Matt encouraged the CEC members to consider this position. He also mentioned that any AGA chapter member could take this position and asked the CEC members to reach out to the chapter members to encourage them to consider this position.

Community Service Activities

Matt mentioned that the chapter will be conducting a food drive at the November Continuing Education Seminar being held on Wednesday November 20th, as it coincides with the Thanksgiving holiday.

Matt mentioned the chapter will also be collecting toys for Toys For Tots. Matt mentioned that in addition to collecting toys from our chapter members, he will also be placing collection boxes in his office.

Matt mentioned that if any CEC member wishes to place a toy collection box in their office to contact Matt as he has extra collection boxes.

Matt mentioned that the chapter's Community Service Director Eddie Jones will be planning additional community service events for later in the chapter year.

Chapter Conference

Matt mentioned that the chapter's annual conference will be held in April and that he and CJ will head up the efforts in planning the conference. Matt mentioned that the conference is a big undertaking, and thus would appreciate assistance from the other CEC members for items such as finding speakers, advertising the conference, assisting with registration and food set-up, greeting participants and speakers, etc. Frank, Eddie and Alex volunteered to assist with the chapter's conference.

Matt mentioned that in the past, the chapter called its conference the Chicago Chapter Professional Development Conference or Chicago Chapter PDC. During these years, the national AGA conference was called the National Professional Development Conference / National PDC. Matt said that this year the national office changed the name of the national conference being held in July 2014 to the National Professional Development Training, or National PDT. Matt asked the executive committee members whether the chapter should follow the national office and change the name of our conference to the Chicago Chapter Professional Development Training / PDT or keep the name the same.

SUMMARY OF MEETING-Continued

SUMMARY OF MEETING-Continued

Chapter Conference (Continued)

Matt also mentioned that other chapters call their annual conference other names, giving the example that one chapter calls their annual training event a "symposium". Matt mentioned that another option would be for the chapter to come up with its own creative name other than Professional Development Conference or Professional Development Training.

Discussion was held. Raul mentioned that he was in favor of changing the name to Professional Development Training, as some government agencies can no longer send their staff to conferences.

Frank said he agreed that the chapter should change the name of its conference to Professional Development Training, saying the word "conference" had a bad connotation.

Olga questioned the need for the name change.

Elaine requested that a vote on the name change be called. Frank made a motion to change the name of the chapter's Professional Development Conference to Professional Development Training. Eddie seconded the motion. A vote was held and the motion passed with all those who voted voting in favor and nobody voting against.

Status Update Regarding Recruitment Scholarship

Matt mentioned that at last month's CEC meeting, the CEC voted to use the recruitment scholarship to purchase an advertisement for the chapter in a publication. At the last meeting, a budget of \$250 was set for the advertisement, which includes the scholarship.

Janet mentioned that the amount of the scholarship is \$172 and that per a recent email she received, the deadline to use the money and provide documentation to the national office on how the money was spent is January 31, 2014.

Matt mentioned that the CEC needs to implement a plan to create and then place an advertisement so that the money is spent by the deadline. Matt called for volunteers. Eddie volunteered to create an advertisement.

Elaine mentioned that she believes the chapter would be able to get free advertising in the Chicago Tribune if the advertisement is placed in a certain section.

Matt proposed purchasing advertising space from a university accounting club / Beta Alpha Psi chapter.

Discussion was held regarding which publication to place the advertisement in. Other professional publications/journals were discussed by the CEC members. The cost of placing the advertisement is an unknown, and some publications may not be feasible to place an ad in due to cost. Research will need to be done before a publication is selected.

Elaine volunteered to research the cost of running an advertisement in the Chicago Tribune and other publications.

Continuing Education Seminar Schedule

Matt mentioned that prior to the last CEC meeting, there was interest in rescheduling / making-up the October Continuing Education Seminar, which the chapter canceled due to the federal government shutdown. At last month's CEC meeting, it was discussed holding a December Continuing Education Seminar by having an AGA audio conference on Wednesday December 4th on the topic of Moving to Performance-Based Decision Making. However, a decision by the CEC on holding a December Continuing Education Seminar was tabled until this meeting. Matt said he already performed research regarding conference room availability, and that space has been reserved at the Department of Education conference room.

Elaine mentioned that she was not in favor of holding a Continuing Education Seminar in December due to concerns over low attendance, the fact that the chapter already had an event (the holiday reception) planned for December, and the closeness of the audio conference to the holiday season.

Discussion was held, and it was the consensus of the group to not hold a December Continuing Education Seminar.

For the January and February Continuing Education Seminars, Elaine mentioned she already has speakers confirmed. Elaine said that she is still working on securing a speaker for the March Continuing Education Seminar, and has been in contact with a potential speaker for the March seminar.

Chapter President Comments

Elaine thanked everyone for their support and assistance.



Toy Collection

The AGA - Chicago chapter is holding a Toys for Tots toy collection through December 20th.

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

Please ensure that all toy donations:

Are new toys only

Are unwrapped

Are not toy weapons

If you wish to donate, please contact Rick Urbanowski at Rurbanowski@hudoig.gov by December 20th, and arrangements will be made to pick up your donation.

Chapter Recognition Program

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

Chapter Leadership, Planning & Participation – 25 credits

Education & Professional Development – 300 credits

Certification - 200 credits

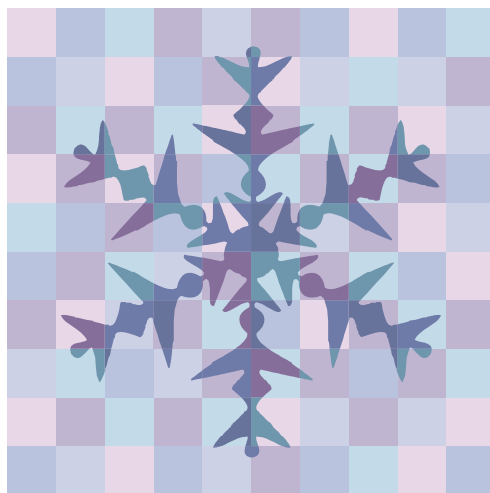
Communications - 556 credits

Membership and Early Careers – 100 credits

Accountability – 250 credits

Community Service – 250 credits

Total – 1,681 credits



CHICAGO CHAPTER

AGA National News

Perspective: How to Foster a Positive Work Environment

A positive work environment yields stronger mission results and happier employees. [Read more](#)

CGFM Examination Update

CGFM Examinations will be updated in on April 1, 2014. [Read more](#) **Share Your AGA Story**

Share your 'AGA story' and inspire others to join AGA, connect & get involved! Great prizes available!

Submissions due Dec. 20. [Read more](#)

Take the National President's Survey

Mary E. Peterman, CGFM, CPA, would like your input about our organization's name. Take this one-question survey by **Dec. 20.** [Read more](#)

2014 Federal Financial Systems Summit

Jan. 9 | Washington | 6 CPEs Available | Complimentary for Government Members

This event discusses near-term and future prospects of federal financial management systems in a budget-constrained environment. [Read more](#)

2014 National Leadership Training

Feb. 11-12 | Washington | 14 CPEs Available

Learn new tactics to help you excel as a government financial manager with the challenging theme of 'doing more with less'. [Read more](#)

New CGFM Online Study Guide 1

AGA CGFM study guide 1 is now online. [Order your copy today](#)

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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.

