

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS CHICAGO CHAPTER

BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 14, 2014

Present

Elaine Igelman, President
Matthew Matczynski, Past President
Thomas DiLisio, Treasurer
Cynthia "CJ" Carter, Program Director
Olga Gesell, Website Director & Historian
Alexandria Hayden, Newsletter Editor
Eddie Jones, Community Service Director
Amanda Cross, Awards Director
Rick Urbanowski, Chapter Recognition

Absent

Frank Moy, Education Director
Raul Nieto, CGFM
Janet Knauff, Membership Director
Julio Cestero, Early Careers & Accountability Director
Steve Whitecotton, Job Referral

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Quorum

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

Follow-Up On February Continuing Education Seminar / "Breakfast Meeting"

Matt mentioned that a decision needed to be made regarding the February Continuing Education Seminar. Matt mentioned that at the previous month's CEC meeting, interest was expressed in making this seminar a breakfast seminar, and thus no meeting room at one of the federal buildings has been reserved. At the previous month's meeting, Alex volunteered to research options.

Alex mentioned that she performed research, and Houlihans was the best option. Alex mentioned that she spoke with a representative of Houlihans, and they could accommodate us on the dates we are considering. Alex mentioned that a breakfast buffet would be available, and we would have a side room for our event.

Discussion was held. All CEC members who spoke were in favor of holding a breakfast meeting at Houlihans.

The pricing of the meeting was discussed. Discussion was held, and it was decided to try pricing the meeting close to or at cost. Fifteen dollars was decided to be the price for the February Continuing Education Seminar.

Follow-Up On Use of Recruitment Funds

Matt mentioned that at the last CEC meeting, the chapter tabled a decision on selecting where to place the advertisement as the CEC wanted the ad to be designed first. Matt mentioned that Eddie Jones designed an advertisement and emailed it to all CEC members in December. He also mentioned that the CEC had previously set a budget of \$250 for the advertisement, including the recruitment scholarship funds.

Compliments were made regarding the great work Eddie Jones did with designing the ad.

A CEC member commented that the Chicago Tribune and Crain's Chicago Business were too expensive.

A CEC member asked why the advertisement was so large and included a picture. Eddie mentioned that he spoke with Matt, and Matt suggested that he design the advertisement that way. Matt mentioned that at the last CEC meeting, we spoke on this item and the CEC wanted to put a picture in the advertisement.

Discussion was held, and it was decided that the best option would be to place the advertisement in one of the local university newspapers or accounting fraternity / club newsletters. Eddie Jones volunteered to contact the local universities to place the advertisement.

Rescheduling January Continuing Education Seminar Speaker James Holzrichter To Chapter's PDT.

Matt mentioned that the January Continuing Education seminar was canceled due to the weather and anticipated poor attendance. Matt mentioned that the speaker for this seminar was James Holzrichter.

Elaine mentioned that for the January Continuing Education Seminar, James Holzrichter was willing to speak for free as a personal favor, but for the Professional Development Training, wishes to charge a substantial speaking fee.

SUMMARY OF MEETING-Continued

Rescheduling January Continuing Education Seminar Speaker James Holzrichter To Chapter's PDT.

(Continued)

Elaine mentioned she will speak to James regarding seeing if he can reduce his speaking fee.

Matt mentioned that James Holzrichter wrote a book, and that as a condition of him speaking at our event he wishes to sell his book at our event to our attendees. Matt mentioned that this will be a major problem given the solicitation complaint that was raised last year.

Matt proposed that Elaine contact James Holzrichter to see if he would be open to the chapter purchasing a copy of his book for each of the attendees in lieu of a speaking fee or in conjunction with a reduced speaking fee. Matt said that doing this would kill multiple birds with one stone, as it would provide for a trinket for our attendees, eliminate the issue of James wishing to sell his book at our event, and may result in an overall reduced payment that we pay James for speaking. Matt mentioned that two years ago, the chapter gave out coffee mugs at the chapter's conference and last year the executive committee decided to give out no trinkets. However, at last year's conference, Matt had several attendees ask him if coffee mugs or some other item was being passed out, and had several coffee mugs that were reserved for gifts for the speakers taken by our attendees, which Matt mentioned indicates that our attendees appreciate a small gift.

A CEC member asked how much the book was. A CEC member responded that per Amazon.com, it was approximately \$10 per copy. Matt mentioned that we could possibly get a volume discount.

February Continuing Education Seminar

CJ mentioned that Sheila Weinberg with Truth in Accounting was scheduled to speak at the chapter's spring Professional Development Training (PDT), and asked who was speaking at the February Continuing Education Seminar.

Elaine mentioned that an assistant would be speaking at the chapter's February Continuing Education Seminar.

Elaine mentioned that she would coordinate the speaker for the chapter's Continuing Education Seminar and that CJ could coordinate with Sheila Weinberg regarding the chapter's Professional Development Training.

Each speaker will speak on a different topic, so there should be no overlap.

A CEC member asked if there was a speaking fee involved. It was discussed that for the February Continuing Education Seminar, a link was placed on our chapter's website in lieu of a speaking fee. It was mentioned that it is unknown if there will be a speaking fee for Sheila to speak at the chapter's Professional Development Training, but there could be. Follow-up regarding the fee, if any, will need to occur.

Candy Sale Email

Matt mentioned that from the feedback he has heard, it appears that all CEC members received an email from someone in Ohio regarding a proposed candy sale. Matt mentioned that the only thing he is going to say regarding this topic seeing a CEC member had asked is that he does not believe that the national office gave or sold our email addresses to people such as the one who sent the email. Instead, Matt mentioned that he believes that this individual obtained our email address from the chapter website. Matt also mentioned that this is similar to a few months ago, when another website listed our names as board members of a casket store company. Matt mentioned that at least one CEC member contacted him expressing concern regarding this and questioned whether the chapter should continue having our email addresses displayed on the chapter website. Thus, Matt opened the floor for discussion on this item.

Olga mentioned that the chapter can use a general AGA email address instead of personal emails for chapter communications.

Matt mentioned that he was ok with his email address being listed, as he wants our members to be able to easily get in contact with him. He questioned how often the AGA email address would be checked, and who would be responsible for checking.

Additional discussion was held. Those CEC members who spoke were in favor of keeping the email address on the chapter website. It was decided to keep the email addresses on the chapter website, and if a CEC member had an issue with his/her email address being on the website, then that member should contact Matt or Olga and the email address would be removed.

Certificate Of Excellence In Citizen-Centric Reporting

Matt mentioned that he was pleased to announce that the Chicago chapter earned a Certificate of Excellence In Citizen-Centric Reporting for the chapter's 2012-2013 Citizen Centric Report (CCR).

A CEC member asked if the chapter applied for the award. Matt responded that he submitted the chapter's CCR to the national office to be judged, and the chapter earned the award by meeting the majority of the national office's CCR requirements.

SUMMARY OF MEETING-Continued

Certificate Of Excellence In Citizen-Centric Reporting (Continued)

Matt mentioned that in a letter that came with the award, the national office praised us for the CCR, and the only area of improvement that was cited was to use the new AGA CCR logo in the report.

A CEC member requested that Matt provide a copy of the award and letter to the CEC members. Matt responded that he would do that.

A CEC member suggested that the award be placed on the chapter's website. Matt mentioned that he believed that was a great idea as the chapter's CCR is currently on the chapter website.

AGA National Office Education Scholarship & AGA College Case Competition

Matt mentioned that the AGA National Office is currently awarding education scholarships to students attending college. Matt also mentioned the AGA is holding a college case competition in which teams of college students compete against each other, with the winning teams being invited to an AGA national conference. Matt mentioned that additional information can be found on the AGA national website and that an email from the national office should have been sent to all AGA members. Matt encouraged the CEC to spread the word and encourage chapter members to apply for both programs, and mentioned this is benefit provided by the national office and part of where the \$90 per member spent on national office dues goes. Matt mentioned that last year the national office pushed for promotion of the college case competition by the local chapters, and we put something in the newsletter regarding supporting it; but this year he has not heard anything, but he is no longer chapter president. No further discussion was held on this topic.

Professional Development Training (PDT) Pricing

Matt mentioned that Olga wished to have this item placed on the agenda.

Discussion was held regarding the pricing of the 2014 chapter Professional Development Training. Suggestions included keeping the same pricing structure as last year or increasing the prices.

A CEC member mentioned that he believed the chapter could increase the price of the Professional Development Training and still obtain good attendance.

Another CEC member mentioned that it is unknown how many attendees will be impacted in attending by agency budgets, and suggested keeping the same pricing levels as last year.

A question was asked regarding the Professional Development Training budget. Matt responded that the food expense is expected to be similar per person as last year, and the anticipated speaker expense is still unknown.

Elaine made a motion to set pricing of the Professional Development Training as the same as last year. Tom seconded the motion. A vote was held and all those who cast a vote voted in favor with no one voting against, so the motion passed.

Julio's Presentation

Matt mentioned that Julio contacted him requesting to make a presentation at today's meeting. Matt mentioned that he did not know what the presentation was about, and that Julio was not currently present at the meeting either in person or on the conference call. *After the meeting concluded, Julio sent an email mentioning that he wished to resign from the executive committee.*

Discussion On How To Increase Chapter Membership And Participation In Chapter Events

Matt mentioned that Elaine wished to have this item placed on the agenda.

Elaine mentioned that the chapter must do something to increase attendance, as the chapter will be having some high quality and high profile speakers in the next few months. Elaine suggested reducing the number of monthly Continuing Education Seminars.

A CEC member mentioned weather and the previous seminars being audio conferences as being a factor in the low attendance.

Olga mentioned that she believes that the chapter's pricing of the seminars is responsible for the low attendance, and referred to attendance at the previous year's monthly seminars.

Tom mentioned that the CEC had already discussed the topic of chapter seminar pricing. Tom mentioned that the price was voted on and approved by the CEC, and thus questioned the need for further discussion.

A CEC member mentioned that the planned breakfast meeting may increase attendance.

No additional conversation was held on this topic.

Elaine requested that the CEC members help in promoting the upcoming chapter events and thanked everyone for their work as CEC members.