

**ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS
CHICAGO CHAPTER**

BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 8, 2014

Present

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

Absent

Raul Nieto, CGFM
Frank Moy, Education Director
Steve Whitecotton, Job Referral

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Quorum

Matt took a roll call and announced that a quorum had been reached. There were 8 CEC members in attendance, including non-voting CEC member Elaine Igelman.

Composition Of 2014-2015 Chapter Year Executive Committee

In response to a question from a CEC member, Matt mentioned the composition of the 2014-2015 Chapter Year Executive Committee.

Matt mentioned that the chapter President and President-Elect positions are vacant; however, Matt mentioned that Elaine may have interest in continuing on as chapter President.

Olga mentioned that per the bylaws, Elaine cannot serve more than one consecutive term as chapter President.

Matt mentioned that although it is true that the chapter bylaws do forbid a person from serving two consecutive terms as chapter President, in the past this was not followed. Matt gave examples how past chapter Presidents Health Wolfe and Tom McManigal served more than one consecutive term as chapter President. Matt mentioned that he is ok with Elaine being chapter President again next year, as he believes the chapter would be worse off without a chapter President. Matt again pointed out that the chapter currently does not have a President or President-Elect for the 2014-2015 chapter year, and called for volunteers to be chapter President. No additional CEC members spoke for or against allowing Elaine to be chapter President next chapter year, and no CEC members volunteered to be chapter President next chapter year.

Matt mentioned that Elaine may be Past President next chapter year if a new chapter President is found; otherwise, Matt mentioned that he would be willing to continue as Past President by assisting the chapter where he is able. Matt mentioned that as he discussed at the previous CEC meeting, he will be Regional Vice President (RVP)-elect next chapter year; thus, he will not be able to devote as much time to the Chicago chapter next year as he has done this year.

Matt mentioned that the Secretary position is vacant, Tom will continue as Treasurer, and CJ will continue as Program Director.

Matt mentioned that the Meetings Director position is currently vacant, but that he is willing to assume the responsibilities of this position next chapter year if nobody else steps up to assume this position. In response to a question, Matt mentioned that the Meetings Director finds space for chapter events, reserves the meetings rooms, and books the audio conference lines through the AGA national office. Matt also said that the position could involve taking RSVPs and lunch orders.

Matt mentioned that the Membership Director position is vacant.

Regarding Newsletter Editor, Alexandria mentioned that she is willing to continue putting together the chapter newsletter; however, if someone else wishes to assume this position, she is willing to step aside and let someone else take on this position.

SUMMARY OF MEETING-Continued

Composition Of 2014-2015 Chapter Year Executive Committee (Continued)

Matt mentioned that the Historian position is vacant, Frank will be the Education Director, the Website Director/ Webmaster position is vacant, Eddie will be the Community Service Director, Raul will be the CGFM Director, and the Early Careers Director position is vacant.

Matt mentioned that Steve is still deciding whether he wishes to continue as the chapter's Job Referral director next chapter year.

Matt mentioned that the Publicity Director, Awards Director, and Accountability Director positions are all vacant next year.

Matt mentioned that Rick Urbanowski is still deciding whether he wishes to continue as the chapter's Chapter Recognition director next chapter year. Rick confirmed he is still undecided, and Tom encouraged Rick to continue in this position next year.

Chapter Awards

Matt mentioned that this item is a follow-up of discussion held at the previous month's CEC meeting.

Matt mentioned that a call for nominations for chapter awards was announced in the March chapter newsletter, and a deadline was listed as Friday April 11th. Matt mentioned that to date, he has received no award nominations, and encouraged the CEC members to submit award nominations.

Matt mentioned that despite discussing this topic at last month's CEC meeting, the CEC has not resolved the issue of what type of plaque, frame, etc. to provide the award winners. Matt mentioned that per his recollection, the chapter set a budget of \$250 to provide awards for the previous chapter year's award winners, as well as an additional \$250 to provide awards to the current chapter year's award winners.

Tom volunteered to research plaque options for the chapter.

Member Appreciation Event

Matt mentioned that this item was discussed at the previous month's CEC meeting. Matt mentioned that Elaine had called for making a temporary price reduction for the May Continuing Education Seminar to make it a member appreciation event. Matt mentioned that the CEC members the previous month discussed this topic; however, no vote was taken because a quorum had not been reached. Matt mentioned that since the chapter approved via a vote earlier in the chapter year to set the current pricing structure, a vote would need to be taken to change the pricing structure, even if it is a temporary reduction in price.

CJ mentioned that she proposed a reduction in price to \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members with a box lunch included (so no non-lunch option). CJ mentioned that the May seminar is being held at the Railroad Retirement Board building, she has created a flyer for the seminar and plans to heavily advertise this event, and believes that the member appreciation price reduction will help in attracting attendees.

Tom asked what the current pricing structure is for the monthly seminars. Matt responded by saying that the chapter currently charges members \$15 (no lunch) or \$25 (with lunch), and non-members are charged \$25 (no lunch) or \$35 (with lunch). Matt also mentioned that the box lunch provided costs approximately \$10, so under the proposed temporary price reduction, the chapter would break even on members, and make money off non-members.

Tom mentioned that there is a cost to the chapter to purchase the audio conference, and even under the current pricing scheme the chapter was not raising enough money from admission to offset the cost of the audio conference, and thus lost money on each of the audio conferences offered this year. Tom mentioned that he is opposed to giving away things for free, and that he is opposed to doing anything that would result in the chapter losing more money.

Elaine thanked CJ for the proposal and mentioned that she is in favor of the reduction in price that CJ mentioned. Elaine suggested that the chapter give it a try.

Matt mentioned that member appreciation events can take other forms than just reducing the price of a Continuing Education Seminar. Matt suggested a social event as an example. CJ mentioned that the proposed mixer to occur after the chapter's Professional Development Training could be considered a member appreciation event.

A motion was made to set the price of the May Continuing Education Seminar to \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members, which includes a box lunch as a member appreciation event. The motion was seconded. Discussion was held regarding whether to reword the motion to say that it was a temporary one-time price reduction. A CEC member pointed out that the May seminar was the last Continuing Education Seminar of the chapter year. No change in the rewording of the motion occurred.

SUMMARY OF MEETING-Continued

Member Appreciation Event (Continued)

A vote was taken, and the motion to reduce the price of the May Continuing Education Seminar passed. All CEC members who voted cast votes in favor, no CEC members cast votes against, and at least one CEC member abstained from voting.

Community Service Activity

Matt mentioned that the chapter won Regional Vice President (RVP) Eric Busse's "Regional Challenge" competition. As a result of winning this competition, a \$50 contribution will be made in the chapter's name to the National Community Service Fund at the national Professional Development Training (PDT) in Orlando, FL.

Matt mentioned that at the previous month's CEC meeting, discussion was held regarding performing an additional community service activity before the end of the chapter year in addition to the food drive scheduled to occur at the chapter's PDT.

Matt proposed that in addition to the food drive, the chapter attempt to increase the amount of this \$50 donation by collecting donations to the AGA's National Community Service Fund at the chapter's PDT as part of a second community service activity, and possibly matching the funds with chapter funds.

Discussion was held. The CEC members who spoke mentioned that they were in favor of performing this second community service activity at the chapter's PDT, and were in favor of matching the donations received.

A motion was made to match dollar for dollar with chapter money donations made at the chapter's PDT to the AGA's National Community Service Fund. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken, and all CEC members who cast votes were in favor of the motion, with no CEC members casting votes against. Thus, the motion to match the donations received passed.

University Presentation

Eddie gave a talk regarding an upcoming presentation to college students. Elaine and CJ both mentioned that they were participating in this presentation as well. Brief discussion was held after Eddie's talk, and those who spoke were supportive of the chapter participating in the presentation. In response to Eddie's question, Matt mentioned that he had some AGA membership forms, CGFM pamphlets, and other AGA promotional materials provided by the national office that he could give to Eddie.

PDT Mixer

CJ proposed holding a mixer after the second day of the chapter's PDT.

Matt mentioned that the history of the mixer idea came up when Becker Professional Education contacted the chapter out of the blue offering to provide a speaker for the chapter's PDT. Matt mentioned that the chapter's Becker Professional Education representative, Debbie, left Becker last year and the chapter was notified that another Becker representative had assumed Debbie's position. The chapter reached out to that representative at the beginning of the chapter year to see if Becker would continue sponsoring the chapter, and if so in what capacity. The new Becker representative did not commit to being a sponsor this chapter year, and did not express interest in holding further discussion on Becker's participation in future chapter activities; hence, communication between the chapter and Becker ended. When Becker contacted the chapter offering to speak at the PDT, the chapter had already filled all time slots at the PDT. Given the solicitation issue that came up with Becker last year, Matt mentioned that CJ proposed holding a networking event held off federal property after the PDT where Becker could speak and/or hand out their material. Matt mentioned that this way we get around the solicitation issue and keep Becker as a valuable supporter of the chapter, and possibly a sponsor.

A CEC member questioned if the mixer would take focus off preparing for the PDT.

Tom mentioned that the idea sounded great, but wished that this was proposed earlier, and not be last-minute.

CJ mentioned that most of the planning work had already been done. CJ mentioned that she had already looked into locations to hold the mixer, and proposes holding the mixer at Brandos, which is only a few blocks from where the chapter's PDT is being held. CJ mentioned that she spoke with the owner of Brando's, and said that the owner is a big supporter of non-profit organizations and will let the chapter have a side room without a charge and without committing to a minimum number of attendees or amount spent.

CJ proposed that the chapter provide complementary food at the mixer, and a cash bar will be available for beverages. CJ and/or another CEC member mentioned that it is believed that Brando's serves pizza and appetizers.

SUMMARY OF MEETING-Continued

PDT Mixer (Continued)

CJ mentioned that she would invite the college students to the mixer to allow them the opportunity to network with the PDT attendees. CJ mentioned that the college students were seeking an opportunity to network with chapter members and government employees. Discussion was held, and the CEC members who spoke mentioned that they were against this. A CEC member mentioned that although the chapter would only be providing food and not beverages, and that Brando's would be providing any alcohol via a cash bar, Brandos is more of a bar than a restaurant and thus would not be a good setting to invite college students.

A CEC member asked if Becker was willing to contribute any money toward the mixer. Matt responded that at this time it is unknown if Becker would contribute money toward the mixer or otherwise sponsor the chapter. Matt mentioned that he would need to contact Becker to find out what their intent is.

Tom proposed that the CEC set a budget for the mixer and vote on it.

A motion was made to set a budget for the mixer of \$500, and that spending not exceed \$10 per mixer participant. Furthermore, the budgeted funds can only be used to provide food and not alcohol. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken, and all CEC members who cast votes voted in favor, with no votes being cast against. Thus the motion setting the budget for the mixer passed.

May IIA Fraud Conference

Tom called for a vote to reimburse CJ and Eddie for their registration fees to attend the IIA Fraud Conference in May.

Note: The history of this conference is that a CEC member brought this conference to the entire CEC board's attention via email, and proposed that the chapter send representatives to publicize the chapter to conference attendees, obtain speaker ideas, etc. CJ and Eddie were the only CEC members who had volunteered to attend this event on behalf of the chapter.

Discussion was held. Matt mentioned that he believed that the chapter had set a budget to send attendees to and/or sponsor another professional organization's conference held in Milwaukee, WI earlier in the chapter year, and these funds went unused. Tom mentioned that he supported sending CEC members to this event and providing registration reimbursement, especially seeing we have CEC members willing to attend.

A motion was made and seconded to reimburse CJ and Eddie the early bird registration fee for the IIA Fraud Conference. A vote was taken and all CEC members who cast votes voted in favor, with no votes being cast against. Thus, the motion passed to reimburse CJ and Eddie.

National PDT Scholarships

Matt mentioned that at the March CEC meeting, the chapter discussed scholarships for the national PDT. Matt mentioned that the chapter obtained from the AGA national office two scholarships that pay for a hotel room at the national PDT, and in the past the chapter paid the registration for two participants to attend the national PDT.

Matt also mentioned that he only knows of himself, CJ, and Elaine who plan on attending this year's national PDT.

Elaine mentioned that she is attending the PDT, but is paying her own way.

The floor was open to discussion on this topic, but no other CEC member provided any comments.

A motion was made and seconded to award the hotel scholarships for the national PDT to Matt and CJ, and to reimburse Matt and CJ's registration costs to attend the national PDT. A vote was taken and all CEC members who cast votes voted in favor, with no votes being cast against. Thus, the motion to award the national PDT hotel scholarships and provide registration reimbursement to Matt and CJ for the national PDT passed.

Chapter PDT Volunteers

CJ spoke briefly regarding volunteers for the chapter's PDT. CJ mentioned that she sent out a schedule regarding who is volunteering for food setup, the registration table, introducing speakers, etc. If any CEC member not on the list wishes to volunteer or do additional duties, he or she should contact CJ.

Non-Member Services & Participation In Chapter

Matt mentioned that this item was briefly discussed at the March CEC meeting. Matt mentioned that the chapter had a situation of a CEC member who no longer wishes to be an AGA member next year offering to volunteer to continue performing services for the chapter. Matt mentioned that he heard from some CEC members who expressed concern about this arrangement.

Olga mentioned that Matt was referring to her, and said that she was volunteering to continue assisting the chapter with the chapter's website next year.

SUMMARY OF MEETING-Continued

Non-Member Services & Participation In Chapter (Continued)

Olga mentioned that she was willing to volunteer her services to the chapter as a non-member, that she would not participate in any CEC meetings, and if the chapter found someone else to take on the website and historian roles, she would step aside and help train the new person.

Tom mentioned that he was against having non-AGA members volunteer to assist the chapter, especially in Olga's case as it involves access to the website and chapter documents. Tom mentioned that our volunteers need to have "skin in the game" by being AGA members, and questioned what other professional organization would allow non-members to do this. Tom mentioned that anyone, including AGA members, can do something bad to the chapter; however, if something bad were to happen by a non-member, he believes we would be questioned why we allowed that person to volunteer as it would not look good if that person was not even an AGA member. Tom mentioned that by being a member it shows commitment and support of the AGA organization and all it stands for.

Matt mentioned that these concerns were not directed at Olga specifically, and that the CEC was not saying that Olga could not be trusted. Matt mentioned that a concern expressed to him is that if we allow Olga to volunteer in the capacity she is proposing, we would be starting a precedent that certain CEC members do not want to start. Tom mentioned that he agreed with Matt, that what he said was not anything personal against Olga, and he too was concerned about setting a bad precedent if the chapter were to allow Olga to do what she proposes.

A CEC member asked what happens if the chapter could not find someone to perform the duties that Olga is willing to volunteer for? Tom responded by saying that the chapter could hire someone to do the work.

A CEC member asked how paying someone to do work for the chapter is different than accepting a non-AGA member volunteer to do the work. Tom responded by saying that if the chapter hired and paid someone to do the work, the payment or contract shows commitment that the contractor will do the work called for in an appropriate manner, which is not present if someone just volunteered to do the work. Tom again mentioned that our chapter volunteers need to have some skin in the game. Tom also mentioned that otherwise the chapter could allow anyone off the street to volunteer for the chapter even if they do not share in / support the values of the AGA.

Additional discussion was held. CEC members who spoke were against allowing non-AGA members to volunteer for the chapter in key positions/duties.

Matt asked if the chapter should proceed to a vote regarding this topic to resolve it. Before a motion was made, Olga mentioned that she would change her position regarding volunteering next year, and thus may renew her chapter membership if that was what is required to continue working on the website. She also mentioned that she would prefer to be reimbursed her chapter dues, and that if she did renew her membership, she would work on the chapter website next year but have limited participation in the CEC meetings, especially in matters not pertaining to her duties.