

# OBSERVATIONS

AUGUST 2014

## HEAR YE, HEAR YE!!!

Are you ready to serve? Is there a "leadership position" in your future?

One of the benefits of AGA membership is an opportunity to hone your leadership skills.



We have opportunities for you to do just that by serving the AGA Chicago chapter.

Please contact a board member (see page 4) if you are interested in serving on one of our committees.

We are looking for a few new leaders.

Thank you for your interest!



AGA<sup>®</sup>

CHICAGO CHAPTER



## President's Message

Dear AGA Chicago Chapter Members and Friends,

I am pleased to serve as the president of the Association of Government Accountants' Chicago Chapter for 2014-2015. The Chapter Executive Committee has been working hard to develop chapter plans and budgets for the upcoming year. Our treasurer is completing the annual financial statements and gearing up for the annual audit of the books. We have a committee set-up to review the Chapter's by-laws to determine where changes and updates may be necessary. We have a board of dedicated members and I am looking forward to leading and working with them and all of you this year, as well.

*Advancing  
Government  
Accountability*

Association  
of Government  
Accountants

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This mini-newsletter will inform you about what has been happening this summer and some of the Chapter events to look forward to this year. We were fortunate to have several CEC members attend AGA's annual Professional Development Training in Orlando from July 13-16, 2014. There they received training, met with other AGA leaders, had networking opportunities, and were able to keep abreast of the latest trends in government financial management. On July 31, 2014, Bobby Derrick, past national AGA president and current AGA field representative, provided valuable training to chapter leadership as we kicked off our first executive committee meeting

This year the Chicago AGA chapter will continue to offer its members and the community quality training and keep you well informed via our award winning newsletter and website. Be on the lookout for even more outreach to occur as we continue to grow our Chapter's membership. We expect to incorporate some new outreach efforts to encourage those early in their careers to join and take advantage of the many benefits AGA has to offer. Additionally, we plan to offer numerous opportunities for you to participate in community service activities and leadership development.

We will feature Chapter members in the newsletter and on the website whenever we can. Let us know if you would like us to feature you one month. CEC members will be available to speak with you at training meetings and via email regarding ways you can serve the Chapter and the community.

Consider joining us at an upcoming Chapter board meeting to learn more about what we are doing and how you can serve. We will share those dates and times with you. Our Certified Government Financial Manager (AGA's premier certification) director will be happy to speak with you about how you can become a CFGM and how you can help promote the CGFM certification.

*My theme for the year is "Focusing on Ethics, Accountability, and Service." As you begin to think about your year and the future, make a decision today to serve. You will be glad you did. When you serve, and in all of the decisions you make, I encourage you to focus on what is ethical.*

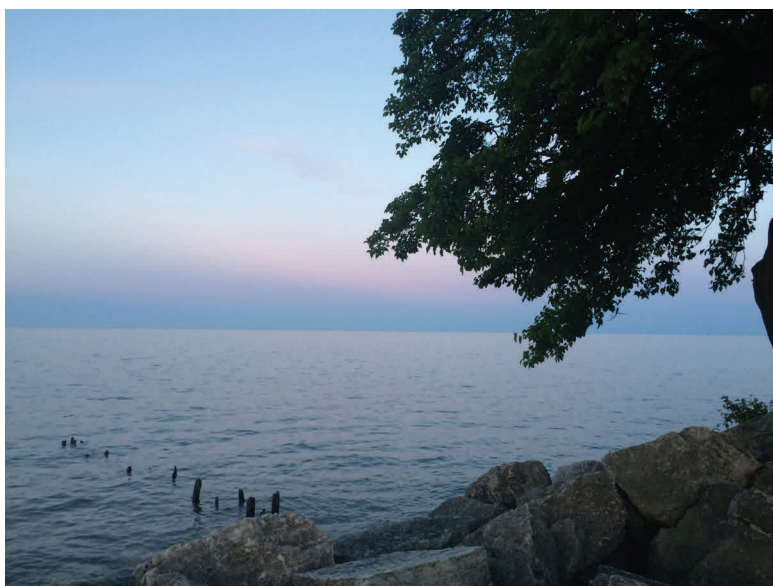
"The greatness of a leader is measured by the achievements of the led. This is the ultimate test of his effectiveness." Gen. Omar Bradley

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Mohandas Gandhi

“Leadership is a potent combination of strategy and character. But if you must be without one, be without the strategy.” Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf

Enjoy the rest of your summer and I hope to see you at a future AGA meeting!

A picture I took on Lake Michigan this summer near my home—



Sincerely in Service,

Deborah Kinsey, Chapter President  
AGA Chicago 2014-2015

**NEW TO AGA? SEE WHAT WE HAVE DONE OVER THE LAST YEAR!!**

**2013-2014 YEAR IN REVIEW**



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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](http://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](http://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.

