

OBSERVATIONS

OCTOBER 2014

CHAPTER NEWS!

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MEMBER NEWS!

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!

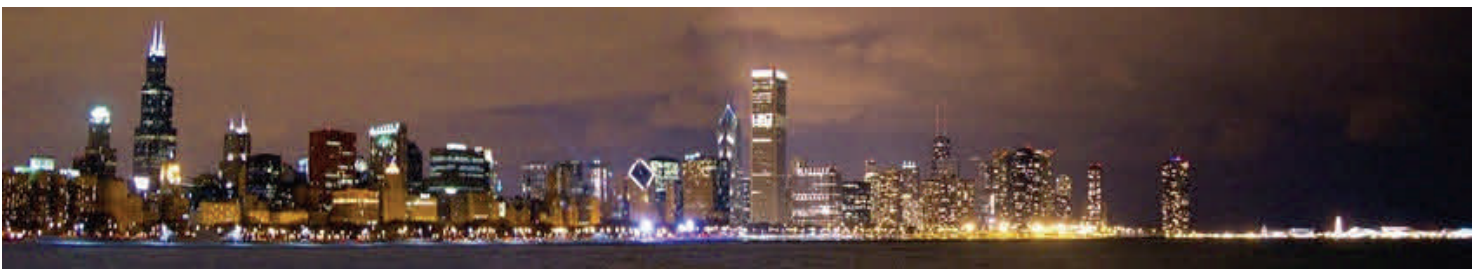
Promotions, retirements, births, job openings—if your office has some news to share, we would gladly insert the news into our newsletter!

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY! WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Volunteers are needed to join us on Saturday November 8th for our next Community Service event at Hilda's Place Shelter. See page 10 for more details!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 2013-2014 Year in Review
- Audio Conference Details
- Community Service Opportunity
- Member Spotlight!





President's Message



Greetings from the Chapter president,

*Advancing
Government
Accountability*

Association
of Government
Accountants

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

Our newsletter editor Alexandria Hayden has a statement at the end of her emails that reads "Teamwork: Together Everyone Attains More!" How true. Each month, like clockwork, the Chicago AGA Chapter has faithful dedicated members contributing to an effectively run organization. In addition to the executive team of president, immediate past president, secretary and treasurer, our Chapter leadership team includes board members working on early careers, education, certification, meetings, the newsletter and website, community service projects, reporting Chapter progress to the AGA National office, awards, membership recruitment and retention, publicity, programs, and by-laws and procedures. To enhance chapter leadership, we are working to streamline Chapter executive committee meetings by structuring the board with nine key directors who will hold committee meetings outside the monthly board meetings. This change will take time to implement, but we know that it will result in a strong and effective leadership structure to position the chapter for the growth it hopes to achieve over the next few years.

www.agachicago.org

Sometime this fall, we will be holding a member recruitment and networking event, so be on the lookout for more details. We hope you will attend.

The Chapter's community service team has adopted a charity for the year called "*Connections for the Homeless*" and is inviting you to attend the first service day on Saturday, November 8th. See page 10 of the newsletter for more details.



*The Wrigley Building,
Chicago*

The Chapter has an educational event scheduled for Wednesday, October 8 on Fraud titled "Wow! She Stole That Much?" where you can earn 2 CPEs. We hope you will attend. See more details in this newsletter on page 4. We are working to schedule live speakers for upcoming educational sessions and will advertise the events once the details are available.

We issued the Chapter's 2013-2014 Citizen Centric Report (CCR) on September 30, 2014. The four-part CCR focuses on (1) information about our Chapter, including our strategic objectives; (2) Chapter performance on key missions and service; (3) revenue and expenses; and (4) key initiatives and challenges. I am pleased to have participated with two other volunteers in the preparation of the Chicago Chapter's CCR for 2013-2014. Thanks Eddie Jones and Matt Matczynski for your service and thanks to all of the members who also provided valuable input of information to assist the team in completing the CCR. Please take a look at it on pages 6-9 of this newsletter.

Finally, I am sharing with you a few of my favorite quotes on Teamwork:

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

-Helen Keller

“Trust is knowing that when a team member does push you, they're doing it because they care about the team.”

-Patrick Lencioni

“Teamwork is so important that it is virtually impossible for you to reach the heights of your capabilities or make the money that you want without becoming very good at it.”

-Brian Tracy

“Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.”

-Mattie Stepanek

Sincerely,

Deborah Kinsey, President

AGA Chicago Chapter 2014-2015

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

[2013-2014 Year-End Review](#)

Wednesday, October 8th

Doors Open/Lunch 12:30pm – Seminar 1:00—2:50pm

Web Conference Speakers

Title

David R. Hancox, CGFM, CIA

International Speaker
Past AGA Regional Vice President and
Past President, New York Capital Chapter
AGA Financial Management Standards Board

“Wow! She Stole That Much?”

2 NASBA CPEs

Discussion & Learning Objective:

Rita Crundwell was the comptroller of the City of Dixon, Illinois - a small city 100 miles west of Chicago. Its general fund revenues were about \$9 million a year. Rita stole \$53 million over 22 years! She’s now serving 20 years in prison. How could that be? How could someone steal year after year and the mayor, city council, citizens and auditors never caught it? This web conference will explore this fraud and show you the actual phony documents used to commit it.

In addition, the program will discuss the updated guidance issued on internal controls by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) that could have helped prevent or detect this fraud if the proper control system had been in place. The speaker will discuss the original components, explain the 17 updated principles, and the 79 points of focus underlying the principles. The new framework is a significant development and auditors, managers, and staff all need to know how to develop and assess a cost-effective system of internal control. The speaker will explain the concepts with real world examples that will show you the importance of each component.

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board
5th Floor Conference Room
844 N. Rush Street, Chicago, IL 60611

Price
\$10 Members \$20 Non-Members
(Includes Complimentary Box Lunch)

OBSERVATIONS ISSUE 3

CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINARS

Date	Topic	Time	Location
October 8, 2014	AGA Webinar: <i>Wow! She Stole That Much? Dixon, Illinois Fraud Case</i>	Doors Open/ Lunch 12:30 PM Presentation 1:00 PM – 2:50 PM	RRB 5th Floor Conference Room 844 N. Rush St., Chicago 2 NASBA CPEs Offered

Price:

\$10 Members \$20 Non-Members



CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Date	Time	Location
October 9, 2014	11:30am - 12:30pm	Metcalfe Federal Building GSA Room 326 77 W. Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL



A Report To Our Members

Citizen Centric Report 2013-2014



About the Association of Government Accountants

The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) was founded on September 14, 1950 as the Federal Government Accountants Association (FGAA). In 1975, the Association expanded to include state and local government finance professionals. At that time, the organization’s name was changed to the Association of Government Accountants. Today, the AGA has over 100 chapters across the United States and other countries, and has over 15,000 members worldwide.

About the AGA – Chicago Chapter

The AGA – Chicago Chapter was chartered in May 1953, making it one of AGA’s oldest chapters, and has a long and proud history. May 2013 marked the 60th anniversary of the Chapter’s founding, and the 2013-2014 chapter year was the Chicago Chapter’s 60th chapter year. To celebrate this special milestone, the Chapter held a free member networking event in May 2014. The Chicago Chapter has a strong future thanks to its diverse and energetic members.

Selected Chapter Demographics

AGA – Chicago Chapter	2013-2014 Members (% of Total)
Total Members	93 (100.0%)
Membership Type:	
• Full Member	59 (63.4%)
• Private	15 (16.1%)
• Retired	10 (10.8%)
• Lifetime	6 (6.5%)
• Student	2 (2.2%)
• Early Career	1 (1.1%)
Hold CGFM Certification	46 (49.5%)
Employer Type:	
• Federal Government	51 (54.8%)
• Private Sector	15 (16.1%)
• State/County/Municipal Gov.	8 (8.6%)
• Other or Not Provided	19 (20.4%)
Education Level Obtained:	
• Bachelor’s Degree	49 (52.7%)
• Master’s Degree Or Higher	37 (39.8%)
• Other or Not Provided	7 (7.5%)
Oldest Active Member Join Date	4/11/1959

Chapter Strategic Objectives:

- Provide low-cost, quality professional education to our members
- Give back to the community
- Advance government accountability

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Mission

AGA fosters learning, certification, leadership and collaboration for professionals and stakeholders committed to advancing government accountability.

Vision

AGA is the premier association for advancing government accountability.

Core Values (SAIL)

AGA’s core values are Service, Accountability, Integrity and Leadership.



How We Have Progressed

Chapter Year 2013-2014



Accomplishments

- Achieved platinum level for chapter recognition program, and earned Chapter Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) and newsletter awards.
- Created the Chapter's Citizen-Centric Report (CCR) and earned a Certificate of Excellence for its overall content, visual appeal, and Chapter information.
- Held two member appreciation and networking events and gave back to community through food drives and the VITA Tax Assistance Program.
- Made donations to two local University accounting clubs.
- Increased the use of technology by updating our website and accepting electronic credit card payments.
- Promoted government accountability by distributing National and Chicago chapter CCRs at local events.
- Celebrated the election of Chapter Past President as Regional Vice President-Elect of the North Central Region for 2014-2015.
- Increased our CEC membership by five.
- Sent two Chapter members to the AGA Sectional Leadership Meeting in Baltimore, MD.
- Sponsored two Chapter members who attended the 2014 AGA National PDT in Orlando, FL.

During 2013-2014, the Chicago AGA Chapter provided 25 hours of continuing professional education to hundreds of participants throughout the Chicagoland area. Our Chapter held educational events throughout the year at various locations in downtown Chicago, including a breakfast seminar. The training consisted of different formats, such as live speakers and audio conferences, and covered a wide variety of topics. In addition to providing educational events, we held a free member appreciation networking and new member recruitment event and gave back to the community via community service events such as Toys for Tots, a food drive, and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. We reserved an exhibition table at the Institute of Internal Auditors Northwest Metro Chicago Chapter's Fraud Conference sharing AGA National and Chicago Chapter brochures and CGFM information with attendees. The Chicago Chapter was the winner of the *AGA North Central Challenge* which resulted in a donation on our behalf to the National Community Service Fund. Through our outreach efforts, Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) members made a presentation to the University of Illinois at Chicago's *Governmental Accounting* class on the benefits of AGA membership and government financial management opportunities. We coordinated with the DePaul University School of Business to include a link to the AGA Chicago Chapter on their website, becoming one of its Affiliate Professional Organizations.

Selected Accomplishments

<i>Number of Registrants for our Annual Professional Development Training (PDT)</i>	
2012-2013	2013-2014
88	74

<i>Number of Chapter Events Held</i>	
2012-2013	2013-2014
10	8

<i>Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Hours Offered</i>	
2012-2013	2013-2014
30	25

<i>Number of Members who Checked out a CGFM Study Guide</i>	
2012-2013	2013-2014
5	5

Our Finances

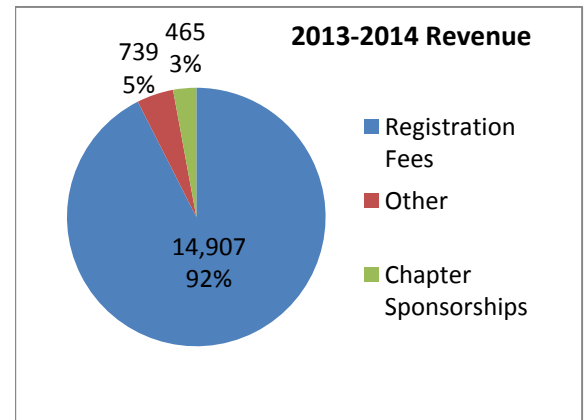
Revenues & Expenses

What are the costs for providing services to our members and how are those costs paid?

The financial data provided below is for chapter year 2013-2014 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014), during which time the Chapter had a successful program year but expenses exceeded revenues. This was caused by a planned increase in speaker expense to obtain higher quality speakers; however, increased revenue to cover the additional expense did not occur. Items negatively affecting revenue include lower than anticipated Chapter conference attendance caused by federal sequestration / tighter agency budgets, a canceled education seminar due to the 2013 federal government shutdown, and lower than normal attendance at events held over the winter months, likely due to the record-breaking cold winter Chicago had this past year. Although the Chapter may make money some years and lose money other years, the Chapter's goal over the long term is to break even while providing members with low-cost, quality professional services. Complete, as well as updated, financial information can be found on the Chapter's website at www.agachicago.org.

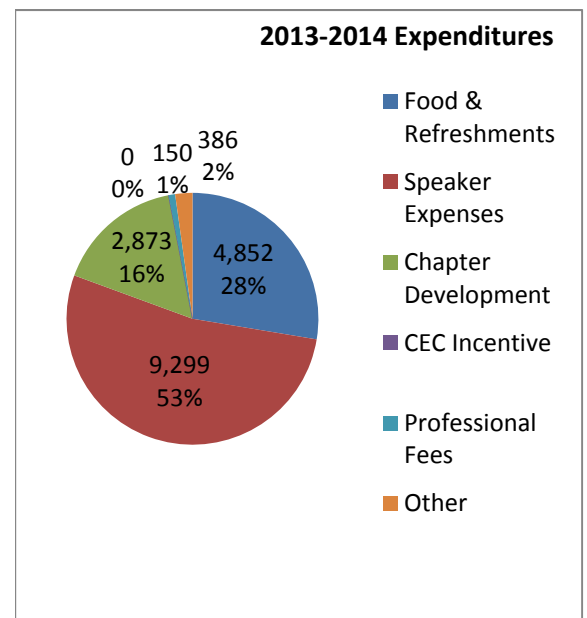
Revenue by Source

	Chapter Year 2011-2012	Chapter Year 2012-2013	Chapter Year 2013-2014
Registration Fees (Chapter PDT, Monthly Luncheons, Etc.)	\$16,895	\$15,490	\$14,907
Other (Chapter Membership Dues, Interest Income, Etc.)	1,044	635	739
Chapter Sponsorships	500	677	465
Total Chapter Revenues	\$18,439	\$16,801	\$16,111



Expenditures by Source

	Chapter Year 2011-2012	Chapter Year 2012-2013	Chapter Year 2013-2014
Food & Refreshments	\$5,971	\$6,429	\$4,852
Speaker Expenses (Speaker Fees, Gifts & Expense Reimbursements)	1,769	4,912	9,299
Chapter Development Expenses (National PDT Scholarships & SLM Expense)	1,661	1,715	2,873
CEC Incentive Expenses (Dues Reimbursement, CEC Food, Etc.)	1,459	1,416	0
Professional Fees (License Fees, Accounting Services, Etc.)	309	619	150
Other (Printing, Postage, Telecommunications, Etc.)	258	507	386
Total Chapter Expenditures	\$11,427	\$15,598	\$17,560



What's Next

Chapter Key Initiatives and Challenges



We value your input and want to hear from you!

- Do you like this report?
- Would you like to see other information?
- Do you have any questions?

Please let us know by contacting Matthew Matczynski at Mmatczynski@hudoig.gov.

For more information on the Chicago Chapter, visit our chapter website at www.agachicago.org.

Our Key Initiatives

❖ Leadership Development

- Encourage chapter members to serve actively on the board and help mentor them to become effective leaders.
- Promote excellence and high ethical standards among the leadership team.
- Encourage a service-oriented approach to leadership.
- Offer leadership training where members can earn continuing professional education credits.
- Build on AGA's reputation as a leader in advancing government accountability by helping others create Citizen Centric Reports.

❖ Member Recruitment and Retention

- Offer various new member recruitment events during the year to share the advantages of joining and becoming active in a local AGA chapter.
- Facilitate activities for local colleges and universities that will attract students and future Early Career members to help grow the organization and the government accountability profession.
- Continue developing an annual Chapter Citizen Centric Report as a tool to evaluate how the chapter is doing and distribute it to attract new members.

❖ Building Chapter Partnerships

- Identify groups through which we can build partnerships to achieve the Chapter's strategic objectives.
- Attract sponsorship by local and regional organizations to gain the capital needed to provide low-cost quality training, and recruitment and networking events.
- Reach out to community organizations by adopting local charities and serving them through ongoing member events and monetary donations to various causes.

Our Challenges

- We are seeking active volunteers to serve on the board and on committees.
- We are seeking an Accountability Director to further our focus on advancing government accountability.



CGFM

The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM®)

CGFM is a professional certification recognizing the unique skills and special knowledge required of today's government financial managers. It covers governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting at the federal, state and local levels.

Want more information? Contact the Chapter's CGFM Director, Raul Nieto, at 312/ 730-1634



COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT—NOVEMBER

Volunteers are needed to join us on Saturday November 8th for our next Community Service event at Hilda's Place Shelter. From 10am-12:30pm we will help sort and organize food and clothing donations, and possibly light cleaning work around the shelter. We will meet at Hilda's Place Shelter, an affiliate of Connections for the Homeless located in the basement of the Lake Street Church at 1458 Chicago Ave in Evanston, IL. The basement entrance is off of the alley that runs behind the church building. Please contact the AGA Community Service Director Eddie Jones at eddie.jones@oig.dhs.gov or 312-886-0156 with any questions. Hope to see you there!

Leadership and
learning are
indispensable
to each other—
JFK

agachicago.org

Post Office Box 1744
Chicago, IL 60604-9998

Chicago Chapter Member Spotlight!

Hugh Smith, By-laws & Procedures Co-Director Chicago Chapter of AGA 2014-2015



(Pictured left to right: Tom DiLisio, Rick Urbanowski, Deborah Kinsey, Hugh Smith, Matt Matczynski and Eddie Jones)

Hugh possesses over thirty years of public accounting experience. He started his career with *Deloitte* spending six years in the assurance division servicing Fortune 500 and large closely-held entities. He is a frequent speaker and consultant on assurance and attestation related subjects. He has developed professional training materials and programs relating to the specialized nature of financial reporting for the AICPA, CPAs for the Public Interest, the federal GSA, AGA, Lorman, NFRE and others. He serves on the Firm's Continuing Professional Education (CPE) and Quality Control (QC) committees responsible for ensuring good-standing with the AICPA, ISCPA & PCAOB continuing professional education and peer review programs. He has served as director and advisor on several Boards at the national, state and local levels. He is also a member of the executive committee of the Chicago Chapter of the Association of Governmental Accountants. Additionally, he holds national and local memberships and certifications with the Association of Governmental Accountants (AGA) and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE). For those Associations, he holds the designations of Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) and Certified Governmental Financial Manager (CGFM). He obtained a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy from the University of Illinois at Urbana.

If you would like to nominate someone to be featured in the Member Spotlight, please email their name and contact information to Deborah Kinsey at deborah.kinsey@ssa.gov. We are looking for members from federal, state and local governments as well as public accounting firms to be featured! Thank you!

NATIONAL AGA NEWS

AGA Congratulates CEO, Relmond P. Van Daniker, DBA, CPA, on His Retirement

AGA thanks Van for his dedicated service and lasting impact on this organization, and the government finance community. [Read more](#)

National 'Wreaths Across America' Day

The San Antonio Chapter plans to recognize fallen heroes on Saturday, Dec. 13, through the 'Wreaths Across America' effort. This year celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Arlington National Cemetery. The efforts needs more help to reach their goal of placing 500,000 wreaths on veterans graves. Make a difference this year and sponsor a wreath for those who gave up their lives for our freedom. [View more information about the effort](#)

Perspective: Funding the Government for FY 2015

Hopefully, plans are in the works to ensure a smooth transition for fiscal year 2015, avoiding the potential for another shutdown. [Read more](#)

Perspective: Deferred Maintenance and Repairs

A huge future liability—deferred maintenance and repairs (DM&R)—has not received much attention in the federal government, and it's getting worse. [Read more](#)

Public Input Request on the Establishment of Financial Data Standards (Data Exchange)

The U.S. Department of the Treasury requests comments about the DATA Act, specifically on data exchange, to ensure data standards are informed and useful. [Read more](#)

Fiscal Responsibility Forum

Oct. 23 | 7 p.m. ET | Chantilly, VA

The VA Society of Certified Public Accountants will host a forum about the national debt, gov. fiscal responsibility, intergovernmental financial-dependency and the future impact on VA. [Read more](#)

CGFM October Promotion

To celebrate 20 years of the CGFM®, AGA is lowering the CGFM online application fee to \$20 for the month of October. The \$65 discount starts Oct. 1. [Read more](#)

AGA Welcomes New Chapter in Mexico City

AGA happily welcomes the Mexico City chapter to our expanding network! Kevin W. Bohné, MBA, CFM, CMA, serves as the chapter's president.

National Leadership Awards Nominations

These awards, presented annually at the National Leadership Training, are open for nominations. **Due: Nov. 30.** Questions? Contact awards@agacgfm.org.

Chapter Recognition Program

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

Chapter Leadership, Planning & Participation – 100 credits

Education and Professional Development – 400 credits

CGFM – 250 credits

Communications – 539 credits

Membership and Early Careers – 100 credits

Accountability – 650 credits

Total – 2,039 credits



CHICAGO CHAPTER

CHAPTER CEC CONTACT INFORMATION

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AGA CHICAGO CHAPTER

Interested in becoming a sponsor? Please contact us!

Post Office Box 1744
Chicago, IL 60604-9998



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.

