

North Central Region Newsletter

April 2016

Issue IV

“The Best Regional Newsletter Of The North Central Region”

Message From The RVP:

Greetings! I hope that you continue to have a great chapter year and are planning on having a strong finish. I have received comments from several readers critiquing that my newsletters are a bit too long. Thus, I will try to make this one shorter, including the RVP message!

As always, if I can be of any assistance to your chapter, please let me know. Given the improving Midwest weather, I may have some time to visit your chapter. If you would like me to visit your chapter, please let me know.

Happy Spring!

Matthew Matczynski

Matthew Matczynski
Regional Vice President
North Central Region

From The National Office:

- **Chapter Recognition Program Due Dates**
 - Fourth Quarter: May 31, 2016

- **Keep Members Informed**

Are all of your chapter members' email addresses up to date? Member email addresses can change with a new job, domain change, or a new preferred email account. As the National Office primarily communicates with members via email, it is important that all members have up to date email addresses on file with the national office. Urge your members to keep their email addresses updated using the Subscription Preferences section of the national website. If you know of email changes for chapter members, you can also contact the national office to get the changes made at agamembers@agacgfm.org.

- **Membership Retention**

It is membership renewal time! Consider contacting chapter members who have not renewed yet to make that personal appeal to renew. Some members may have forgotten to renew or do not realize the total value of AGA membership. The national office website contains membership lists that identify which chapter members have not renewed yet, as well as the members' contact information.

- **Need Marketing Materials?**

Does your chapter have a spring chapter PDT, networking event, etc. in which you will have a lot of non-members in attendance? Are there some chapter members who have not renewed their chapter membership yet which your chapter plans to contact? Do you wish you had marketing material to distribute in the instances just listed? If so, did you know that the AGA national office offers marketing material to the chapters? Marketing materials can be requested online at <https://www.agacgfm.org/My-AGA/Chapter-Resources/Communications-Marketing/Marketing-Materials.aspx>. Please know that the national office needs at least two weeks' notice so your items can arrive on time.

Things To Consider:

- **2016 Baltimore SLM**

The 2016 Baltimore SLM is almost upon us! As RVP I will be in attendance, and I hope I will have the opportunity to see you or a chapter representative(s) at the SLM. I will also assist in running the Saturday morning session ... so please keep your rotten fruit at home!

In all seriousness, the SLM is an excellent opportunity for you or your chapter representative(s) to ask questions, get answers, air complaints, put faces to names, tell the national office what is working and what is not and what you want to see again and what not, and for the national office to communicate its expectations, suggestions, requirements, etc. It is also an opportunity for all the chapters in the North Central Region to gather at one location and share ideas, best practices, etc.

Unfortunately, not everyone from every chapter who wishes to attend the 2016 SLM is able to attend. Thus, I would suggest that your chapter contact all executive committee members (and possibly even chapter members) to ask what questions, concerns, suggestions, other items for discussion, etc. that they would want their SLM representatives to ask ... and of course get that information to your SLM representatives. Doing this will help ensure that your chapter makes the best use of the SLM, and that your chapter's SLM representatives will arrive with more items to talk about.

Additionally, it would be appreciated if you or a chapter representative can contact me at mmatczynski@hudoig.gov to inform me which member(s) of your chapter are scheduled to attend the 2016 SLM.

- **2015-2016 Bylaw Initiative**

Time is quickly running out to submit chapter bylaws to the national office that conform to the updated Chapter Bylaws Prototype. Recall from earlier RVP newsletters and other RVP and national office communications that there is an updated Chapter Bylaws Prototype. The national office has requested that each chapter review their chapter bylaws to ensure that the chapter bylaws comply with the updated Chapter Bylaws Prototype, and make changes to the chapter bylaws if and as needed. Additionally, in order to claim chapter recognition points for chapter bylaws this chapter year, a chapter must submit their chapter bylaws to the national office and receive an acceptance letter that the bylaws meet requirements to earn chapter recognition points by May 31, 2016. As it takes some time for the national office to review the chapter bylaws and respond, plus additional time for a chapter to make adjustments if the chapter bylaws are found to not be in compliance, please do not wait until the last minute to submit the bylaws to the national office for review! This is especially true if your chapter needs the chapter recognition points earned from the bylaws to obtain your chapter's desired chapter recognition status. If you have any questions regarding the bylaw initiative, please contact RVP Matt Matczynski at mmatczynski@hudoig.gov.

- **2016 National PDT Hotel Scholarship**

If your chapter is obtaining a hotel scholarship(s) from the national office, please keep in mind the following important rules and deadlines for the scholarships:

- Scholarship covers the cost of a hotel room for up to 5 nights during the national PDT.
- Scholarship is only good for hotel rooms at the Hilton Anaheim. Hotel rooms at other nearby hotels are not covered under the scholarship.
- To claim the scholarship, a room reservation must be made, and a confirmation number for the reservation must be obtained. This confirmation number must be emailed to chapters@agacgfm.org no later than June 3, 2016. Any hotel scholarships not claimed by June 3, 2016 will be forfeited by the chapter.
- Note that a credit card is needed to make a room reservation. Any cancellations made after May 31st will result in a penalty in the amount of the cost of one night charged to the credit card used to reserve the room.
- Hotel rooms at the Hilton Anaheim are going quickly ... If you plan on attending the national PDT with or without the hotel scholarship, it is highly encouraged you book your room ASAP!

2016-2017 Regional Team:

Hopefully you are aware of this by now, but your regional team for 2015-2016 consists of past-Regional Vice President (RVP) Sherri Voigt of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter, current RVP Matt Matczynski (me) of the Chicago Chapter, and unfortunately we have no RVP-elect as we had nobody submit a nomination during the nomination period to be RVP-elect for 2015-2016.

The great news I have to share is that we will have a full regional team for the 2016-2017 year! Your regional team for 2016-2017 will be (drumroll please ...):

Past (Outgoing) RVP - Matt Matczynski (me – Chicago Chapter): This is one of the perks of being RVP – the following year one automatically becomes the past RVP. So I will still be here, just in a different position.

RVP –Hugh Smith (Chicago Chapter): During the most recent nomination period, Chicago chapter member and current Chicago chapter president Hugh Smith was selected to be RVP-elect for 2016-2017. However, as mentioned above, because we have no RVP-elect for the 2015-2016 year (and hence nobody to move up to the RVP position for the 2016-2017 year), Hugh Smith is bypassing being RVP-elect, and will be our region's next RVP. Congratulations Hugh and thank you for your willingness to take on the RVP role for 2016-2017!!!

RVP-Elect (Incoming RVP) – Art Caraballo (Indianapolis Chapter): With Hugh Smith moving up to be RVP for the 2016-2017 chapter year, that left the RVP-elect position vacant. That is why a few months ago I asked all chapter presidents and other members from our region's chapters for ideas for potential RVP-elect nominees, even though it was outside the nomination period. I am happy to announce that Art Caraballo from the Indianapolis chapter has answered the call by submitting a nomination for this position, and has been selected as our region's RVP-elect for 2016-2017. Congratulations Art and thank you!

And a special “thank you” to Sherri Voigt: Finally, I would like to thank our current past-RVP Sherri Voigt of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter for her years of service on the regional team. Unfortunately, at the conclusion of the 2015-2016 year she will be leaving the regional team. I enjoyed working with Sherri when I was RVP-elect last year and again this year as the RVP, and appreciate all the assistance and training that she has provided me.

2016-2017 Regional Coordinators:

The national office recently announced that the Regional Coordinator positions will be eliminated at the end of this chapter year. I find this a mixed blessing for the North Central Region, as I found it difficult to recruit regional coordinators, and some regional coordinator positions for our region have been vacant for years. I would like to thank CJ Carter of the Chicago chapter for her service as the region's Education Regional Coordinator, and Maranda

Summers of the Indianapolis chapter for her service as the region's Membership and Early Careers Regional Coordinator. I hope that CJ, Maranda, and anyone else who has served as a regional coordinator in the past for the North Central Region will consider applying for the RVP-elect position in the future.

RVP Request:

So that the incoming regional team can get a start on the upcoming year, please let us know via email to mmatczynski@hudoig.gov the name and contact information of your chapter's president for chapter year 2016-2017.

Regional News:

- After a multi-year effort, the Chicago chapter is close to obtaining approval from NASBA to become a provider of NASBA CPEs.
- The regional recommender speaker list is continuing to take shape. Please send your speaker recommendations to Matt Matczynski at Mmatczynski@hudoig.gov.
- Planning on a multi-regional event continues, and discussion is planned to occur at the upcoming Sectional Leadership Meeting. If you wish to volunteer to help plan this event, please contact Matt Matczynski at Mmatczynski@hudoig.gov.

Does your chapter have any news to share with the other chapters of the North Central Region? If so, please provide your news to Matt Matczynski at Mmatczynski@hudoig.gov.

Upcoming Chapter Events Within The North Central Region:

- The Chicago chapter is holding a 2 day chapter PDT on May 18th and May 19th 2016 in downtown Chicago, IL, and attendees from outside the Chicago chapter are welcome to attend. For more information, including the registration form, please see <http://www.chicagoaga.org/upcoming-events/2016-pdt/>.
- The Southern Wisconsin chapter is holding an Accounting and Financial Management Conference on May 11, 2016 in Madison, WI. For more information, please see <http://aga-wis.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/2016-Annual-Symposium-Brochure.pdf>.
- The Springfield chapter is holding a meeting on April 20th at noon in Springfield, IL. The guest speaker will be Steve Schnorf, Chairman, Budgeting For Results Commission and former advisor

to two Illinois governors. He will speak on current issues affecting the state of Illinois. For more information or to RSVP, please call (217) 789-0960.

- **Does your chapter have any chapter events to share with the other chapters of the North Central Region?** If so, please provide your events to Matt Matczynski at Mmatczynski@hudoig.gov. A special thank you to those chapters that provided events to share!

Regional Initiative:

- Previous Regional Initiative:

Thanks to everyone who helped advance the most recent regional initiative of promoting the CGFM certification. I appreciate everyone who has given speeches to raise awareness of this important certification, and those who have reached out to encourage others to consider the CGFM certification. Also special thanks to those chapters who are actively trying to increase the number of chapter members who hold this certification and which are providing resources and support to those seeking the CGFM certification. Finally, thank you to everyone who helped obtain proclamations from state and local governmental entities declaring that March is CGFM month. I was proud to look at the list of proclamations received that is maintained by the national office and see that proclamations were obtained from the states of Illinois and Indiana, the city of Chicago, IL and city of Indianapolis, IN, as well as the village of Libertyville, IL and village of Tinley Park, IL. I am sorry if I inadvertently missed any additional proclamations obtained by the region's chapters. A link to all the proclamations can be found here <https://www.agacgfm.org/CGFMmonth>. Great job and thank you again to everyone who supported this initiative!

- Next Regional Initiative

The next regional initiative is to nominate candidates for a regional awards program. Winners of the regional award will receive a certificate that is signed by the current RVP! The reason for a regional award program is that I understand that some chapters give chapter awards, but certain people are excluded from earning such awards such as executive committee members, or there are chapter politics involved in selecting award winners, or certain people deserving of an award / recognition never seem to win. Furthermore, there are some chapters that don't give out chapter awards. Thus, this is your opportunity to nominate someone to win a regional award so that such a person is recognized for their contribution to AGA and/or advancing government accountability and feel appreciated! As this is a new thing this year and I am not sure how many nominations I will receive, there will be no official award categories. Instead, if you wish to nominate someone for a regional award, please do the following:

- Send an email to me at Mmatczynski@hudoig.gov no later than Friday May 6th with your nomination(s) for the regional award. In 1,000 words or less per nominee, please explain why the nominee should earn a regional award, in particular highlighting the nominee's contribution to your chapter / AGA and/or contribution to advancing government accountability.
- Award winners will be announced after May 6th.
- If you have any questions regarding the awards, please do not hesitate to contact Matt Matczynski at Mmatczynski@hudoig.gov.

Important North Central Regional Contacts:

Senior Vice President of Regional Services (SVPRS) – Section I

Julie Burns, CGFM

julia.burns@state.ma.us

Boston Chapter Member

Term Ends: 6/30/2018

* Note that there are many SVPRS. Julia is the SVPRS for Section 1, which comprises multiple regions, including our North Central Region. Thus, Julia oversees the North Central Region.

Regional Vice President (RVP)

Matthew Matczynski

Mmatczynski@hudoig.gov

(312) 913-8644

Chicago Chapter Member

Term Ends: 6/30/2016

Past Regional Vice President

Sherri Voigt

sherriv@live.com

Southern Wisconsin Chapter Member

Term Ends: 6/30/2016

Regional Vice President-Elect

Position Vacant

North-Central Region Regional Coordinators:

Accountability Regional Coordinator

Position Vacant – Note: Position being eliminated at end of year.

Certification Regional Coordinator

Position Vacant – Note: Position being eliminated at end of year.

Chapter Development and Assistance Regional Coordinator

Position Vacant – Note: Position being eliminated at end of year.

Education Regional Coordinator

CJ Carter

Cjcarter0924@gmail.com

Chicago Chapter Member

Term Ends: 6/30/2016 (Note: Position being eliminated at end of year)

Membership and Early Careers Regional Coordinator

Maranda Summers

Maranda.e.summers.civ@mail.mil

Indianapolis Chapter Member

Term Ends: 6/30/2016 (Note: Position being eliminated at end of year)

North-Central Region Chapter Presidents & Websites (By State):

Illinois

Chicago

President: Hugh Smith

Email: HSMITH@BROOKWEINER.COM

Chapter Website: <http://www.agachicago.org/>

Springfield

President: Kevin Richards

Chapter Point of Contact: Matt Ciotti, Chapter Membership Chairman

Email: Matt.Ciotti@illinoiscomptroller.gov

Chapter Website: N/A

Indiana

Central Indiana

President: Carolyn Adams, CPA

Email: CAdams@indypl.org

Chapter Website: <http://www.agacentralin.org/>

Circle City

President: To Be Determined

Email: N/A

Chapter Website: <http://www.agacirclecity.org/>

Indiana University Student Chapter

President: To Be Determined

Student Advisor: Antonette McCaster

Chapter Point Of Contact: Logan Burton

Email: ltburton@indiana.edu

Chapter Website: N/A

Indianapolis

President: Cindy Garcia

Email: Cynthia.b.garcia4civ@mail.mil (please cc Amanda.l.pierce18.civ@mail.mil in all emails)

Chapter Website: <http://againdy.com/>

Minnesota

Minneapolis – St. Paul

Chapter Currently Inactive – however, there are over 30 AGA members who are currently associating themselves with the Minneapolis – St. Paul chapter. Please contact Regional Vice President Matt Matczynski at Mmatczynski@hudoig.gov if you become aware of any interest in reactivating this chapter or wish to volunteer to reactivate this chapter.

Wisconsin

Southern Wisconsin

President: Mary Laufenberg

Email: Fredmary6998@gmail.com

Chapter Website: <http://aga-wis.org/>

*** Does this directory contain incorrect / outdated information? If so, please contact Matt Matczynski with corrections at Mmatczynski@hudoig.gov. ***