



Sponsored by Kansas City Chapter AGA



The Kansas City Courier

October 2011

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Success Matters



We are looking to have an exciting month in October! We have lots of treats. Just to recap, we have made significant accomplishments toward meeting this year's goals. AGA's goal is provide quality training to members of the financial community in support of meeting organizational continuing professional education (CPE) requirements.

Our training meetings and training seminars provide the most economical opportunities for local organizations to meet their staff educational needs. Local organizations have shown a high level of interest in our training topics. It has been great! Thanks to all.

Thanks to Judge John T. Maughmer and Attorney Lisa G. Nouri for an exceptional presentation during our September training meeting. Like others, our industry is an industry of change with new initiatives where controls are quickly tested by intruders. Many of these changes are brought about through technology and new legislation. We have to adjust our controls to adequately safeguard against intruders as change occurs. We strive to improve agency operations by strengthening weakness as we learn through case studies. Again, thanks for your timely presentation.

AGA is known for their support to the community through community service activities. Join us in a "Walk to Defeat ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) on October 8th. You can help support our efforts even if you can't do the walk. See the announcement below for more details on location and other community service events.

Our Fall Professional Development Seminar will be October 12th at Johnson County Community College. Register now and earn 8 CPEs. See the announcement below for more details. See you there!

The Chapter submitted its first Chapter Centric Report last month. Look for it to be published soon. Stay informed on what's happening related to training opportunities and chapter activities by visiting our website at www.kcaga-cgfm.org.

Respectfully, James Kirk, CGFM
Chapter President

AGA – KC Chapter Community Service Event

2011 Walk to Defeat ALS

Saturday, Oct. 8, 2011 – Corporate Woods, Bldg 40, Overland Park, KS

Festivities – 9:30 AM; Walk – 10:30 AM

Team's Fundraising goal is \$1,500.

It's easy to sign up (I just did). Go to www.walktodefeatals.org

Select a state = KS

Choose "Kansas City Walk"

Click "join a team"

Our team name: "AGA – KC Chapter" (you can search "AGA")

Team Type: "Other"

You are highly encouraged to have donations made online vs. cash collections as it's more cost-efficient for the ALS. It is the best way to keep track of our team's fundraising effort. I will not have to turn in cash and therefore eliminates the wait in line to register on walk day. Each online donor immediately receives a donation certificate for your tax records.

I asked for personal stories that members would be willing to share. In memory of Janet Miller (see Bill's story) I ask you to join me in the Walk to Defeat ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease):

My wife, Janet Kay Miller, contracted the disease (which has no cure or known cause, so all funds are used to advance research and assist patients) and survived 12 1/2 years--a significantly long survival rate some of which can be attributed to the help and support received through the Keith Worthington Chapter, ALS and its annual fund-raisers. The funds raised are used to provide research and basic life needs equipment to patients. I think this would be a tremendous cause for us to support, but as you can see donations go heavily to patient services to help them cope with the disease and adjust to the debilitation that comes with it. This includes special equipment such as scooters, lifts, braces, etc. Research in the millions are conducted annually to find a cure. Your HELP gives them HOPE. I have personal experience and the love for my lost wife.



What is ALS?

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), often referred to as "Lou Gehrig's Disease", is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. Voluntary muscle action is progressively affected when motor neuron cells die, and patients in the later stages of the disease may become totally paralyzed. Yet, through it all, most people's minds remain unaffected. There is no known cause and no cure for ALS. Life expectancy for most people with ALS is usually two to five years following diagnosis but with recent advances in research and improved medical care, many patients are living longer, more productive lives.

What is The ALS Association?

The ALS Association is the only national not-for-profit voluntary health organization dedicated solely to the fight against ALS. The organization leads the way in research, patient services, public education and advocacy.

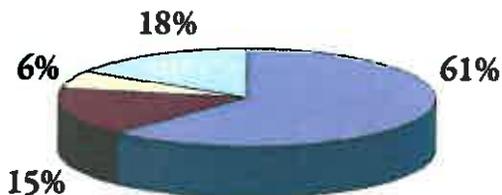
The ALS Association's mission is to lead the fight to cure and treat ALS through global, cutting-edge research, and to empower people with Lou Gehrig's Disease and their families to live fuller lives by providing them with compassionate care and support.

For people living in Kansas, Nebraska and Western Missouri, The ALS Association Keith Worthington Chapter provides services and raises money to fund research and patient programs.

The Keith Worthington Chapter provides the following services:

- On-going consultation by professional ALS Care Coordinators
- High-quality care and research opportunities for patients and families at The ALS Association Center of Excellence at the University of Kansas Medical Center
- Mobility and communication equipment and home adaptation program
- Support groups for patients, caregivers, families and survivors
- Educational materials, reference library, comprehensive Web site and monthly newsletter
- In-service training for medical professionals, service providers and caregivers
- Advocacy to ensure that legislators at state and federal levels are aware of the needs of the ALS community

How is Money Spent at the Keith Worthington Chapter?



At the forefront in the battle against Lou Gehrig's Disease, The ALS Association directs the most comprehensive research program ever organized to find a cause and a cure. The ALS Association has a 20-year track record of heavy research investment, including \$40 million spent on research in the last decade, \$27 million of which was donated in the last three years.

SAVE THE DATE

October 12, 2011

REASONS TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

1. 8 Hours of CPE are provided for this Seminar.
2. Wide range of training topics from Data Center Consolidations to Managing Stress.
3. One day away from the daily grind with breakfast, lunch & snacks included!
4. Refresh your knowledge and network with other professionals in your field!

AGA Kansas City Chapter Fall Professional Development Seminar

DETAILS AND
BROCHURE
COMING SOON!!

Johnson County Community College

12345 College Blvd-Regnier Center
Overland Park, KS

AGA Members \$85.00
Non-Members \$170.00

For information/reservations contact:
Leeanna Wilder - wilder.leeanna@epa.gov, (913)551-7161

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

AGA Kansas City Chapter Welcomes Our Newest Members!

Please help us extend a warm AGA Kansas City Chapter welcome to our newest members. We hope to see you soon at the upcoming luncheons and to take part in all of our planned activities. Again, welcome!

· **Kathleen Carroll, USDA/FSA**

AGA members form a diverse group of individuals—from students to entry-level employees to senior executives and elected officials—working for local and state governments, school districts and retirement systems, colleges and universities, federal agencies and public accounting firms. With 90 chapters, there are numerous ways for you to become involved with other government financial management professionals. Whatever your role in government financial management, AGA offers a membership package tailored to meet your professional needs and interests.

AGA Member Types

- **Full Government Member** **\$90/year**

This class of membership requires three or more years of government experience, involving the professional performance of financial management activities in an operational, administrative and/or supervisory capacity. This class is also available to individuals with similar experience outside the government who are engaged in educational activities having the same objectives as the Association, or who have made a contribution to the improvement of government financial management.

- **Private Sector Member** **\$150/year**

This class of membership is available to individuals working for commercial activities/ventures that are actively engaged in and support AGA's purpose and objectives.

- **Early Career Member** **\$45/year**

This class of membership is available to government employees with less than three years experience.

- **Student Member** **\$30/year**

This class of membership is available to college/university students.

- **Retired** **\$30/year**

This class of membership is available to those members who have retired. Call the AGA Customer Satisfaction Center at 800.AGA.7211 to find out more about our retired membership category.

Please contact Barry Owens with any questions about membership, Barry.Owens@morganfranklin.com.

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS

Early Careers

In my last column, I talked about how as AGA members we have the collective support of over 15,000 members nationwide. Whether you have a technical issue or question, need some career advice, or just want to expand your network of ‘go to’ persons—there’s a lot of member’s just waiting to help out. If you’re new to the workforce that support is priceless and this column is for you.

To set the stage and avoid potential confusion, there are five classes of AGA membership: Full, Early Career, Private, Student and Retired. And while the primary focus of this column is geared towards our early career members, hopefully all our members will find it interesting and helpful.

AGA defines an ‘early career’ member as one who works in the public or private sector and has less than three years of *any* work experience. For example, someone who has worked in the private sector for three years and then moves to the government sector would be considered qualify for membership as a Full Member. Likewise, someone who has worked in the public sector for three years and moves to the private sector would now qualify for Private membership. As you can see, the key factor in determining membership class is the amount of total work experience—regardless where it came from.

So what now? First, I need your help in identifying who our Early Career members are. Drop me a line or give me a call if you are an Early Career member, or if you know of someone who is eligible for membership as an Early Career member. Then, once we’ve identified our Early Careers members, we can then begin arranging activities that will enhance their professional growth and development.

Once again, I’d like to hear from you. Help me identify our Early Career members and send me your ideas and suggestions for building a meaningful chapter program for our Early Career members. My name is Harry Heflin, CPA, CGFM and I can be reached at HHeflin49@aol.com or 816-665-3850 (cell).

Accountability Outreach--AGA’s Citizen-Centric Government Reporting Initiative

We have just taken the first steps in our chapters Accountability Outreach initiative by preparing and submitting our first ever Citizen-Centric Report (CCR). This submission to the National Office is important because as we reach out to our local governments and encourage them to prepare Citizen-Centric Reports for their citizens; we have demonstrated our full commitment to this initiative by leading by example. Second, our submission will earn us at least 500 Chapter Recognition Points as we compete with other chapters for national recognition throughout our current program year. Not a bad start to a good program year!

You may recall, in last month’s newsletter, I briefly discussed AGA’s commitment to promoting government accountability through its Citizen-Centric Reporting (CCR) Initiative. Basically, it’s getting governments—at all levels—to publish short reports that give citizens an overview of their governments’ fiscal priorities, performance results, and future challenges. These are no-nonsense reports that can be easily read and understood by all citizens, helping make government activities more transparent to their citizenry.

AGA’s vision is *to be the premier association for advancing government accountability*--and government accountability and transparency will receive a lot of attention as move forward during these tough economic times. Our next step will be to identify three or four local governments that we believe will make good candidates for this program. We will then contact them and offer to meet and explain how CCR can benefit them and their citizens.

If you might be interested in playing a key part in the AGA’s Citizen-Centric Reporting Initiative, drop me a line at HHeflin49@aol.com or give me a call (913-367-7070).

Harry Heflin, CPA, CGFM
CEC, Early Career

**Treasurer's Report
AGA Kansas City Chapter
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
For Period Ending August 31, 2011**

Bank Account Balance August 31, 2011

Primary Share Acct	\$250.98
Signature Checking	\$1,092.69
6MTH Classic CD (Matures 1/13/12)	\$7,234.32
Total Bank Balance	\$8,577.99

Beginning Book Balance:

Book Balance July 31, 2011	\$8,381.84
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Receipts:

Interest Income:

Savings	\$0.03
Certificate of Deposit	\$3.43
Total Interest	\$3.46

Other Receipts:

August Monthly Meeting-Grand Street Café (cash and checks)	\$625.00
August Monthly Meeting-Grand Street Café (credit cards)	\$90.00
Total Other Receipts	\$715.00

Total Receipts

\$718.46

Disbursements:

Credit Card fees	AHC fees	\$20.31
Credit Card	Monthly August Meeting-Grand Street Café	\$502.00

Total Disbursements

\$522.31

Net fund from Transactions/(Loss) for period

\$196.15

Ending Book Balance

August 31, 2011 **\$8,577.99**

Less Petty Cash		(\$100.00)
Check #277	AGA National	(\$345.00)
Check #283	Batteries for Chapter camera (Williams)	(\$17.99)
Credit Card	Fall Seminar Registrations	\$1,955.00
Credit Card	Liability Insurance for Fall Seminar	(\$245.00)

Adjusted Balance

\$9,825.00

Chapter Executive Committee—Program Year 2011–2012

Position	Name	Work Phone	Email Address
President	Jim Kirk	816-389-3853	James.H.Kirk@usace.army.mil
President – Elect	Michael Melloy	816-823-2701	Michael.Melloy@gsa.gov
Past President	Oscar Williams	816-997-6939	Oscar.Williams2@va.gov
Secretary	Carrie Donham	816-926-2853	Carrie.Donham@kcc.usda.gov
Treasurer	Rhonda Lucas	816-926-7935	Rhonda.Lucas@one.usda.gov
Awards	Michelle Holland	913-715-1826	Michelle.Holland@jocogov.org
By-Laws / Procedures / Historian / Property	Mark Brandt	816-823-2938	Mark.Brandt@gsa.gov
CGFM	Carla Kohler	913-551-7900	Kohler.Carla@epamail.epa.gov
Chapter Recognition	Michael Melloy	816-823-2701	Michael.Melloy@gsa.gov
Communications – Newsletter	Mary Eckart	816-823-3101	Mary.Eckart@kcc.usda.gov
	VACANT, NEED POSITION FILLED ASAP		
Community Service	Nancy Healy	913-551-7713	Healy.Nancy@epa.gov
Early Career	Mr. Harry E. Heflin, CGFM, CPA	816- 942-5102	HHeflin49@aol.com
Professional Development-Seminar Coordinator	Leeanna Wilder	913-551-7161	Wilder.Leeanna@epa.gov
Liaison for other Professional Organizations	Oscar Williams	816-997-6939	Oscar.Williams2@va.gov
Membership	Barry Owens	816-823-1593	Barry.Owens@morganfranklin.com
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	Connie Smith	816-926-3646	Constance.Smith@kcc.usda.gov
Publicity/Website	Chuck Koelsch	816-823-1196	Chuck.Koelsch@ocio.usda.gov
Website	Steven E. Bell	816-926-1474	Steven.Bell@kcc.usda.gov