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# The Kansas City Courier

JULY, 2012

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Second 2 None



President's Message – July 2012

Happy New Year. Yes, July 1<sup>st</sup> started our new Chapter Program Year. With the new year comes a new theme. The National Office of AGA chartered the Kansas City Chapter on November 18, 1952, which accordingly makes us the second oldest Chapter in existence today. National lists the Denver Chapter as the oldest Chapter of AGA. Although we are the second oldest Chapter; I believe that we set the example for excellence among all Chapters. Therefore, in my mind we are “second 2 none.” When we strive for excellence, we must remember that excellence is not the same as perfection. The goal of excellence is attainable and worthy of

our attention.

We have many exciting events planned for this year, the highlight being our 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Ball at the Camelot Ballroom in Overland Park. Like Queen Elizabeth II, we will be celebrating our Diamond Jubilee (but without the royal parade). It will be a great evening for dinner, dancing and fun for all. We need volunteers to help plan the Birthday Ball. Please contact me at [Michael.Melloy@gsa.gov](mailto:Michael.Melloy@gsa.gov) if you would like to assist.

We have some new faces on the Chapter Executive Committee (CEC). I would like to welcome Alisha Dolt and Sean Rathman to the leadership team. Alisha is our new Membership Chair and Sean our new Treasurer. They are both with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

### Mark your calendars:

- August 15 - Monthly Luncheon
- September 19 - Monthly Luncheon
- October 10 - Fall Education Seminar
- November 10 - KC Chapter's 60th Birthday Ball

Mike Melloy  
 KC Chapter President  
<http://www.kcaga-cgfm.org/>  
<http://www.facebook.com/agakc>



## Meeting & Luncheon Information

Our local chapter will not be holding a meeting in the month of July. Please save the date for August 15th which will be the next luncheon and meeting.

## Regional Conference

The Midwest Regional PDC is coming August 22nd through August 23, 2012. This year's conference is at the Lake of the Ozarks. The theme is Searching for Solutions. Up to 16 hours of CPE credit will be available. Early bird registration runs through July 31st and offers a \$50 savings over normal registration fees. Registration is available through August 15th. Some of the topics to be covered include GASB Update, Forensic Auditing, Data Mining, The Economy in Historic Perspective, Improper Payments, Ethics, Federal Grant Reform, and more. There will be plenty of time to mix and mingle and to share ideas with our colleagues.

For more information you can contact Tammy Childress at 573-751-2432. She can also be reached by email at [Tammy.Childress@dss.mo.gov](mailto:Tammy.Childress@dss.mo.gov).

There is also an online registration form located at [www.midmoaga.org](http://www.midmoaga.org).

## National Conference

The AGA's 61st annual PDC is coming July 29th through August 1, 2012. This year's conference is in San Diego California. The theme is *Training to Solve Today's Fiscal Challenges*. You can earn up to 24 CPE hours and there is even a contest that may allow a member to win a free conference registration plus free hotel accommodations. Grab your digital video camera and produce a creative and entertaining two-minute video to share your views on the value of attendance and you may be attending free.

For more information go to the National AGA's website at [www.agacgfm.org/homepage.aspx](http://www.agacgfm.org/homepage.aspx) and click on Conferences & CPE.

## Audio Conferences

August 22, 2012

E-Reporting Research-The Results May Surprise You!

2 CPE Hours

September 12, 2012

Pension Accounting and Other Changes from GASB

2 CPE Hours

September 19, 2012

Yellow Book Update

2 CPE Hours

For more information on how to register, please see the national AGA Website at [www.agacgfm.org/homepage.aspx](http://www.agacgfm.org/homepage.aspx). Make sure you check the website for upcoming conferences providing additional CPEs and networking opportunities.



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 for those who work in private or public sector jobs with less than three years of professional 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.j.owens@us.pwc.com](mailto:barry.j.owens@us.pwc.com).

## Community Service Kansas City Free Health Clinic



The AGA-KC Chapter will be volunteering at the Kansas City Free Health Clinic on Wednesday, September 12, 2012.. The Prevention Department of Kansas City Free Health Clinic needs volunteer groups to compile packets containing pregnancy prevention and informational materials. These packets are distributed by Kansas City Free Health Clinic trainers at various educational presentations.

Make sure to mark your calendars. The service project will be 5:00 to 8:00 PM. We will be volunteering at the Midtown location located at 3515 Broadway, Kansas City MO 64111. If you plan to volunteer, please let Nancy Healy know at [healy.nancy@epa.gov](mailto:healy.nancy@epa.gov) or Kimberlynn Outman at [kimberlynn.outman@gsa.gov](mailto:kimberlynn.outman@gsa.gov).

Just as it was formed to do in 1971, the Kansas City Free Health Clinic exists to promote health and wellness by providing quality health care services, at no charge, to people without access to basic care. Today the clinic provides health care services in general medicine, HIV prevention and primary care, behavioral health, and dentistry. They accomplish this with a full-time staff of 105, plus an army of over 1,200 volunteers.

One of the largest free health clinics in the country, the Clinic is funded exclusively through donations, grants, special events, United Way and contributed goods and services. With its current funding, staff and volunteers, the Clinic is operating at capacity, caring for as many patients as it can and offering all the services it can. Get involved with the Clinic and be a part of its mission!

*“Too often we under-estimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word,  
a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring,  
all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”*

*Dr. Felice Leonardo Buscaglia*

## Article

### One City's Comeback from the Fiscal Brink

## One City's Comeback from the Fiscal Brink

Mark Funkhouser, Ph. D

What happened in Junction City, Kan., looked like just another of the municipal financial nightmares popping up all around us these days. As in Stockton, Calif., Pontiac, Mich., and hundreds of other communities across America, in 2010 the citizens of Junction City found themselves in a deep and ugly financial hole.

In pursuit of growth and a desire to "put Junction City on the map," the leaders of this little city of roughly 23,000 people had annexed 1,400 acres and pledged the city's full faith and credit to bonds paying for infrastructure to support housing development on the property. But the expected development, anticipated in part due to the purported housing needs of soldiers returning from Germany to nearby Fort Riley, did not materialize. Between 2005 and 2010, the city's debt level increased by a factor of ten — from \$13 million to \$133 million — and debt service was projected to be 160 percent of general-fund revenues.

A "Fiscal Transformation Plan" put together by the city last May lays out the details and acknowledges that "mistakes were made." Indeed. A former mayor, Mike Wunder, went to prison for taking bribes from a developer, and a previous city manager was investigated and cited for unethical behavior. They had set up a nonprofit whose purpose was to avoid disclosing the details of some of the economic-development transactions being conducted on behalf of the city. Those included not only the land deals but also an investment of \$300,000 in a biosciences company that is now worth pennies on the dollar.

I talked to Gerry Vernon, the current city manager who was appointed in 2010, to find out what has happened in the year since Junction City began its recovery effort. The story Vernon tells is amazing.

The city set about fixing its own problems. Through community roundtables, city-manager coffee meetings, a new website and lots of transparency, the city's new leaders gained buy-in from the community. "I can't take credit," says Vernon. "This is a community that wanted to fix itself. We've got a bunch of old retired Army guys who strapped on their boots and began fixing their community."

The city commission put on the ballot, and the citizens passed by a margin of more than 70 percent, a 1-cent sales-tax increase dedicated to paying down the debt. The city also raised property taxes and fees, cut costs everywhere imaginable, consolidated debt, and adopted rigorous financial policies and financial planning. In short, Junction City is righting its own ship. Vernon thinks the city should be more or less back to normal in 2013.

It turns out that what happened in Junction City is nothing at all like events in Stockton, Pontiac and many other cities in fiscal distress. There was no emergency manager, no threatened bankruptcy and no state intervention. Instead, a self-governing people acknowledged problems and mistakes and developed a sound plan, involving significant shared sacrifice, to clean up their mess. It's called democracy, and in Junction City it worked.

## Awards

### National Awards

One of our very own KC Chapter members will be recognized at the Annual AGA PDC July 29 – August 1 in San Diego, CA. We would like to congratulate Bill Miller for receiving the National President's Award for his visionary leadership of the Accountability Working Group. The Working Group actively promoted chapter centric reporting together with the citizen and community centric reports, and developed a Working Group charter and metrics to measure performance and promote thought leadership.

Each year, the National President presents special awards to recognize individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the success of the Association's program during that president's term. This year, National President Richard O. Bunce, CGFM, CPA, selected five individuals and two committees for the President's awards. Our own Bill Miller was one of the five individuals recognized for his contributions to AGA.

### KC Chapter Awards

At June's meeting, we presented our chapter awards to our members. We would like to congratulate the following members for their awards and contributions to our KC Chapter of AGA:

**Charles (Chuck) Koelsch, Member of the Year Award**—recognizes an individual's extraordinary efforts in supporting AGA. The award is given based on the member's participation in Chapter activities during the year. Points may be accumulated for meeting attendance, new member sponsorship, Chapter meeting program activities, community service participation, presentations, articles, publications and overall Chapter service.

**Lynn Smith, Community Service Award**— recognizes a member's efforts and commitment in supporting the Chapters' various activities. The member who accumulates the most community service points will be the recipient of this award (other than the community service committee chairperson).

**Constance (Connie) Smith, Clifford M. Buck Chapter Service Award**—recognizes the member who has provided the greatest contribution or service to the Chapter over an extended period of time. Eligible chapter members are nominated for this award by other members.

**Ken Kleffner, Special Achievement Award**--recognizes AGA members for notable contributions toward improving financial management during the year. This award applies to accomplishments in their workplace or other professional venues and members are nominated by their supervisors.

**President's Special Award**—discretionary award to recognizing individuals for special initiatives or acts performed during the year that helped the Chapter be successful. The following members were selected for President's awards this year:

Harry Heflin, for his contribution and excellence as the Accountability Outreach Chair.

Leeanna Wilder, for her excellence as the Professional Development and Seminar Coordinator.

Rhonda Lucas, for her contribution and excellence in performing her duties as the Chapter Treasurer.

**Scholarship Awards**—The Chapter at its discretion can award monetary scholarships to a member or a family member who is pursuing a degree in the discipline of financial management. This year the Chapter granted two \$250 scholarships to the following individuals:

Kathleen Emley

Kayd Kohler

Congratulations to all of our award recipients in the 2011 – 2012 Program Year!

Michelle Holland, CFE

Awards Chair

### Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) Quarterly Meeting- June 6, 2012

In attendance were Michael Melloy, Oscar Williams, Leeanna Wilder, Barry Owens, Chuck Koelsch, Laura Logan, Alisha Dolt, Sean Rathman, Harry Heflin, Howard Petrie, Carla Kohler, and Carrie Miller

The previous CEC meeting minutes and associated voting emails were approved.

#### Scholarship:

The Scholarship Committee decided to award two \$250.00 scholarships.

#### Awards:

Once more the chapter is expected to receive the Platinum Award. Barry will accept this award on behalf of the chapter at the Professional Development Conference.

#### President:

As of May 1, 2012 20 AGA KC members have not renewed their membership. The CEC will be contact these members about renewing their memberships.

The chapter chair plans are due to National by July 15, 2012 and Mike would like to have these plans by July 6, 2012.

Please submit chair accomplishments by June 30, 2012 to Mike.

The 5 year plan is due to National on July 5, 2012.

#### By-Laws/Procedures/Historian/Property:

Mark went over the duties of each officer document. The CEC should review this document and inform Mark of any changes needed.

#### Newsletter:

Please submit newsletter articles by the end of the month.

Members can write articles to be included in the newsletter.

#### New CEC Members

The CEC welcomed the new program year Treasurer Chair Sean Rathman and Membership Chair Alisha Dolt.

Sean and Alisha introduced themselves to the CEC.

#### Birthday Ball:

There will be a committee formed to plan the 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Ball.

The committee will coordinate the cake, decorations, presentations, and invites.

The Birthday Ball will be held on November 10, 2012.

A deposit of \$500 has been given to the facility confirming the date.

Harry and Mark are working on identifying all of KC AGA Past Presidents and obtaining pictures of past events.

The tickets for the Birthday Ball will be \$40 each and 40 tickets must be sold to breakeven.

Sean will track the budget for the Birthday Ball.

#### Professional Development Seminar Coordinator:

The Fall Seminar will be held on October 12, 2012.

Leeanna is reserving speakers for the Fall Seminar.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion was approved unanimously.



## CGFM Happenings

### CGFM Happenings:

### The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM®)



#### **The Mark of Excellence in Federal, State and Local Government**

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.

Learn more at "The Value of CGFM." <http://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification/The-Value-of-CGFM.aspx>

#### **Initial Certification Requirements**

To earn the CGFM, candidates must apply for the CGFM Program and meet the following requirements:

Ethics—read and agree to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics.

Education—have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and have completed at least 24 credit hours in financial management or related topics.

Examinations— pass three comprehensive CGFM Examinations.

Experience— have at least two years of professional-level experience in government financial management.

Learn more about the process of earning the CGFM designation at <http://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification/Certification-Process.aspx>

#### **Requirements to Maintain the Certification**

Continue to enjoy the benefits of the active CGFM certification by abiding by AGA's Code of Ethics, earning the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) hours and renewing your CGFM.

Learn more about maintaining your CGFM at <http://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification/Maintaining-Certification.aspx>

If you have any questions about the process, please contact the Office of Professional Certification at [agacgfm@agacgfm.org](mailto:agacgfm@agacgfm.org) or 800.AGA.7211.

**Treasurer's Report**  
**AGA Kansas City Chapter**  
**Statement of Receipts and Disbursements**  
**For Period Ending May 31, 2012**

Bank Account Balance May 31, 2012

Primary Share Acct	\$9,248.01
Signature Checking	\$7,507.77
6MTH Classic CD	\$0.00
<b>Total Bank Balance</b>	<b>\$16,755.78</b>

Beginning Book Balance:

Book Balance April 30 , 2012	\$17,437.30
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Receipts:

Interest Income:

Savings	\$1.21
<b>Total Interest</b>	<b>\$1.21</b>

Other Receipts:

Spring Seminar	\$35.00
May Luncheon - Bucca	\$860.00
Spring Seminar	\$30.00
<b>Total Other Receipts</b>	<b>\$925.00</b>

**Total Receipts**

**\$926.21**

Disbursements:

Credit Card fees	\$171.71
Seminar Supplies	\$69.35
May Luncheon	\$821.67
60th Birthday Bash Party Deposit-Camelot Ballroom	\$500.00
May Luncheon-gift cards	\$45.00

**Total Disbursements**

**\$1,607.73**

Net fund from Transactions/(Loss) for period

**(\$681.52)**

Ending Book Balance

<b>May 31, 2012</b>	<b>\$16,755.78</b>
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Less Petty Cash	(\$100.00)
Johnson County Community Collage	(\$3,331.52)
CEC dinner	(\$213.60)
AGA Scholarship-Kohler	(\$250.00)
AGA Scholarship-Emley	(\$250.00)

<b>Adjusted Balance</b>	<b>\$12,610.66</b>
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## Chapter Executive Committee—Program Year 2011–2012

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Position	Name	Work Phone	Email Address
President	Michael Melloy	816-823-2701	<a href="mailto:michael.melloy@gsa.gov">michael.melloy@gsa.gov</a>
President – Elect	Barry Owens	816-467-5011	<a href="mailto:Barry.j.owens@us.pwc.com">Barry.j.owens@us.pwc.com</a>
Past President	Oscar Williams	816-997-6939	<a href="mailto:oscar.williams2@va.gov">oscar.williams2@va.gov</a>
Secretary	Carrie Miller	816-926-2853	<a href="mailto:carrie.miller@kcc.usda.gov">carrie.miller@kcc.usda.gov</a>
Treasurer	Sean Rathman	816-823-2798	<a href="mailto:Sean.rathman@kcc.usda">Sean.rathman@kcc.usda</a>
Awards	Michelle Holland	913-715-1826	<a href="mailto:michelle.holland@jocogov.org">michelle.holland@jocogov.org</a>
By-Laws / Procedures / Historian / Property	Mark Brandt	816-823-2938	<a href="mailto:mark.brandt@gsa.gov">mark.brandt@gsa.gov</a>
CGFM	Carla Kohler	913-551-7900	<a href="mailto:kohler.carla@epa.gov">kohler.carla@epa.gov</a>
Chapter Recognition	Barry Owens	816-467-5011	<a href="mailto:Barry.j.owens@us.pwc.com">Barry.j.owens@us.pwc.com</a>
Accountability Outreach	Harry E. Heflin	816– 665-3850	<a href="mailto:hheflin49@aol.com">hheflin49@aol.com</a>
Communications – Newsletter	Howard Petrie	816-513-1172	<a href="mailto:howard.petrie@kcmo.org">howard.petrie@kcmo.org</a>
Community Service Co-Chairs	Nancy Healy	913-551-7713	<a href="mailto:healy.nancy@epa.gov">healy.nancy@epa.gov</a>
	Kimberlynn Outman	816-926-7217	<a href="mailto:Kimberlynn.Outman@gsa.gov">Kimberlynn.Outman@gsa.gov</a>
Early Career	Leeanna Wilder	913-551-7161	<a href="mailto:wilder.leeanna@epa.gov">wilder.leeanna@epa.gov</a>
Professional Development-Seminar Coordinator	Leeanna Wilder	913-551-7161	<a href="mailto:wilder.leeanna@epa.gov">wilder.leeanna@epa.gov</a>
	Rhonda Lucas	816-926-7935	<a href="mailto:Rhonda.lucas@usda.gov">Rhonda.lucas@usda.gov</a>
Liaison for other Professional Organizations	Oscar Williams	816-997-6939	<a href="mailto:oscar.williams2@va.gov">oscar.williams2@va.gov</a>
Membership	Alisha Dolt	816-823-3892	<a href="mailto:ALISHA.DOLT@oig.usda.gov">ALISHA.DOLT@oig.usda.gov</a>
Program and Technical	Laura Logan	816-823-4530	<a href="mailto:laura.logan@kcc.usda.gov">laura.logan@kcc.usda.gov</a>
	Connie Smith	816-926-3646	<a href="mailto:constance.smith@kcc.usda.gov">constance.smith@kcc.usda.gov</a>
Publicity/Website	Chuck Koelsch	816-823-1196	<a href="mailto:chuck.koelsch@ocio.usda.gov">chuck.koelsch@ocio.usda.gov</a>
Website	Steven E. Bell	913-649-7461	<a href="mailto:SteveB019@aol.com">SteveB019@aol.com</a>