



Sponsored by Kansas City Chapter AGA



The Kansas City Courier

June, 2012

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Success Matters



President's Message – June 2012

We had a great opportunity to meet our National and Regional counterparts at the AGA Sectional Leadership Meeting (SLM) in Las Vegas. At the AGA SLM, the Kansas City Chapter was well represented with seven Chapter officers represented at all three levels of leadership. One of the “take a ways” from the meeting is that AGA allows leadership opportunities for any member at all three levels: Chapter, Regional and National. AGA is a nurturing environment to develop leadership skills. It is true, “leaders are made and not born.”

Wow, time really flies by. The 2011-2012 Chapter year ends on June 30th. We have accomplished many great things together, here are a few of them:

- Published our first annual Chapter Centric Report (CCR) and have been working with local governments to publish their own CCRs.
- Offered several community service efforts including adopting a family effected by the Joplin tornado for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Also, we supported the ALS Walk and the Harvesters Food Network.
- Hosted 10 monthly lunch and learns and two all-day seminars, which awarded 26 CPE to both members and non-members.
- Hosted the SLM-Regional (SLM-R) in January.
- Increased our Social Networking presence by creating a LinkedIn and Facebook page for the KC Chapter of AGA.
- Chapter members are serving at the Regional and National levels of AGA.
- Recognized as a Platinum Chapter for the current program year's activities.

Mark your calendars: June 20th - Chapter Award Luncheon
November 10th - KC Chapter's 60th Birthday Ball

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



Meeting & Luncheon Information-June 20, 2012, Wednesday 11:30 A.M

The Kansas City Chapter of the AGA is proud to offer their monthly professional development luncheon featuring the President of the Kansas City Chapter AGA, Michael Melloy. Lunch will be a choice between smoked pulled pork sandwich, chicken salad sandwich or the café cob salad. The meeting is the annual awards and installation of officers ceremony. Please contact Connie Smith to reserve a spot.

- Honored Speaker: Michael Melloy
President-Kansas City Chapter AGA
- Time: Wednesday, June 20, 2012
11:30-1:00
- Subject: Annual Awards and Installation of Officers Ceremony
- Location: The Café at Briarcliff Village
4125 N Mulberry Drive, Kansas City, MO 64116
- Cost: \$15.00 Members
\$20.00 Non-Members
- Reservations: Please call Connie Smith 816-926-3646 or e-mail constance.smith@kcc.usda.gov.

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*. 24 CPE hours are being offered and there is even a contest that may allow a member to win free conference registrations 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 and click on Conferences & CPE.



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.

Accountability Outreach

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

By Harry Heflin, CPA, CGMA, CGFM

Well, here it is—my final report on our chapters Accountability Outreach initiative for the 2011-12 program year. And while we’re not as far along as I would have liked, I believe we made great strides with our chapters Citizen-Centric Reporting (CCR) efforts.

We continue to work with several of our local government partners, encouraging them to participate in the initiative. We continue to make ourselves available to lend a guiding hand in helping them prepare their initial CCR products. I am pleased to announce that the City of Atchison, KS has agreed to participate in our Accountability Outreach initiative—however their CCR report is on hold until they have selected a new Finance Director. We have several local governments that we are still actively working with. Getting close!

As I have said before, this is the most difficult part of this initiative—getting commitment on behalf of the local governments to take the first step to participate and openly communicate with their citizens. Once this occurs there will be more transparency for citizens and increased accountability in government operations. But more importantly—there will be a new period of renewed trust in government at all levels.

Finally, as we close out this program year, I am working on our chapter’s CCR that will provide our members with a summary of our chapter’s accomplishments. If you have information that you believe should be incorporated in the Kansas City Chapter’s upcoming CCR—please send it to me. ***For all current chapter officers and committee chairs—please provide me with a recap of your committee accomplishments as soon as possible.*** The 2011-12 CCR will be posted on our website once completed.

Once again, if you would like to be a part of the CCR experience, drop me a line at hheflin49@aol.com or give me a call at (913) 367-7070.



Article-Accountability Should be the Cornerstone of Management Concern

Accountability Should be a Cornerstone of Management Concern

William D. Miller, CGFM, CIA

Senior Vice President for Regional Services Section II

Chair, Accountability Work Group

At an early age, parents help us understand consequences for our actions. From the first spanking or time-out, we were held accountable for the actions we took. Great accomplishments through our lifetime also remind us of our accountability to others for the tasks we performed.

Individual accountability is visible and easy to measure. The executive either is or is not leading the organization in the right direction. Metrics tell the story. Failure results in executive changes, either in the behavior of the executive or in the replacement of the executive. Either way, it is easy to observe and take action. The same observation can be applied to the employees of the organization.

Corporate or Government accountability is not as visible and can be difficult to measure. Both manage results to an end game. For Corporate, it is the profit line and for Government, it is service to their constituency. The Corporate accountability is to provide a product that is reliable, appropriately priced, and desired by the consumer. Failure to meet customer desires can result in customer flight and ultimate damage to the corporation's existence. Product quality is paramount to sustainability and accountability with customers. Responsiveness to customer concerns must be in the forefront of executive management programs. One only needs to look at Spirit Airlines as a cataclysmic example of tone deafness to customers.

Government accountability, no matter what level, needs to be visible at the most basic level of service delivery. In most cases, that would be the citizen using the service or the citizen wanting to use the service. Government programs can be complex, multi-layered, and awkward for citizens to understand. For example, grant programs ultimately reach the citizenry but the funds travel through several layers of government, all with rules and regulations for application and funds receipt. All of these programs require accountability reporting to satisfy the issuing government agency that the funds were spent according to the grant requirements. However, many federal grants have lengthy and cumbersome rules for legitimate use. This leads to misunderstanding or laziness in sticking to the rules with ultimate consequences sometimes including fraud charges.

Most governing bodies have implemented performance measurement programs and many have gone through several iterations of these programs. These programs (and many can argue which is the best) created a cottage industry of proponents who built enterprises to train employees and managers on the virtues of each program. These measurement programs fit the model of accountability but the accountability is internalized not to be seen by the ultimate consumer. While government strives for efficiency, they have not been adept at communicating with the constituency. Such communication is especially important when the news is not good.

So, what does the citizen have to evaluate what the governing body is doing with their tax dollars? The Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports represent the year end accountability product for local governments. It is a critical element for financial departments to track their activities. It is informative and impressive. But, it is not reader friendly. Annual reports of activities also provide valuable information but the focus is usually on achievements only.

AGA's citizen centric report initiative is an answer to the citizen question "Is there any place where I can get a quick picture of the state of my government?" In only 4 pages, the citizen can learn basic demographics of the governing body, revenues and expenses, key achievements during the year, and challenges ahead. The CCR is gaining wide acceptance in local and state governments and AGA is there to help them develop their reports. The Association has ready-made templates and helpful hints on their website www.agacgfm.org and stunning examples of reports. AGA has a recognition program for reports submitted to them by the governing bodies. In this scenario, the reports submitted are peer reviewed by trained professionals and recognition awards are assigned to the best of the best. The CCR is so simple in terminology and organization that a dearth of knowledge can be consumed in minutes. It's only 4 pages! The CCR is the epitome of reporting accountability to the taxpayers—the real customers of government service. The feedback from those who have prepared a CCR is exceptionally positive and generated a recurring theme of success. Accountability and Transparency go together and the CCR is one great vehicle for accomplishing both.

Article-Survey finds agencies are not taking full advantage of data analysis

Survey finds agencies are not taking full advantage of data analysis

By Andrew Lapin

Even as more federal agencies embrace the idea of increased data analysis, many don't know what to do with this newfound information.

In a [survey](#) co-sponsored by the Association of Government Accountants and Accenture, and released Tuesday morning, 67 percent of federal officials said their organization analyzes data and uses the findings to make fact-based decisions, a process known as "data analytics."

Of the respondents who said their agency incorporates analytics, 46 percent reported a "low" integration of analytics into agency management. Another 46 percent said their agency had "medium" levels of integration, while 8 percent said their agency practiced "high" levels of integration.

Approximately 40 chief financial officers, deputy CFOs and chief information officers were interviewed for the survey between October 2011 and January 2012, from an indeterminate number of agencies that survey co-author Helena Sims, director of intergovernmental relations for AGA, said represented "a good cross-section." Additionally, the survey authors conducted interviews with officials from eight offices within six federal agencies, including the Agriculture, Defense and Education departments and the U.S. Postal Service. The interviews were geared toward specific projects that use data integration.

Half the respondents who said their agency used analytics also said a contractor helped develop their data analytics system. During the panel Tuesday, survey co-author and primary researcher Steve Sossei said he suspected the number might actually be higher and agency officials surveyed may not have been aware of which tasks were performed by contractors.

"Really there's no right-or-wrong approach to the development of data analytics," said Sossei, who is a retired director of state audits from the New York State Comptroller's Office. "It's what fits in your organization. Everything within life is a balance. Sometimes you have to budget, sometimes the time is right to go big."

For the purposes of the survey, low levels of analytics integration were defined as "data analytic processes are conducted in silos with little consistency or standardization." Medium levels meant "data analytic techniques are used inconsistently" with "some linkage to management budget and planning functions."

Lack of integration was a source of concern for Sossei, who warned about the consequences of improperly integrated analytics.

"You don't want to have a system that just produces results without identifying what they're going to do, integrating them into your operations, and feeding that back into your system and moving forward and producing better results on a more timely basis," he said, adding increased analytics use and greater integration would require more resources as well as different management styles.

According to the survey, "nearly all" government data analytics systems focus on financial performance, improper payments and identifying targets for high-risk investigations. Two of the panelists demonstrated how their departments were employing analytics for these purposes: William McGee explained that Defense has used near real-time business transaction analysis to prevent more than \$4 billion in improper payments through April, and Edward Slevin discussed how Education is using analytics to attempt to combat student financial aid fraud rings.

Data analytics is projected to be a \$92 billion industry over the next five years, according to Kevin Greer, executive director of Accenture Finance and Enterprise Performance. "Those who adapt analytics will have a competitive advantage," Greer said.



CGFM Happenings

CGFM Happenings:

- I. **Study Group:** If you are interested in participating in a study group to prepare for the CGFM exam, please contact Carla Kohler kohler.carla@epa.gov or (913) 551-7900 for additional information.
- II. **Study Guides:** Kansas City Chapter has CGFM study guides for check out. Please contact Carla Kohler kohler.carla@epa.gov or (913) 551-7900 for additional information.
- III. **Additional Resources:** Information is posted on the AGA website to assist in preparing you to take the CGFM exam. Please use the following website link: <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/prepare/>.
- IV. **The Ten Step Process to Becoming a CGFM–** Take the ten steps to furthering your career by becoming a Certified Government Financial Manager
 - Step 1—Read AGA's [Code of Ethics](#)
 - Step 2—Apply for the CGFM Program
 - Step 3—Submit Required Degree Documentation
 - Step 4—Receive an Eligibility Letter
 - Step 5—Submit a Work Verification Form
 - Step 6—Prepare for the CGFM Examinations
 - Step 7—Schedule the CGFM Examinations
 - Step 8—Take the CGFM Examinations
 - Step 9—Receive CGFM Award Letter
 - Step 10—Receive and Display Your CGFM Certificate

If you have any questions about the process or if you have not heard from us within the estimated time frame, please contact the Office of Professional Certification at agacgfm@agacgfm.org or 800.AGA.7211.



Treasurer's Report
AGA Kansas City Chapter
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
For Period Ending April 30, 2012

Bank Account Balance April 30, 2012

Primary Share Acct	\$7,506.56
Signature Checking	\$9,930.74
6MTH Classic CD	\$0.00
Total Bank Balance	\$17,437.30

Beginning Book Balance:

Book Balance March 31 , 2012 \$12,797.29

Receipts:

Interest Income:	
Savings	\$1.17
Total Interest	\$1.17

Other Receipts:

Spring Seminar	\$6,205.00
SLMR	\$25.00
March Luncheon	\$15.00
Total Other Receipts	\$6,245.00

Total Receipts **\$6,246.17**

Disbursements:

Credit Card fees	\$58.19
Seminar Insurance	\$103.00
Seminar gift cards for speakers	\$120.00
Pass-through memberships	\$1,185.00
Seminar supplies	\$109.07
Credit Card machine supplies	\$30.90

Total Disbursements **\$1,606.16**

Net fund from Transactions/(Loss) for period **\$4,640.01**

Ending Book Balance

April 30, 2012 **\$17,437.30**

Less Petty Cash (\$100.00)

Check #300 (\$69.35)

Spring Seminar - supplies (Wilder) (\$69.35)
 Accounts Receivable for Seminar
 to be received \$70.00

Adjusted Balance **\$17,337.95**

Chapter Executive Committee—Program Year 2011–2012

Position	Name	Work Phone	Email Address
President	Michael Melloy	816-823-2701	michael.melloy@gsa.gov
President – Elect	Barry Owens	816-823-1593	owensbarryj@yahoo.com
Past President	Oscar Williams	816-997-6939	oscar.williams2@va.gov
Secretary	Carrie Miller	816-926-2853	carrie.miller@kcc.usda.gov
Treasurer	Rhonda Lucas	816-926-7935	rhonda.lucas@one.usda.gov
Awards	Michelle Holland	913-792-5310	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@epa.gov
Chapter Recognition	Michael Melloy	816-823-2701	michael.melloy@gsa.gov
Accountability Outreach	Harry E. Heflin	816- 942-5102	hheflin49@aol.com
Communications – Newsletter	Howard Petrie	816-513-1172	howard.petrie@kcmo.org
Community Service Co-Chairs	Nancy Healy	913-551-7713	healy.nancy@epa.gov
	Kimberlynn Outman	816-926-7217	Kimberlynn.Outman@gsa.gov
Early Career	Harry E. Heflin	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
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	Connie Smith	816-926-3646	constance.smith@kcc.usda.gov
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