



Sponsored by Kansas City Chapter AGA



# The Kansas City Courier

March, 2012

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Success Matters



President's Message – March 2012

One of the things that our Chapter does well is professional education for government accountants and financial managers. We had a great February luncheon with 50 attendees at the Jack Stack BBQ. It was our annual training on "Recent Tax Changes for 2011" and for the first time we had to turn away attendees. As a result of our success, we are looking for larger venues to meet the increased demand. To add perspective, the average number of attendees at training last year was about 35. This is a testament to the role we are playing in the education of the local finance and account-

ing community.

March is Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) month. The CGFM is the recognized certification for government accountants and financial managers and is recognized by many federal agencies and state and local governments. As you consider your career goals, I encourage you to include CGFM as part of your plans. It may help you to "get to the Yes."

Find us on Facebook and Linked In. In this Information Age, a variety of communication methods is no longer optional but expected. We all probably have cell phones, multiple email addresses, instant message accounts and social media pages. Our Chapter is no exception; find us on Facebook at "Kansas City Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA)" or on LinkedIn at "KC AGA." Visit our pages and remember to "like" or "connect" to our pages.

Our Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) is shaping up nicely for the upcoming program year. We have a great team forming. However, we need a volunteer to serve as Professional Development – Seminars Co-Coordinator. Please contact me if you want to volunteer.

### Mark your calendars:

- March 21<sup>st</sup> - Monthly Luncheon at Ameristar Casino
- March 31<sup>st</sup> - Harvesters Food Drive and Volunteer Day@ Harvesters
- March 31<sup>st</sup> - Deadline for Chapter and National scholarships
- April 19<sup>th</sup> - KC Chapter – Spring Seminar at JCCC

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

## AGA Meeting-March

### Meeting & Luncheon Information-March 21, 2012, Wednesday 11:30 A.M.

Honored Speaker: Keith Chrostowski  
Assistant Managing Editor, Business Kansas City Star

Subject: Subprime Crisis: A Finance Nightmare  
(1 CPE-Finance)

Location: Ameristar-- The Prairie Room  
3200 N Ameristar Drive, Kansas City, MO 64161

Cost: \$15.00 Members  
\$20.00 Non-Members

Reservations: Please call Connie Smith 816-926-3646 or e-mail [constance.smith@kcc.usda.gov](mailto:constance.smith@kcc.usda.gov). Reservations need to be made before 4:00 P.M. Wednesday, March 14th, 2012.

### Upcoming Chapter Events

Mark your calendars for April 19, 2012. The AGA Kansas City Chapter will be holding its Spring Seminar at Johnson County Community College. This will be an all day event, 8 CPEs are available. More information will be sent to all members once the speakers and schedules are finalized.

### Upcoming Regional Chapter Events

The Topeka Chapter of the AGA will be holding a Spring Professional Development Seminar on March 28, 2012 in Lawrence, Kansas. The seminar will be an all day event and offer up to 8 hours of continuing professional education with lunch included. It will be held on the KU Continuing Education Conference Center at 1515 SW St. Andrews, Lawrence Kansas. For more information or to register go to <http://www.agaks.org/seminars/index.shtml>

### Audio Conferences

March 7, 2012

Data Mining to Prioritize Investigations of Contract Fraud

2 CPE Hours

March 21, 2012

A Systems Approach to Implementing Performance Based Management and Budgeting

2 CPE Hours

April 18, 2012

Find Strength in Numbers: Sampling Techniques to Improve Financial Audit Control and Program Performance

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 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!

**Mark Whittemore, GSA**  
**Mari A. Ruck, City of Kansas City Missouri**  
**Jacob B. Nicholls, EPA**  
**Aaron Lambert, GSA**

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).

## Awards and Scholarship Opportunities

### Awards

It is that time of the year when we need to start recognizing those co-workers, leaders, and Chapter members for their contributions to our industry and to our Chapter AGA in promoting Government Accountability. There are two separate awards programs that our Chapter members should submit nominations for.

#### AGA National Awards Committee

AGA's National Awards Committee proudly sponsors a series of three presentations to recognize individuals for their exemplary work in the field of financial management.

The National Leadership Conference was held in February, but there are still two more presentations that our Chapter should submit nominations for our members that have contributed and served to provide Government Accountability to receive National AGA recognition.

In addition to our own Chapter Scholarship program, the National AGA offers:

- Up to four \$3,000 full-time merit scholarships to AGA members and their family members,
- Up to one \$1,000 part-time merit scholarships to AGA members and their family members, and
- Up to one \$3,000 community service scholarship

The **deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, March 30, 2012**. Apply now and take full advantage of your AGA membership.

You can find links to the applications for these scholarships at the National AGA Awards Committee website:

<http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/awards/>

In addition to the scholarships, AGA National will hold its annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition on July 29 – 31, 2012 in San Diego, CA. During this conference, individuals will be recognized for contributions to AGA. There are over 13 awards presented to individuals. It would be wonderful if some of our own Chapter members were to receive these awards! Please go to the National AGA Awards Committee website (link above) and read about the awards and download nominations to submit for Chapter members. All nominations will be submitted by our Chapter Awards committee. Please send your nominations through our Chapter President Mike Melloy ([michael.melloy@gsa.gov](mailto:michael.melloy@gsa.gov)) and Awards Chair Michelle Holland ([Michelle.Holland@jocogov.org](mailto:Michelle.Holland@jocogov.org)) so that the Chapter board may sign the nominations and track them and recognize the individuals nominated locally as well.

**The deadline for the National Awards nominations is Friday, April 13, 2012**



## KC Chapter Awards Committee

Thank you to Lynn Smith, Bryan Bieri, and Mike Melloy for volunteering to serve on the KC Chapter Scholarship & Awards committee!

I still have not had any requests for the Chapter Scholarship Application. The deadline for application submission is March 31, 2012 and the application process requires applicants to submit their official transcripts, so please contact the Awards Chair, Michelle Holland ([Michelle.Holland@jocogov.org](mailto:Michelle.Holland@jocogov.org)) to request your application.

It is also time to start considering the recognition given to our Chapter Members for service to the KC AGA and for displaying leadership and contributions to our AGA community. The KC Chapter has two awards that are determined through nominations by members or non-members. They are:

**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.

**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 should be nominated for this award by other members.

If you know anyone in our Chapter who deserves the recognition for the above contributions, please contact Awards Chair, Michelle Holland ([Michelle.Holland@jocogov.org](mailto:Michelle.Holland@jocogov.org)) to receive the nomination form. Return forms to Michelle and she will submit them to the Chapter Awards Committee.

Thank you!



## Community Service-Harvesters



*“Whatever  
you plant is  
what you will  
harvest.”*

The AGA-KC Chapter will be volunteering at Harvesters on March 31, 2012. Make sure to mark your calendars. The service project will be 9:30-11:30AM. The address is for the Volunteer Outreach Center and we will be assisting in the warehouse at 3801 Topping, Kansas City, MO, 64129. So far we have four volunteers and it makes it more enjoyable the more people we have so sign up today. If you plan to volunteer, please let Nancy Healy know at [healy.nancy@epa.gov](mailto:healy.nancy@epa.gov). Harvesters has the following recommendations to ensure our members safety.

- Wear closed-toed shoes, such as tennis shoes. Open-toed shoes are not allowed in the warehouse for safety reasons.
- Everyone must be six years old to volunteer. Unfortunately, they cannot accommodate any child under age six.
- Dress casually. Jeans, t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc. are recommended.
- Keep jewelry at a minimum to prevent snagging on boxes and equipment.
- Bring a water bottle to keep in the volunteer break room or there are water fountains located near the warehouse entrance.
- Leave all valuables in your car or at home (cell phones are not allowed in the warehouse).
- Overflow parking is available across the street from Harvesters if the main parking lot is full.
- Harvesters maintains a smoke-free campus, no smoking is allowed on premises.

**Inclement weather** - A decision if Harvesters will be open or closed during inclement weather will be made by 6 AM that day and an update will be left on the main line at 816-929-3000. If there is a question about weather related closings, please call before you depart to volunteer.

<http://www.harvesters.org/>



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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. **CGFM Course 3 Offering in the Midwest Region**

This course is designed for financial management professionals who are interested in learning more about the federal, state and local government activities related to management and control. Learn about the internal control process in government organizations and how this process can aid managers in meeting objectives for reliable financial and performance reporting. Learn about the role audits play in improving the efficiency and effectiveness, and in helping ensure compliance with laws and regulations. Gain a better understanding of performance measurement and financial and managerial analysis. This course is also an aide in studying for the 3rd CGFM Exam. Course materials/study guides will be provided to each participant (an \$85 value!).

To learn more information, select course number 5603 at:

<http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/prepare/instructorcourses.aspx>

This is a two day course worth 16 CPE in the field of Governmental Auditing. The course will be offered on March 27th and March 28th, 2012 in the ICN Room of the Ola Babcock Miller (State Library) Building in Des Moines. Remote locations are also available in Council Bluffs, IA and Jefferson City, MO. The course is being offered at a cost of \$300 for members and \$375 for non-members.

A minimum of 16 participants is required before the course can be offered. Space is limited to 35 for this program, so register early. The first 10 individuals to register with payment received will receive a voucher to sit for the 3rd CGFM exam at no charge.

To sign up for the course, please go to <http://cgfm3review2012midwest.eventbrite.com>. There is no cost for signing up through our online system as it is only to reserve your spot. However, to participate in the class, you must send your check and a copy of your online confirmation to: Association of Government Accountants, Des Moines Chapter, PO Box 1351, Des Moines, IA 50305-1351. You are not considered registered until payment is received. Registration must be received by March 7, 2012. Hand delivered payments will not be accepted.

For more information (including hotel listings), contact Patricia Townsend at 515-725-4626 or [patricia.townsend@iowa.gov](mailto:patricia.townsend@iowa.gov).

(Refunds will not be given on an individual basis, however a substitution is allowed. If the course must be cancelled due to lack of participation, a full refund will be given to each individual. In the event of inclement weather, the course will be postponed to a later date.)

## Accountability Outreach

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

By Harry Heflin, CPA, CGMA, CGFM

As I reported in my last article on our chapter’s Citizen-Centric Reporting (CCR) efforts, we’re making progress but there is still much to be done in order to take our CCR efforts to the next level. Briefly, here’s where we stand.

In September of 2011, we prepared and submitted our chapter’s first-ever CCR to the national office. This initial step demonstrated our chapter’s commitment to leading by example as we actively support and promote the AGA’s government-wide CCR efforts.

Currently, we are in contact with several local governments seeking their participation in the CCR initiative. This is the key part of the whole program, and the toughest—getting state and local government entities to establish a line of communication with their citizens and voters about the governments’ accomplishments, fiscal matters, and expected future challenges. Bottom-line, however, this is the essence of advancing government accountability and promoting transparency through government reporting. We will report more on this as these efforts unfold.

In January 2012 we participated in a regional training program for chapter officers from all eight regional chapters. At this meeting, we provided an update on the CCR initiative and our chapter’s CCR efforts to date. We have also been invited to make CCR presentations at training programs for two other regional chapters this spring. While moving forward has been slow, we are beginning to get traction and make progress—both from a chapter and regional standpoint.

Finally, as we near the end of this program year, we will begin focusing on the preparation and submission of our chapter’s next CCR for this program year’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 chapter officers and committee chairs—please provide me with a recap of your committee accomplishments by April 30.

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



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

*Bank Account Balance January 31, 2012*

Primary Share Acct	\$7,503.05
Signature Checking	\$2,620.59
6MTH Classic CD	\$0.00
<b>Total Bank Balance</b>	<b>\$10,123.64</b>

Beginning Book Balance:

Book Balance December 31 , 2011 \$11,852.18

Receipts:

Interest Income:

Savings	\$0.76
Certificate of Deposit	\$1.33
<b>Total Interest</b>	<b>\$2.09</b>

Other Receipts:

January Luncheon	\$835.00
SLMR	\$625.00
<b>Total Other Receipts</b>	<b>\$1,460.00</b>

**Total Receipts** **\$1,462.09**

Disbursements:

Credit Card fees	AHC fees	\$20.00
Check #291	Surety Bond	\$137.00
Check #292	Website	\$300.00
Check #293	Speaker Gift for January Luncheon and SLMR (Logan)	\$57.08
Check #294	SLMR (Smith)	\$32.62
	AHC PDC registration for Mike Melloy, Pres	\$775.00
	Deposit to Jack's Stack - February Luncheon	\$250.00
	AHC January Luncheon	\$781.83
Check # 295	Credit Card Machine Tape (Lucas)	\$10.30
	AHC January Luncheon	\$826.80

**Total Disbursements** **\$3,190.63**

Net fund from Transactions/(Loss) for period **(\$1,728.54)**

**Ending Book Balance**

<b>January 31, 2012</b>	<b>\$10,123.64</b>
Less Petty Cash	(\$100.00)

**Adjusted Balance** **\$10,023.64**

## Chapter Executive Committee—Program Year 2011–2012

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Work Phone</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
President	Michael Melloy	816-823-2701	<a href="mailto:michael.melloy@gsa.gov">michael.melloy@gsa.gov</a>
President – Elect	Vacant		
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	Rhonda Lucas	816-926-7935	<a href="mailto:rhonda.lucas@one.usda.gov">rhonda.lucas@one.usda.gov</a>
Awards	Michelle Holland	913-792-5310	<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@epamail.epa.gov">kohler.carla@epamail.epa.gov</a>
Chapter Recognition	Michael Melloy	816-823-2701	<a href="mailto:michael.melloy@gsa.gov">michael.melloy@gsa.gov</a>
Communications – Newsletter	Howard Petrie	816-513-1172	<a href="mailto:howard.petrie@kcmo.org">howard.petrie@kcmo.org</a>
Community Service	Nancy Healy	913-551-7713	<a href="mailto:healy.nancy@epa.gov">healy.nancy@epa.gov</a>
Early Career	Harry E. Heflin	816- 942-5102	<a href="mailto:hheflin49@aol.com">hheflin49@aol.com</a>
Professional Development-Seminar Coordinator	Leeanna Wilder	913-551-7161	<a href="mailto:wilder.leeanna@epa.gov">wilder.leeanna@epa.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	Barry Owens	816-823-1593	<a href="mailto:owensbarryj@yahoo.com">owensbarryj@yahoo.com</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>