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The Kansas City Courier

August 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Reaching New Heights

Recap: We have had two months of elevated training. On June 15th, Laura Logan, our Past President, took us to new heights, providing excellent training on Financial Leadership. Her topic was "GRReat Financial Leadership" and she gave an excellent presentation on the challenges and characteristics of a financial leader and a leader in general. At our July 20th training meeting, we were lifted even higher by Arym Dillingham, founder of Arym Consulting, LLC. Mrs. Dillingham, a dynamic speaker, gave a presentation on Professional Communication. The training was energetic, interactive, and enthusiastic as we took apart the elements of professional communication.

New heights are in our sights. So hook up your "O" rings and we are on our way up. I would like to congratulate the chapter executive committee for the tremendous job they did with putting together the chapter's plan for this training year. The plan is challenging but if we pull together, we will reach our goals, ridge by ridge.

We are all about making the chapter better, providing opportunities for members to:

- Gain exposure to other professionals
- Provide a platform to practice and sharpen their leadership skills



We have scheduled our Fall Seminar for November 16th. Mark your calendars and echo the word. We will have more details later.

National is running a "What Drives You?" Member-Get-Member Campaign that started May 1, 2010 and will run until April 30, 2011. For the persons you encourage to become a member, make sure that they enter your name on their application as their sponsor. When your first referral joins AGA, you will receive a sponsor pin. If you get six referrals to join before December 31, 2010 you will earn a free membership for the program year 2011-2012. There is much more. For more information, go to National's website:

Our next meeting will be August 17th at Manning's. Hopefully, I will see you there.

Please keep Jay Teopaco's wife, Serena, and family in your prayers. Serena was involved in a car accident in July. Also keep Ken Myers and his family in your prayers. Ken was hospitalized in July but is back home recovering.

Oscar Williams, CGFM

Chapter President

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS CONTINUED



Reaching new heights and strengthening the chapter by sharing ideas. You can make a difference. I remember back many years ago, I sat in on a Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) meeting that took place immediately after the training meeting. I was there only because I was a passenger of a person that was on the CEC. It was very impressive to witness the dedication of a cohesive group (members) working together and having fun. They were excited about what they were doing, making it beneficial for me and others to meet our professional goals and educational requirements. Even though I was moved by this experience, I just hung-out and paid my membership dues.

Then years later, a co-worker approached me about being on the CEC. I was hesitant until he started naming the (8) committee vacancies the chapter had. The chapter needed help. I had a flash back to that CEC meeting I witnessed years ago, realizing that the energy and excitement I saw then were gone. So I said yes, not knowing what I was getting myself into. Of all the positions, he recommended the treasurer's chair. Oh yes, I struggled at times, but this was one of the most challenging and rewarding task in the chapter.

You, as a member, can be on the CEC and have the opportunity to make a difference. You don't have to wait until the end of the program year. You can be a part of the CEC today or any time during the year. From August through October, we will be building committees and will need two members for each of the following committees:

- Programs and Meeting Committee
- Membership Committee
- By-Laws / Procedures / Historian Committee
- Award Committee
- Early Careers Committee



Oscar Williams, CGFM, Chapter President



AGA Membership Opportunity

Challenges - Climbing to New Heights with AGA

Reminder: The Kansas City AGA Chapter is pleased to announce the sponsorship of this year's AGA Membership Opportunity - *Challenges - Climbing to New Heights with AGA!*

For the meetings starting in July 2010 and running through February 2011, we will give all potential members a ticket which will give them a chance to win an AGA membership and the sponsoring member a great gift. The more times you attend a meeting, the more chances you have at winning. During the March 2011 meeting, we will draw five (5) tickets. Those five (5) tickets will be the winners and all winners will be given a free membership.

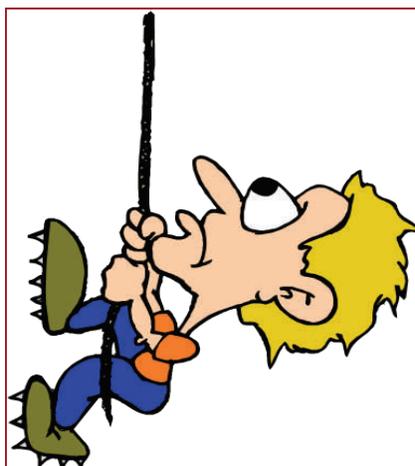
The Challenge - as an AGA Member: Reach out to as many perspective members as you can and invite them to attend our meetings. Share with them the benefits of the organization and how the Kansas City Chapter is among the leading chapters who continually provide top notch training programs helping to meet our CPE requirements at affordable costs.

Be sure to let us know which potential members you have invited or have the potential members give us your name when making reservations for the luncheon so that we can make sure they are eligible for the tickets.

Luncheon Prices:	Members	\$15
	Non-members	\$20

The AGA Membership Opportunity will be a great way to enjoy the association and climb to new heights!

Please contact Connie at constance.smith@kcc.usda.gov with any questions about membership.



KC AGA CHAPTER

2010-11 Chapter Plan

Vision: To be the premier organization in providing continuing educational opportunities to government financial professionals (federal, state, and local); supporters in private sector; and academia financial communities in the Kansas City and surrounding metropolitan areas.

Mission: To support the careers and professional development of government finance professionals as well as private sector and academia by providing quality training, continuing education credits, and networking for our members. This includes fostering professional development and certification, and support of standards and research to advance government accountability.

Education Opportunities

The Chapter's educational goal is to provide quality education and professional development opportunities for the government accountability community and members. The Chapter plans to provide the opportunity for agency managers and members to earn continuous professional education credits to meet their professional goals through:

Training Meetings -

- Conducting nine monthly training meetings
- Offering 1 CPE each

Professional Development Seminars -

- Hosting two all day training events, one in the fall and one in the spring
- Offering 8 CPE each (Our Fall seminar is planned for November 16)

CGFM -

- Promoting recognition of the CGFM designation at the federal, state, and local government levels and private sector levels
- Promoting CGFM certification to non-CGFM members
- Promoting AGA and CGFM to non-members

Liaison with other Professional Organizations -

- Surveying the educational needs of agency managers in our geographical area
- Conducting joint meetings with other local chapters

Communication

The Chapter plans to communicate important AGA information, increasing the visibility of the AGA programs and upcoming events offered in the Kansas City Metro area. We intend to reach this goal by collaborating with all possible print media outlets in the Metro area.

Our first contact will be with the Kansas City Star to determine what capability they have to publish our Chapter's events to their readership. We will then branch to all other available print media in the area. Our goal is to reach a minimum of five companies during the year and publish all events monthly.

We plan to publish any significant accomplishments of our chapter members to the fullest extent possible. We will publish monthly Chapter Newsletters and expand its distribution to managers and other organizations in the financial community. We will bring online a chapter website to enable us to better communicate with National and Regional staff and to broaden our capability to communicate AGA and chapter news, AGA and chapter education events, and membership information. We will review and update the Chapter By-Laws and provide a copy to National.

Membership

The Chapter's goal is to increase our membership base by 18 new members and to continue reaching out to prospective members through various activities. With membership being connected to training and communication, we plan to run membership specials with the registration of the Spring/Fall Seminar – ***“JOIN AGA and Attend the Seminar FREE!”***

The chapter will also run an ***“AGA Membership Opportunity: Challenges – Climbing to New Heights with AGA!”*** A drawing will be conducted at our March 2011 meeting for a chapter paid membership for non-members who have attended meetings from July 2010 through February 2011.

We plan to continue to:

- Welcome all new members by letter (email)
- Encourage and get new members involved in committee activities
- Keep members informed of annual renewal time and encourage them to renew membership
- In conjunction with communication, reach out to suspended members by keeping them informed of chapter activities with newsletters, emails, and website solicitations.

Early Career and Student Members

For early careers, the chapter plans include:

- Speaking at schools
 - o Talk with local schools on having AGA members speak to accounting students
 - o Encourage participation in the Government Financing Case challenge
- Work with the website team on having a page for Early career members and students

- Links to scholarships available
- Highlight upcoming events specifically designed for early career members and students
- Networking opportunities
 - Host two early career events
 - One as a happy hour
 - Try to have in the Power & Light district
 - Try to have an early career event
- offer reduced price at luncheons for students at area accounting schools

Community Service

The chapter intends to host 4 community service events. The first will be a back to school event. The chapter will support the Salvation Army in their Bellefontaine School Supply drive. We will collect and purchase school supplies through donations to aid needed children at the start of the next school year. The chapter will continue its support of national community service activities.

Awards

The chapter's goal is to seek and identify candidates worthy of special recognition. This includes local competitive awards and National Competitive Awards.

Recognize chapter members for their services to AGA and contributions to advancing government accountability. Nominate and recognize non-members for their service in promoting transparency and accountability in the government and community sector.

At the end of the year, The Chapter will select an awards review committee to review and recommend winners of competitive and special awards. These would be:

- Member of the Year
- Scholarship
- Special Achievement
- And others as determined throughout the year

The chapter intends to provide one scholarship to a qualifying student selected by the awards review committee.

Publish recognition of award recipients in local media outside of AGA.

UPCOMING LUNCHEON MEETINGS

August Meeting:

Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2010

Location: Manny's of Kansas City, 207 Southwest Blvd, KCMO

Speaker: Gale Ross, ACE Deputy Contracting Officer

Topic: Army Corps of Engineer's ARRA Reporting/Leadership

**For additional information please contact Jim Kirk, CEC, Meeting
Co-Chair**

James.H.Kirk@usace.army.mil

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS & TIDBITS CONTINUED

Survey: Certified government finance personnel earn significantly more

By Katherine McIntire Peters kpeters@govexec.com July 9, 2010

Finance personnel who hold Certified Government Financial Manager designations earn as much as 55 percent more than those who don't, according to a new survey.

The 2010 compensation survey, sponsored by the Association of Government Accountants, found employees with CGFM certification earned an average annual salary 34 percent higher than employees without it -- \$105,815 compared with \$78,905.

When the salaries of CGFM-designated employees were compared to those holding no professional designations, such as a certified public accountant license, the difference was 55 percent.

The survey showed that holding a CGFM certificate correlated more strongly to salary than other factors, such as education, age, the number of years respondents have been in their current position, the number of employees they supervise, or whether they held a CPA license. The only factor that had a higher correlation to salary was respondents' number of years in government financial management.

The survey was conducted between February and April by Insights Inc., an independent research firm. Of 14,000 AGA members contacted, 3,537 completed the survey for a response rate of 25 percent. One-third of respondents were from federal agencies; half worked in state and local government. The two most common designations held by those surveyed were CGFM (44 percent) and CPA (38 percent); 25 percent had no certifications or licenses.

Twelve percent of respondents said they had received special consideration for hiring as a result of their CGFM credentials.

The most common job title among survey respondents was accountant. The average salary of accountants was \$71,028. But the average salary of accountants with CGFM designation was \$89,769, while the average salary of accountants without such designation was \$64,548, a difference of 39 percent.

"In addition to pay raises and bonuses, employers recognize the CGFM certification in a number of ways," the survey said. "When asked about the benefits that their employers offered to CGFMs in general and for their position, the most common benefits selected were being a preferred credential or reimbursement of fees."

AGA has long advocated the value of CGFM designation for government finance personnel.

Certification "can be a valuable addition to your resume and a significant factor in your professional development," Relmond Van Daniker, AGA's executive director, said in a statement.

Not surprisingly, the survey also showed that government financial managers have not been immune to fallout from the economic downturn. Sixty percent reported vacant positions in their organizations left unfilled. More than 40 percent reported a moratorium on new hires and salary freezes. While the average salary increase in the last 12 months was 2 percent, 46 percent said they had received no increase and 2 percent had taken pay cuts.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report AGA Kansas City Chapter Statement of Receipts and Disbursements For Period Ending June 30, 2010	
Bank Account Balance June 30, 2010	
Primary Share Acct	\$25.12
Signature Checking	\$664.00
6MTH Classic CD	\$11,164.90
Total Account Balance	<u>\$11,854.02</u>
<u>Beginning Book Balance:</u>	
Book Bal. May 31, 2010	\$15,587.84
<u>Receipts:</u>	
Interest Income:	
Savings	\$0.12
Certificate of Deposit	\$11.84
Total Other Receipts	<u>\$11.96</u>
June Luncheon	\$490.00
Emergency Deposits	\$1,000.00
<u>Receipts from Activity</u>	<u>\$1,490.00</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$1,501.96</u>
<u>Disbursements:</u>	
June Luncheon - Figlio	\$684.00
July Luncheon Down Payment-Jack Stack	\$250.00
Seminar Expenses	\$2,201.23
Gift Cards - Awards	\$75.00
Chapter Scholarship Award	\$500.00
National Raffle-BBQ Basket	\$94.94
National Community Service Donation	\$100.00
National PDC (2)	\$1,550.00
Deluxe Checks (1 Box)	\$14.50
Credit Card Fees	\$69.99
CEC Meeting	\$196.12
Total Disbursements	<u>\$5,735.78</u>
<u>Net fund from Transactions/(Loss) for period</u>	(\$4,233.82)
<u>Ending Book Balance</u>	
June 30, 2010	<u>\$11,354.02</u>
Less Petty Cash	(\$100.00)
Check in Transit-Scholarship	\$500.00
Check in Transit-National Donation	\$100.00
Adjustments Book to Bank	<u>\$11,854.02</u>
Bank Balance	<u>\$11,854.02</u>

Chapter Executive Committee—Program Year 2010–2011

Position	Name	Work Phone	Email Address
President	Oscar Williams	816-997-6939	Oscar.williams2@va.gov
President – Elect	Jim Kirk	816-389-3853	James.H.Kirk@usace.army.mil
Past President	Laura Logan	816-823-4530	Laura.logan@kcc.usda.gov
Secretary	Rhonda Lucas	816-926-7935	Rhonda.Lucas@one.usda.gov
Treasurer	Pat Hudon	816-997-6983	Pat.Hudon@va.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	Jim Kirk	816-389-3853	James.H.Kirk@usace.army.mil
Communications – Newsletter	Mary Eckart	816-823-3101	Mary.Eckart@kcc.usda.gov
Community Service	Carrie Donham	816-926-2853	Carrie.Donham@kcc.usda.gov
Early Career	Owen Gilchrist	816-426-3219	Owen.Gilchrist@oig.hhs.gov
Professional Development-Seminar Coordinator	Leeanna Wilder	913-551-7161	Wilder.Leeanna@epa.gov
Liaison for other Professional Organizations	Laura Logan	816-823-4530	Laura.logan@kcc.usda.gov
Membership	Connie Smith	816-926-3646	Constance.Smith@kcc.usda.gov
Program and Technical	Jay Teopaco	816-551-7232	Teopaco.Julius@epamail.epa.gov
Meeting Co-Chair	Jim Kirk	816-389-3853	James.H.Kirk@usace.army.mil
Publicity	Chuck Koelsch	816-467-1915	Chuck.Koelsch@usdoj.gov
Website	Robin Frazier	816-997-6933	Robin.M.Frazier@med.va.gov

JOB Announcements

America Job Search Report

Title	Location	Agency	Salary
1) Budget Analyst	US-MO-MO - Fort Leonard Wood	Department Of The Army	47448.00 to 61678.00
2) Budget Analyst	US-MO-MO - Fort Leonard Wood	Department Of The Army	47448.00 to 61678.00

Title	Location	Agency	Salary
1) Assistant Finance Officer	US-MO-Kansas City Metro area	Department Of Veterans Affairs	68809.00 to 106369.00
2) Auditor	US-MO-St. Louis Metro area	Department Of Veterans Affairs	47488.00 to 74628.00

JOB Announcements

The following VAOIG vacancy announcements are now open on USAJobs:

POSITION: Management Analyst
ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: 10-VAOIG-220
PAY PLAN, SERIES AND GRADE: GS-0343-09
OFFICE: Office of Investigations
LOCATION: Washington, DC
OPEN DATE: 7/23/2010
CLOSE DATE: 8/06/2010



10-VAOIG-221P,
GS-0343-09, DC.mht

POSITION: Management Analyst
ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: 10-VAOIG-221P
PAY PLAN, SERIES AND GRADE: GS-0343-09
OFFICE: Office of Investigations
LOCATION: Washington, DC
OPEN DATE: 7/23/2010
CLOSE DATE: 8/06/2010



10-VAOIG-220,
GS-0343-09, DC.mht

America Job Search Report

Title	Location	Agency	Salary
1) Auditor, GS-511-14 (ED ONLY)	US-MO-Kansas City Metro Area	Department Of Education	105211.00 to 136771.00