



Sponsored by Kansas City Chapter AGA



The Kansas City Courier

February 2013

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Second 2 None

President's Message

I have been thinking a lot about leadership and the training and experiences I have had over the past 25 plus years of military and federal civilian service. I have learned from my career experiences and have begun to realize that some of the leadership training I received from the Army applies to our professional careers, too.

We had a saying in the Army, "mission first, people always." We understood from a military point of view that the mission of the unit we were in should serve our primary focus. Now the idea of a military mission is not the same as a mission statement; the mission is the immediate tasks and should require our full attention and effort. This also served as a reminder not to allow unnecessary distraction from the accomplishment of our tasks.

In the above section I suggested a very logical, systematic and even mechanical approach to accomplishing our goals. However, the first and second part of the above statement are inseparable. They serve as a guidepost to our approach to leadership and a reminder to maintain the right balance of professional and personal focus. The statement "people always" is a reminder to leaders that we are all human and that the leader has the responsibility to always consider the well-being of their team.

Therefore, when leading our team we must maintain our focus on "the mission" while never forgetting the health and well being of our team. Remember to focus on **what** is most important in your professional life, without forgetting **who** is important.

Mark the dates

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| February 20, 2013 | Monthly Meeting |
| March 20, 2013 | Monthly Meeting |
| April 6, 2013 | Harvesters' Volunteer Day |
| April 17, 2013 | Chapter Spring Seminar |

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

Don't forget to visit us at:

<http://www.kcaga-cgfm.org/>

Or join us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/agakc>



Training News

Meeting & Luncheon Information-Wednesday, February 20, 2013

The Kansas City Chapter of the AGA is proud to offer its monthly professional development luncheon at Pierpont's at Union Station. Lunch for the February meeting will be a choice of Beef Brisket with roasted garlic whipped potatoes, Chicken Penne, or Mixed Vegetables in garlic tomatoe sauce over a bed of rice. Please remember to provide your lunch choice to Connie Smith when you make your reservation. Please join us and start the new year off right.

Current members are encouraged to invite non-members to the luncheons in January and February. Look for individuals who are interested in advancing their careers by learning more through the AGA learning opportunities our chapter offers. A free membership will be given through a lottery drawing for those in attendance at one of these two meetings.

Honored Speaker: Becky Wigington, H & R Block

Time: Wednesday, February 20, 2013
11:30-1:00

Subject: Recent Tax Changes for 2012 (1 CPE)

Location: Pierpont's at Union Station
30 West Pershing #900, Kansas City, MO 64108

Cost: \$20.00 Members
\$25.00 Non-Members

Reservations: Please call Connie Smith 816-926-3646 or e-mail constance.smith@kcc.usda.gov. before 4:00 PM Wednesday, February 13th.

Audio Conferences

February 27, 2013

Getting Started with a Fraud Investigation
2 CPE Hours

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

CGFM Training

If your new year's resolution included becoming a Certified Government Financial Manager, then mark your calendars. Course 2, Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting, and Budgeting will be offered March 20th-22nd at the KU Continuing Education Conference Center 1515 St. Andrews Dr., Lawrence KS 66047. Space is limited to 30 people for the program, so register early. The training is being offered at a cost of \$460 per attendee. This is a bargain at \$19.17 per CPE hour.

Registrations can be emailed to lhshaver@ksinsurance.org no later than Friday, February 22, 2013. In the subject line please include AGA Course #2 Registration. By submitting your registration information you are obligated to pay the registration fee. Payment of registration fee is required no later than Friday, March 8, 2013. Credit card payments will not be accepted.

For more information, please contact Linda Shaver at the email above or call her at (785) 296-8589.



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 Alisha Dolt at alisha.dolt@oig.usda.gov with any questions about membership.

Community Service Harvesters



Our next Community Service event has been scheduled with Harvesters on Saturday, April 6th from 8:30—10:30 am. We will be sorting food and household goods collected from food drives and donated by industry. Feel free to invite a friend or family member to join you as long as they are at least 6 years old. They have a large freezer section and we never know where our help will be needed. It is suggested you bring casual clothing and closed toe shoes are required. Keep jewelry at a minimum so there are no snagging on boxes and leave valuables in your car or at home. Bring a water bottle especially if is a warm day. Harvesters is a smoke free campus.

Harvesters' mission is to feed hungry people today and work to end hunger tomorrow. As this area's only food bank, Harvesters is a clearinghouse for the collection and distribution of food and related household products. They have been helping people in need since 1979 by collecting food and household products from community and industry sources, distributing those products and providing nutrition services through a network of nonprofit agencies, and offering leadership and education programs to increase community awareness of hunger and generate solutions to alleviate hunger.

In addition to the April 6th event, we are planning an afterhours Social Event where donations will be collected for Harvesters. More information will be provided at a later date. Items most needed-canned vegetables, canned fruit, boxed meals (Hamburger Helper, Pasta Roni, Mac & Cheese), canned meat/tuna, peanut butter, canned soup, cereal (hot and cold), soap, deodorant, shampoo, and of course toilet paper.

To volunteer, please contact Nancy Healy at healy.nancy@epa.gov. Harvesters is located at 3801 Topping Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64129.

*“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap,
but by the seeds you plant.”*

Robert Louis Stevenson

Off the Wire

Managers and Auditors? Oil and Water?

William D. Miller, CGFM, CIA, Senior Vice President for Regional Services Section II

It doesn't have to be. From an auditor's perspective, I have seen management train wrecks caused by lack of attention to the management processes in their own organizations.

In one audit presentation, a department director started the response discussion with "I don't think I am alone in saying no one relishes an audit". I usually put my relish on a hotdog and I enjoy it. But, I would have to ask, why wouldn't a top manager welcome an audit? I am not naïve; I know this is a common reaction to an audit announcement. A self-preservation mindset can influence the relationship between auditee and auditor. The point is, the top manager can use the audit process to create change in the department. The independent view of the audit team adds credence to the need for change.

Many top managers fall into a "trap of trust". The pyramid of the organizational management structure creates tiers of managers over various mission functions. So, managers are relying on managers to oversee various functions of the organizations. The culture in many such organizations is to let the managers manage. Routine briefing meetings are held for the top manager and that is the extent of oversight---until there is a crisis. The trust bestowed on "good" employees should not be blind. Everything is a check and balance process. It is nice to have good employees, but top managers have to convey expectations to them and oversee their activities to ensure the trust is warranted and to provide guidance along the way. I have seen some silly outcomes result from managers who delegate and disappear.

For example, the director of a department measured the success of the organization by the ability to meet a State mandated time frame for accomplishing inspections of facilities. The state required 90% of the inspections to be completed on time. Every year the director reported successful completion of 90% or more inspections. Unfortunately, the organization did not come close to this success rate. So, how did the director not know? The director was getting input from lower level managers and never questioned the process which was significantly flawed. There was no internal tracking of inspections. Instead, the manager reported that the State never told them they were in non-compliance so they assumed they were in compliance. The director's first inkling there may be a problem came from the auditors. Rightly or wrongly, both players in this scenario felt they were doing their job adequately.

The moral of this story is managers at all levels must be engaged in the process of operations and be open-minded about change. The internal control process must include proactive oversight of operations. The audit process can assist these managers in identifying roadblocks to productivity, or new ideas to gain efficiency and effectiveness in their programs. The audit process whether it is internal or external is an effective control for the top managers if they choose to accept the audit observations. The auditors are the eyes and ears for the managers.

Awards

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS OPPORTUNITIES

The Awards Chair still needs 2 volunteers to sit on the Scholarship & Awards Committee. Please email Michelle.Holland@jocogov.org if you are interested in volunteering to assist in the selection of our KC AGA Scholarship and Nominated Awards. Please do not volunteer if you, or one of your family members, intends to apply for the scholarship. Thank you to: Lynn Smith, Eunice Cobb and Pamela Yancey for volunteering for the committee.

Please see the information below regarding the KC AGA Scholarship Applications.

DEADLINE

Scholarship applications and required documentation must be received by the close of business, March 29. No incomplete or late applications will be considered.

TYPE AND ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Kansas City Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) is pleased to offer:

Up to two \$500 academic scholarships for full-time or part-time study. Applicants must meet the following criteria:

Must be an AGA member or family member (spouse, child or grandchild) and

Scholarship must be applied toward full-time or part-time undergraduate/graduate study in a financial management academic discipline. This includes disciplines such as accounting, auditing, budgeting, economics, finance, electronic data processing (IT), information resources management, and public administration.

CRITERIA FOR AWARD

The Academic Scholarships will be awarded based on the candidate's potential for making a meaningful contribution to public financial management.

Academic achievement prior to application is an indication of potential for successful study, but is not the only criteria that will be considered in awarding these scholarships.

Candidate must have a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

All Academic Scholarship candidates must include a reference letter from an AGA member and from another professional such as a professor, guidance counselor, employer, etc. written on professional letterhead and sent electronically. All reference letters and letters of recommendation should be submitted electronically to the address in the cover letter for this application along with the application and essays.

REQUIRED ESSAYS

All scholarship candidates must submit an electronic Microsoft Word document of their essay and application to the address in the cover letter for this application. The essay cannot be more than two double-spaced pages. Make sure to have your full name on the document. The essay should address the following topic: "Why I Want a Career in Financial Management."

Please send an email to Michelle.Holland@jocogov.org to request a scholarship packet.

Awards-Continued

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

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 is 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 29, 2013**. 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 14-17, 2013 in Dallas, TX. 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) and Awards Chair Michelle Holland (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, March 29, 2013

KC CHAPTER AWARDS

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 the Awards Chair, Michelle Holland (Michelle.Holland@jocogov.org) to receive the nomination form. Return forms to Michelle and she will submit them to the Chapter Scholarship & Awards Committee.

Thank you!

Accountability Outreach

Accountability Outreach – AGA’s Citizen-Centric Reporting Initiative

Harry Heflin, CPA, CGMA, CGFM

In mid-December, we received notification from national headquarters that our chapter was being recognized with a Certificate of Achievement in Citizen-Centric Reporting for our 2011-2012 Citizen-Centric Report (CCR) submission. This is a noteworthy accomplishment.

A key belief held by many within and outside AGA, is that government accountability and transparency are essential to a healthy democracy. And AGA’s CCR initiative is one way in which to help bring about change in accountability and transparency. The CCR program focuses on promoting accountability and transparency by encouraging governments - at all levels - to present financial and performance information to citizens and other stakeholders that is timely, relevant, and understandable.

This recognition of our chapter’s successful CCR efforts would not have been possible without all of our members. Our 2011-12 CCR is a simple four-page report that informs the reader about who we are, what we’ve accomplished, and where we’re going. Every member has either directly or indirectly made a contribution—whether through membership, attendance at a program or educational event, or involvement in a chapter community event, holding a chapter office or working on a board. Thanks to every chapter member.

We continue to work with local governmental entities and encourage them to prepare and publish CCR’s for their citizens and stakeholders. As I’ve said before, this is the hard part, but we’re making progress.

You can find our 2011-12 CCR on our chapter’s website. Give it a look and let us know what you think about it. If you have any comments/suggestions just give me a call (913-551-7240) or drop me an email at hheflin49@aol.com.

CEC Minutes

AGA-KC Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, January 31, 2013

EPA Headquarters

In attendance were; Michael Melloy, Barry Owens, Sean Rathman, Mark Brandt, Harry Heflin, Nancy Healy, Leeanna Wilder, Laura Logan, Connie Smith, Chuck Koelsch, Steven Bell, and Carrie Miller.

Programs:

Members are not concerned with the meeting cost increase.
Now, lunches are making a profit and not a loss.
Will use part of the extra money to increase scholarships.

CGFM:

The chapter has a few CGFM study books available for check out.
Laura and Harry have offered to host a study group or summer CGFM seminar.
Connie will work with Alicia to poll membership through, Survey Monkey, on their interest in hosting a CGFM study group or seminar.
Mid-MO is working on a CGFM Proclamation for Missouri.
Howard might be able to obtain the CGFM Proclamation for Kansas City, MO.

2013-2014- CEC Vacancies:

Leeanna will be President Elect.
The following offices will be vacant; CGFM, Secretary, Professional Development-Seminar Coordinator (2nd Person), and Early Career.

National AGA Sectional Leadership Meeting (SLM):

The SLM will be April 19-20 in Los Angeles, CA.
All expenses are paid for certain incoming regional and chapter positions on the CEC by nationals.

Professional Development Conference (PDC):

The PDC will be July 17-19 in Dallas, TX.
Barry and Leeanna will be attending the PDC.
Nationals will pay for two hotel rooms.
The chapter will pay for Barry and Leeanna registration fees.
The PDC registration fees will be approximately \$1,700.
The registration fees will be funded by the increase in lunch cost and the extra revenue from fall seminar.
Chuck moved and Mark seconded to pay for two registration fees for the PDC. The vote passed unanimously.
The PDC registration fees will be added to the budget for next year.

CEC Minutes- Continued

Seminar:

The National AGA President will attend the Spring Seminar and has requested dinner with the CEC.

Need to review options for a cake at the Spring Seminar to celebrate the 60th birthday of the KC Chapter.

Seminar co-chair reviewing options for the June awards ceremony and adding a CPE opportunity and possibly an evening event.

Events:

A Happy Hour will be hosted in March to celebrate the chapter's 60th Birthday.

The chapter will host a sporting event (T-Bones, Royals, Soccer) social event this summer.

Community Service:

AGA will be volunteering on April 6, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m. at Harvesters.

Please contact Nancy Healy if you are interested in participating.

As part of the March Happy Hour, attendees will be asked to bring canned goods.

Treasurer:

Sean is on schedule to complete Treasury Tax Forms.

Early Career:

Leeanna would like to use the website to post professional work.

Professors can receive one free year scholarship in AGA.

President:

Mike asked the CEC to review their goals to ensure everyone is on schedule.

Accomplishments and goal reports are due to Mike on February 15, 2013.

Website:

Chuck is researching Google Apps Service.

The service would be free.

The Chapter website receives 450 visits per month.

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

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

Bank Account Balance December 31, 2012:

Primary Share Acct	\$ 7,842.23	
Signature Checking	7,515.23	
Total Bank Balance	\$ 15,357.46	

Beginning Book Balance:

Book Balance November 30, 2012	\$ 15,947.08
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Receipts:

Interest Income:		
Savings	0.76	
Total Interest	\$ 0.76	

Other Receipts:

Returned check - Managed Web Business	50.00	
December Luncheon - CC Pmts - Figlio's	20.00	
Total Other Receipts	\$ 70.00	

Total Receipts	\$ 70.76
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Disbursements:

December Luncheon Balance - Figlio's	575.86	
Managed Web Business, LLC (Chapter Website) - December	50.00	
Credit Card fees - November	34.52	

Total Disbursements	\$ 660.38
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<u>Net fund from Transactions/(Loss) for period</u>	\$ (589.62)
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Ending Book Balance

December 31, 2012	\$ 15,357.46
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Less Petty Cash	(100.00)
December Luncheon - Cash & Check Pmts - Figlio's	655.00
Managed Web Business - Reissue Check	(50.00)
Credit Card fees - December	(24.95)

Adjusted Balance	\$ 15,837.51
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Chapter Executive Committee—Program Year 2012–2013

Position	Name	Work Phone	Email Address
President	Michael Melloy	816-823-2701	michael.melloy@gsa.gov
President – Elect	Barry Owens	913-707-2925	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	Sean Rathman	816-823-2798	Sean.rathman@kcc.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	Vacant		
Chapter Recognition	Barry Owens	913-707-2925	Barry.j.owens@us.pwc.com
Accountability Outreach	Harry E. Heflin	816– 665-3850	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	816-926-2133	kimberlynn.outman@kcc.usda.gov
Early Career	Leeanna Wilder	913-551-7161	wilder.leeanna@epa.gov
Professional Development-Seminar Coordinator	Leeanna Wilder	913-551-7161	wilder.leeanna@epa.gov
	Rhonda Lucas	816-926-7935	Rhonda.lucas@usda.gov
Liaison for other Professional Organizations	Oscar Williams	816-997-6939	oscar.williams2@va.gov
Membership	Alisha Dolt	816-823-3892	ALISHA.DOLT@oig.usda.gov
Program and Technical	Laura Logan	816-823-4530	laura.logan@kcc.usda.gov
	Connie Smith	816-926-3646	constance.smith@kcc.usda.gov
Publicity/Website	Chuck Koelsch	816-823-1196	chuck.koelsch@ocio.usda.gov
Website	Chuck Koelsch	816-823-1196	chuck.koelsch@ocio.usda.gov
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