



Sponsored by Kansas City Chapter AGA



The Kansas City Courier

March 2013

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Second 2 None

President's Message

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."

Speaking of CGFM, we would like to welcome Jacob Nicholls as our new CGFM Coordinator. Jacob works at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is working towards completing the CGFM exams and has passed the first section (congratulations). He is also one of the newer members of the Kansas City Chapter and has volunteered to be the newest member of the Chapter Executive Committee (CEC).

As in my previous messages, I have been thinking a lot about the leadership lessons I learned after a 20-year career in the Army as both a Captain and a Sergeant First Class. One of the leadership lessons is about delegating authority, the saying is "You can delegate authority, but you can't delegate responsibility." I would like to share my thoughts on this lesson.

1. Organizational authority is vested with the supervisors and managers of that organization. Delegation of authority is the process of assigning tasks to your team with the understanding that they may exercise the authority necessary to accomplish that task. Therefore, the manager delegates authority to execute a task on behalf of the organization to the team member, in order to act to accomplish the task. The manager can't do it all on his/her own and should train and develop their team to work independently with minimal supervision.
2. However, the responsibility for accomplishing the mission, goals and objectives remains with the supervisor or manager. They must ensure the completion of the assigned tasks meet the assigned deadlines and are of an acceptable quality. There is no room for the "blame game"; management is responsible to meet the organizational goals and objectives. We, as leaders and government managers, must accept this responsibility. In the words of Harry Truman, "The buck stops here."

Mark the dates

March 20, 2013
 April 6, 2013
 April 17, 2013

Monthly Meeting
 Harvesters' Volunteer Day
 Chapter Spring Seminar

Mike Melloy
 KC Chapter President
Michael.Melloy@gsa.gov

Don't forget to visit us at:

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

Or join us on Facebook:

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



Meeting & Luncheon Information-Wednesday, March 20, 2013

The Kansas City Chapter of the AGA is proud to offer its monthly professional development luncheon at Fogo de Chao on the Country Club Plaza. Lunch for the March meeting will be buffet style. Please join us and enjoy Brazilian food the gaucho way. If you haven't been to Fogo de Chao, it will be a real treat.

Current members are always encouraged to invite non-members to the luncheons to help them to get their feet wet. Look for individuals who are interested in advancing their careers by learning more through the AGA learning opportunities our chapter offers.

The chapter will also be collecting for Harvesters. Please bring any non-perishable food items, soap, deodorant, shampoo, and of course toilet paper you would like to donate.

Honored Speaker: Lee A. Thomas, EPA, Regional Acquisition Manager

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

Subject: Government Contracting- The In's and Out's (1 CPE Finance)

Location: Fogo de Chao on the County Club Plaza
222 W. 47th Street, Kansas City, MO 64112

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 Friday, March 15th.

Spring Seminar

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Kansas City Chapter's Spring Seminar to be held on April 17, 2013 at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas. 8 CPE hours will be available for a very reasonable price. More details on speakers and times will be coming soon so check your email.

Audio Conferences

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| March 27, 2013 | April 17, 2013 |
| Effective Popular Reporting | Internal Controls |
| 2 CPE Hours | 2 CPE Hours |

For more information on how to register, please see the national AGA Website at www.agacgm.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 November 12-14 at the Harry S. Truman State Office Building Room 493/494. Space is limited for the program, so register early. The first 10 CGFM candidates to register with payment received will receive a voucher to sit for one part of the CGFM Exam at no charge which is a \$109 savings. The training is being offered at a cost of \$450 per attendee. This is a bargain at \$18.75 per CPE hour, which includes the \$89 study guides. No payment is expected at this time-only commitment to the event. Sign up by contacting Vandee DeVore at 573-751-1987 or email at education@midmoaga.org no later than September 16, 2013.



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 will be accepting donated items at the March 20th luncheon. 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.

“The day hunger disappears,
the world will see the greatest spiritual explosion humanity has ever seen.”

Frederico Garcia Lorca

Off the Wire

What Does Passion Have to Do With Performance

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

Everything! My purpose here is to explain the role of passion in successful accomplishment of one's goals. So, let's start with a question. Do you view your work as a job or as a platform? If it is just a job, your performance will reflect that the job is something to do between Sunday and Saturday. If it is a platform, your performance will reflect a drive to achieve success and make a difference in the chosen profession. Leadership comes from the latter. You can't achieve the high levels in your profession without the drive and ambition to be the best in it—PASSION!

I am in the audit profession and my passion is to make a difference for the taxpayer and to assist organizations in managing programs economically and efficiently. Every audit I do addresses the public constituency in some way. My recommendations drive toward organizational excellence. As an auditor, I am cognizant of the impression of my office held by those I audit, and I try to work with them in understanding the passion to make a difference. All of my audit recommendations are "doable" over some time span in the organization's life-line.

But let's look at AGA. If you want to see a prime example of passion in the workplace, you only have to sit in on one National Executive Committee meeting. This Committee manages the organization along the strategic plan and provides governance as the executive arm of the National Board of Directors. The Executive Director of AGA reports to the NEC. The Committee is composed of volunteers who were either appointed or elected into their positions. Recognizing this is a volunteer organization outside the general employment of each individual speaks highly of the passion to lead and make a difference. Every NEC member is a leader in their own profession and has reaped the benefits of having managed government programs or private sector programs to completion. The excitement generated in the discussions of organizational needs demonstrates that all have the drive and ambition to make AGA the best professional organization possible. Where did these leaders come from? How do they manage the time? How do they fit the role in with their day to day employment? ---Passion.

Look at your own organization. Do you have goals to achieve higher levels? If the answer is yes, how do you achieve those goals? Contrary to some popular beliefs, rising up in a profession is not a political game that some are better at than others. Employees with passion toward their work stand out automatically. It becomes obvious to management as they evaluate the workforce and see the "energizer bunnies" that do the extras to advance. Such things as advanced education, community and professional service (such as AGA), and self-study in the chosen field are examples of these extras. So, does passion have a place in your goal achievement? Of course it does, and it may be the extra edge needed to move up!

Awards

Awards & Scholarship News:

We still only have 3 volunteers for the awards committee and I would like to have two more if possible. If you would like to volunteer for the awards committee for the 2013 awards season that is approaching, please contact Michelle Holland via email at Michelle.Holland@jocogov.org.

We have not had many requests for the Chapter Scholarship application. The deadline for submitting applications for the Chapter Scholarship is Sunday, March 31, 2013. If you or a family member, are currently attending a college or university and are interested in applying, please contact Michelle as soon as possible.

KC Chapter Awards

We are seeking nominations for the following Chapter awards:

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) to receive the nomination form. Return forms to Michelle and she will submit them to the Chapter Scholarship & Awards Committee.

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.

Reminder: AGA National awards several scholarships up to \$3,000. The deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, April 12, 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

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.

| Treasurer's Report AGA Kansas City Chapter Statement of Receipts and Disbursements For Month Ending January 31, 2013 | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Bank Account Balance January 31, 2013:</u> | | |
| Primary Share Acct | \$ 8,470.06 | |
| Signature Checking | 7,515.99 | |
| Total Bank Balance | \$ 15,986.05 | |
| <u>Beginning Book Balance:</u> | | |
| Book Balance December 31, 2012 | | \$ 15,357.46 |
| <u>Receipts:</u> | | |
| <i>Interest Income:</i> | | |
| Savings | 0.76 | |
| Total Interest | \$ 0.76 | |
| <i>Other Receipts:</i> | | |
| December Luncheon - Cash & Check Pmts - Figlio's | 655.00 | |
| January Luncheon - Cash & Check Pmts - Plaza III | 880.00 | |
| January Luncheon - CC Pmts - Plaza III | 290.00 | |
| Total Other Receipts | \$ 1,825.00 | |
| Total Receipts | | \$ 1,825.76 |
| <u>Disbursements:</u> | | |
| January Luncheon Balance - Plaza III | 935.22 | |
| CAN Surety - Liability Bond | 137.00 | |
| Managed Web Business, LLC (Chapter Website) - January | 50.00 | |
| Managed Web Business, LLC (Chapter Website) - Reissue Check | 50.00 | |
| Credit Card fees - December | 24.95 | |
| Total Disbursements | | \$ 1,197.17 |
| <u>Net fund from Transactions/(Loss) for period</u> | | \$ 628.59 |
| <u>Ending Book Balance</u> | | |
| January 31, 2013 | \$ 15,986.05 | |
| Less Petty Cash | (100.00) | |
| Sectional Leadership Meeting - Regional | (270.00) | |
| Credit Card fees - January | (27.77) | |
| Supplies - Camera Battery | (16.28) | |
| Supplies - Luncheon | (8.08) | |
| Adjusted Balance | \$ 15,563.92 | |

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 | Jacob Nicholls | 913-551-7393 | Nicholls.jacob@epa.gov |
| 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 |
| | Steven E. Bell | 913-649-7461 | SteveB019@aol.com |