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# The Kansas City Courier

May 2014

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Spring Seminar

#### President's Message

Hello Kansas City AGA Chapter! We had an extremely successful training seminar in April! I would like to personally thank the Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) and each presenter for their efforts which made this an impactful day of training.

Our next training luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at the Plaza III Steakhouse. Our presenter will be Randall Landes, the Director of Finance/CFO for the City of KCMO. More details about this training luncheon are included in this newsletter. To make your reservation, please contact Connie Smith. You can call her directly at 816-926-3646, or send an email to [Constance.Smith@kcc.usda.gov](mailto:Constance.Smith@kcc.usda.gov). Please note that the reservation deadline is 4:00 p.m. on Friday May, 16th. We hope to see you there!

Our CEC positions for the upcoming year have been filled. However, we are always in the process of recruiting members to join the team, even in a "co-chair" capacity. If you are interested in becoming more involved in our Chapter, or would like more information, please inquire to any of our current CEC members.

In closing, please remember...have fun! Be where you want to be. Engage in organizations aligned with your beliefs.

Best regards,

Barry J. Owens

Kansas City AGA, Chapter President

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-**

The Kansas City Chapter of the AGA is proud to offer its monthly professional development luncheon at the Plaza III Steakhouse. Lunch for the May meeting will be a choice of Sautéed Jumbo Shrimp Fettuccine, Roast Sirloin Dip with Fries & Cole Slaw, or Junior Club & Garden Salad. Please join us and let Connie Smith know of your choice when making your reservation.

Honored Speaker: Randall Landes, Director of Finance/CFO  
City of Kansas City, Missouri

Time: Wednesday, May 21, 2014  
11:30-1:00

Subject: "City of Kansas City, MO-Financial Condition"  
(1 CPE Finance)

Location: Plaza III Steakhouse  
4749 Pennsylvania Ave., 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](mailto:constance.smith@kcc.usda.gov) before 4:00 PM Friday, May 16th.

### **CPEs Online**

You can earn CPEs online through the AGA's national website. Once you are on the home page, click on the Events & CPE tab and go to Earn CPE Online. You will receive instructions on how to earn additional CPEs online by reading the quarterly journal of *Government Financial Management* and taking a quiz on what you have read. There is a fee of \$30 per quiz or you can buy a package of 4 quizzes for \$109. Please take note, you only get one chance on the quiz. If you fail, no CPEs will be awarded. For more detailed information, please go to the national website at [www.agacgfm.org/](http://www.agacgfm.org/).



## Membership

The Kansas City AGA Chapter is proud to announce scholarship opportunities for memberships. Are you a new retiree? We have a possible scholarship for you to join the AGA all membership fees paid. Are you a student? Grab a friend because we have two student memberships to the AGA being offered. Do you know a lot of students? Start recruiting because the person that recruits the most students for membership will also be granted a scholarship for their membership dues. Please contact Alisha Dolt at [alisha.dolt@oig.usda.gov](mailto:alisha.dolt@oig.usda.gov) for more information. Otherwise, budget for the following.

### AGA Member Types

***Full Government Member*** ***\$90/year***

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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***

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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***

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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***

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This class of membership is available to college/university students.

***Retired*** ***\$30/year***

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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](mailto:alisha.dolt@oig.usda.gov) with any questions about membership.



## April 2014 CGFM Update

### Examinations Update

All three of the CGFM examinations were updated for new content as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. For those of you who will be taking CGFM examinations after March 31, you will need to review the [2014 Examinations Content Outlines](#).

### 2014 Study Guides Are Available Now!

Online and printed versions of all three study guides are now available. Upon purchasing the online version of the guide, you'll have immediate access to the entire publication for a period of 12 months. In addition, if a newer version of the study guide is published within this period, you'll also have access to the new version!

As with the printed version, the online study guides feature textbook-like format with learning objectives, a chapter summary and a reinforcement quiz for each chapter. In addition to the relevant resources, the appendices contain a glossary of terms, a list of reference materials, answers to reinforcement quizzes with explanations and end-of-course review questions. Those ordering the study guides can purchase the option of earning Continuing Professional Education (CPE) hours upon passing an online CPE examination. [More information](#)

### Conserve Money on Exams During the Beta Period

For those of you who are looking to conserve some money, taking the CGFM examinations during the beta period might be your answer. For the months of April and May, the CGFM Examinations will be administered at a \$20 discount per exam. In addition, individuals taking the examinations during this period can receive two months of complimentary access to the online version of the 2014 study guides, corresponding to their exam(s). The scores for these examinations will be available during the week of June 30th. [More information](#)

### Interested in a CGFM Exam Study Group?

Looking for ways to enhance your preparation for the CGFM Exams? The chapter is looking to put together a group for interested parties for a CGFM Study Group. Studying as a group has many advantages:

#### Active Learning

You are processing information with others, focusing on the task at hand and you have more opportunities to use more senses. The process of asking the "What if...?", "Why...?" and "How...?" questions and seeking to answer these together challenges you to study at higher levels.

#### Commitment

Having a regular meeting time at a regular location with people who are expecting you provides you incentive to stay on top of the material.

#### Increased pathways to learning

Studying in groups offers more opportunities for new insights and conclusions about the subject area. You benefit from the ideas and questions of others to add to your own.

#### Psychological support

The group process allows you to see that you are not alone in a difficult area of study. It is affirming when you can share something that you know with someone else.

#### Monitoring

The views of others will present different ways of processing material and predicting the examination questions. When you have only your own views you might miss studying a view that is perceived by another.

After initial interest is measured, we will contact the group asking preferences for times to get together, along with what the group wants to obtain out of the meetings and the preferred method of study. If you're interested please contact the CGFM Chair Jacob Nicholls at [Jacob.Nicholls@yahoo.com](mailto:Jacob.Nicholls@yahoo.com) or 816-714-8868.



## Off the Wire

### Lessons in Leadership

Dr. John Maxwell

“Mind the gap” is a safety announcement, advising passengers of the London Underground metro system to be careful when stepping across the opening between train doors and station platforms. The world’s oldest underground subway system, built 151 years ago, the London Underground contains several stations with rounded platforms, constructed on a curve to avoid important structural foundations in the city. The railway runs straighter than these platforms, hence the unsafe gap between the two.

The design of the London Underground illustrates a simple principle of personal development: there’s a gap between where we stand, and where we’re trying to go. To be successful on our journey, we have to be aware of this space and prudent when crossing it. We have to mind the gaps of growth.

#### **The Assumption Gap: Assuming Growth Is Automatic**

Growth doesn’t just happen. Most people expect to grow naturally, as if by osmosis they can somehow magically absorb the lessons of life. They have no plan for purposeful improvement. They want to fix their problems, but they’re not intentional about fixing themselves. Since they neglect personal growth, they never manage to navigate the growth gap that separates their present reality from their future hopes and dreams.

#### **The Knowledge Gap: Not Knowing How to Grow**

The average person spends more time planning their vacation than their personal growth. Why do people devote so little attention to such a vital concern? Oftentimes, people are unwilling to bet on themselves. They want others to invest in them, but they’re unwilling to put their own time, money, and reputation on the line in order to better their lives. If you don’t expect yourself to succeed, why should anyone else? You won’t care to know how to grow until you’re convinced that you have extraordinary potential and confident that you can fulfill it.

#### **The Timing Gap: Sensing the Time Isn’t Right to Begin**

Lots of people embrace a philosophy that’s pro-life and procrastination. They want to live it up today so they delay doing anything requiring diligent effort and hard work. However, the longer you wait to do something you should do now the greater the odds that you will never do it.

#### **The Mistake Gap: Fearing Failure**

Whenever we dare to try anything great, we’re going to fail somewhere along the way. You’re guaranteed to mess up from time to time as a leader. Avoiding mistakes doesn’t bring success; it keeps you trapped at your current level of growth.

#### **The Inspiration Gap: Feeling Unmotivated.**

Winners do what is right and then feel good as a result. Whiners want to feel good before they do what is right. Life involves an inescapable amount of pain, but it’s far better to endure the pain of discipline today than to suffer the pain of regret later.

*This article was obtained from <http://www.johnmaxwell.com/products-resources/free-resources/> Permission to reprint this article was granted by the John Maxwell Company.*

**Treasurer's Report  
AGA Kansas City Chapter  
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements  
For Month Ending March 31, 2014**

Bank Account Balance March 31, 2014:

Freedom Checking	\$ 9,424.29	
Business Savings	7,526.41	
<b>Total Bank Balance</b>	<b>\$ 16,950.70</b>	

Beginning Book Balance:

Book Balance February 28, 2014	\$ 17,034.93
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Receipts:

*Interest Income:*

Savings	0.76	
<b>Total Interest</b>	<b>\$ 0.76</b>	

*Other Receipts:*

March Luncheon (Grand Street Café) - Cash & Check Pmts	630.00	
March Luncheon (Grand Street Café) - CC Pmts	220.00	
<b>Total Other Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 850.00</b>	

<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 850.76</b>
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Disbursements:

March Luncheon (Grand Street Café)	794.40	
CEC Meeting	65.68	
Managed Web Business, LLC (Chapter Website) - March	50.00	
Credit Card fees - February	24.91	

<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 934.99</b>
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<u>Net fund from Transactions/(Loss) for period</u>	<b>\$ (84.23)</b>
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Ending Book Balance

<b>March 31, 2014</b>	<b>\$ 16,950.70</b>
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Credit Card fees - March (24.92)

<b>Adjusted Balance</b>	<b>\$ 16,925.78</b>
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## Chapter Executive Committee—Program Year 2013–2014

Position	Name	Work Phone	Email Address
President	Barry Owens	816 823 1593	<a href="mailto:barry.owens@kcc.usda.gov">barry.owens@kcc.usda.gov</a>
President – Elect	Leeanna Wilder	913-551-7161	<a href="mailto:leeanna.wilder@kcaga-cgfm.org">leeanna.wilder@kcaga-cgfm.org</a>
Past President	Michael Melloy	816-823-2701	<a href="mailto:michael.melloy@gsa.gov">michael.melloy@gsa.gov</a>
Secretary	Connie Walton	816-823-1272	<a href="mailto:connie.walton@kcc.usda.gov">connie.walton@kcc.usda.gov</a>
Treasurer	Sean Rathman	816-823-2798	<a href="mailto:sean.rathman@kcc.usda.gov">sean.rathman@kcc.usda.gov</a>
Awards	Pamela Yancey, CGFM	816-926-6265	<a href="mailto:pamela.yancey@ocio.usda.gov">pamela.yancey@ocio.usda.gov</a>
By-Laws / Procedures / Historian / Property	Mark Brandt	816-823-2938	<a href="mailto:mark.brandt@gsa.gov">mark.brandt@gsa.gov</a>
CGFM	Jacob Nicholls	913-551-7393	<a href="mailto:Jacob_nicholls@yahoo.com">Jacob_nicholls@yahoo.com</a>
Chapter Recognition	Leeanna Wilder	913-551-7161	<a href="mailto:leeanna.wilder@kcaga-cgfm.org">leeanna.wilder@kcaga-cgfm.org</a>
Accountability Outreach	Harry E. Heflin	816– 665-3850	<a href="mailto:hheflin49@aol.com">hheflin49@aol.com</a>
Communications – Newsletter	Howard Petrie	816-513-1172	<a href="mailto:howard.petrie@kcmo.org">howard.petrie@kcmo.org</a>
Community Service	Kimberlynn Outman	816-926-2133	<a href="mailto:kimberlynn.outman@kcc.usda.gov">kimberlynn.outman@kcc.usda.gov</a>
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	Melody Bingham	816-926-2467	<a href="mailto:melody.bingham@gsa.gov">melody.bingham@gsa.gov</a>
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Liaison for other Professional Organizations	Oscar Williams	816-997-6939	<a href="mailto:oscar.williams2@va.gov">oscar.williams2@va.gov</a>
Membership	Alisha Dolt	816-823-3892	<a href="mailto:alisha.dolt@oig.usda.gov">alisha.dolt@oig.usda.gov</a>
Program and Technical Meeting Co-Chairs	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>
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	Steven E. Bell	913-649-7461	<a href="mailto:steveB019@aol.com">steveB019@aol.com</a>