
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message

Join us on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 when The Greater Lansing Chapter of AGA will host the AGA sponsored audio conference entitled "Sudden Impact or Long-Term Process? Impact of the Stimulus Plan on Internal Controls". The objective is to learn how internal controls can play a significant role in managing a large influx of funds. This audio conference will be held at Constitution Hall, Conference Room Con-Con A/B from 1:50 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Go to <http://www.lansing-aga.org/cde.cfm?event=291658> to register and get more information about the audio conference.

Please reserve March 30, 2010 on your calendar for our annual spring seminar. If you have suggestions for seminar topics please send them to myself or Heather Hammond, Education Chairperson. Also we are soliciting nominations for our annual chapter awards to be presented at the spring seminar. Three awards will be presented, Government Financial Manager of the Year, Professional Development, and Community Service. If you want to nominate someone for an award please contact myself or Marian Frane, Awards Chairperson at marian.frane@delhitownship.com for information.

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season. If you traveled during the holidays you probably ran into bad weather. It seems winter arrived late in Michigan this year.

Sincerely,



Corey Sparks, CPA

Page	
1	President's Message
2	Officers and Committee Chairpersons
	2009-2010 Audio Conference Schedule
3	Chapter Award Nominations
4 - 5	National News
6	CEC Minutes - November
7	Community Service
8 - 10	CGFM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive Review Course • AGA Audio Conference CPE automated certification • Nashville gets "preferred status" for CGFM
11 - 12	Membership Corner
13	Chapter Financials – November 30, 2009

2009-2010

**AGA - Greater Lansing Chapter
Officers and Committee Chairpersons**

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Debbie Brady (241-1048)
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Marian Frane (268-3021)
Marian.frane@delhitownship.com

Community Service

Jean Young (336-7458)
jean.young@planetmoran.com

Past President

Timothy Becker (241-5585)
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2009/2010 AUDIO CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**All audio conferences start at 1:50 p.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m.
Online registration is open for all audio conferences
Audio conferences are FREE to members and \$15.00 to
nonmembers.**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Audio Conference</u>
January 13, 2010	Internal Controls
February 10, 2010	Understanding IT Audits for Program Managers and Auditors
March 3, 2010	Fraud
March 24, 2010	Suggested Guidelines for Voluntary Reporting: Sharing the Government's Story Using Non-Financial Resources
April 21, 2010	The Latest Tools and Techniques for Auditors
May 19, 2010	Ethics

Call for Chapter Award Nominations



The Greater Lansing Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) is seeking nominations for its annual (1) Government Financial Manager of the Year Award, (2) Professional Development Award, and (3) Community Service Award. The Chapter's Awards and Nominations Committee would appreciate nomination of an individual from your organization whom you believe should be recognized with these prestigious awards. Nominations should include the name and position held by the nominee, the award for which they are being nominated, and a brief description of the person's recent accomplishments for the award category. Please refer to the following criteria when submitting your nomination:

Government Financial Manager of the Year Award

This award was established in 1996 to recognize outstanding achievement as a government financial manager. The award criteria include the following:

1. The nominee must be employed in government, holding a management position involving one or more disciplines of government financial management.
2. The nominee does not need to be a member of AGA.

The nominee must be personally responsible for leading extraordinary initiatives in the course of their employment that have made a significant and lasting contribution to the quality, efficiency, and/or effectiveness of government financial management.

Professional Development Award

The Professional Development Award is presented to an individual, either a member or nonmember, to recognize extraordinary efforts in providing and promoting continuing education and professional development leadership for government professionals and others, demonstrating the importance of a lifelong commitment to learning.

Community Service Award

The Community Service award is presented to an AGA member to recognize exceptional personal commitment to community service activities sponsored by AGA and other organizations.

To submit a nomination, simply send an email or write a brief letter with the information requested above (feel free to nominate yourself). Completed nominations may be emailed to marian.frane@delhitownship.com or mailed to PO Box 12159, Lansing, MI 48901. All nominations must be received by Friday, February 5, 2010.

National Academic Scholarship



Call for 2010 National Academic Scholarships

Are you or a family member pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in disciplines such as accounting, auditing, budgeting, economics, finance, information technology, public administration, etc.? If so, consider applying for an AGA National Academic Scholarship today!

Each year, AGA National awards:

- 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 **Wednesday, March 31, 2010**. Apply now and take full advantage of your AGA membership. To download a copy of the application go to <http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/awards/> or contact [Louise Kapelewski](#).

Call for Nominations for National Awards



2010 Call for National Award Nominations

AGA's National Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for our 13 National Awards that recognize the leaders advancing our profession and setting the standards of excellence:

- Robert W. King Memorial Award
- Einhorn-Gary Award
- Frank Greathouse Distinguished Leadership Award
- Achievement of the Year Award
- Educator Award
- Cornelius E. Tierney/Ernst & Young Research Award
- Chapter Education Award
- Chapter Service Award
- Community Service Award
- International Achievement Award
- Chapter CGFM Award
- Emerging Leader Award of Excellence
- Regional Coordinator Award

These awards will be presented during AGA's 58th Annual Professional Development Conference and Exposition in Orlando, July 11–14, 2010. In many cases, individuals do not have to be members of AGA to be eligible. All nominations are due by **Friday, April 16, 2010**. Nomination forms are available online. For more information, contact Louise Kapelewski.
Minutes of Chapter Executive Committee – AGA Greater Lansing Chapter

Location – Grand Tower Building, Lansing

Date November 4, 2009

CEC members present: Tim Becker, Deb Christopherson, Hollie Dietz, Heather Hammond, Cindy Johnson, Charlotte Roper, Corey Sparks, and Dan Wawiernia.

CEC members not present: Debbie Brady, Marian Frane, Marion Hart, Tim Martin, Susan Saari, Duane Smiley and Jean Young.

Call to order: 12:01 P.M.

Acceptance of Agenda: Motion to accept agenda, seconded and approved

Website – E-mail issues are continuing, Debbie will keep trying to resolve.

Approvals of Prior Meeting minutes – October minutes were approved on October 22nd

Treasurer's Report and Budget –Will be distributed by e-mail.

Community Service – No news

Education – Still checking on Billy Morehead for March conference.

Awards – Draft of the nomination letter was reviewed and minor edits made. The requests for nominations will go out after the first of the year.

Programs – The November meeting is scheduled for November 24th, we have our first sponsorship scheduled for that day.

Communications - November newsletter is posted.

Membership –. Membership drive for November luncheon. Member bring a non-member, the member is free for luncheon. If the non-member joins, he or she is also free. Need to get word out quickly. One person expressed interest in joining.

CGFM certification and audio conferences –The room and equipment are reserved. Next audio conference is December 16th

Old Business –Sponsorship Corey presented the pricing and policy as a template. Becker CPA Review has agreed to sponsor the November luncheon, with the draft policy as a guide. Final pricing for website sponsorship to depend on how the sponsorship links will work.

Adjournment –Motion made, seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:10.

Next meeting – December 9 11:45AM, TBA.

Community Service



The Greater Lansing Chapter of the AGA continues to expand on our community service programs. Currently we are looking at participating with AIC (Asset Independence Coalition) and KRP (Kids Repair Program). AIC administers the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program. This program would require 16 hours of training 4 hours for 4 nights and onsite tax assistance throughout Feb, March and early April. The time commitment will vary on the person's availability. The KRP is in need of a treasurer and /or leadership position and it sounds like a 1-2 hour commitment a month is necessary. They do have monthly meeting which currently take place the first Thursday of the month but it sounds like that is flexible.

If anyone is interested in volunteering please contact Jean Young (see below for contact information).

Jean M. Young, CPA | Plante & Moran, PLLC, Partner
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P.O. Box 2500
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CGFM Intensive Review Course Announcement



Take the CGFM Examinations After the NLC

AGA is once again offering a great opportunity to take the CGFM Examinations and earn your CGFM after the Eighth Annual National Leadership Conference (NLC). Whether you've found it difficult to find time to complete the three exams or just need an extra reinforcement of the material, this is your chance to get it done!

To help you reach that goal, we are offering a two-day Intensive Review Course on Monday, February 22, and Tuesday, February 23, 2010, and an opportunity to take the CGFM Examinations on February 24–25, 2010. The event will take place in Alexandria, VA. The cost of the course is only \$249 for qualified participants, and it offers 18 CPE hours. Special Bonus: The CGFM Examinations are offered at no cost to course attendees.

This course is designed as a supplement to previous preparation for the CGFM Examinations, so this is a perfect opportunity for those individuals who have already attended GFM training courses or have been preparing by using the CGFM Study Guides. Enrollment is limited and popular exam time slots are reserved quickly, so don't delay.

More information and a registration form for this event are available on the AGA website (http://www.agacgfm.org/nlc_2010/cgfm_exams.htm). If you have any questions, please contact Crystal Vanison at cvanison@agacgfm.org or at 800.AGA.7211, ext. 316.

January 2010

Announcing AGA's New Automated Audio Conference CPE Certificate Processing Procedure

AGA's Audio Conferences have proven to be a popular, low-cost and convenient way to obtain Continuing Professional Education hours. Starting Jan.13, the process will be even easier--no more waiting for your CPE certificate to be authorized and mailed back to you.

AGA has implemented an automated online system where you can obtain your CPE certificates at the conclusion of an audio conference. By following the [step-by-step instructions](#), you can retrieve your CPE certificate online in minutes.

The new process is easier, faster and more convenient. Rather than signing in/out at the audio conference location, site coordinators will provide each participant with a unique "pin code" so you can "sign" the attendance roster online after the audio conference and have immediate access to your CPE certificate. An important note is that the audio conference registration must be paid in full in order to access and print your certificate.

Misplaced an old CPE certificate? With the new system, you can retrieve an old certificate online by simply entering the pin code information for that prior audio conference. You will need to contact your site coordinator for pin code information, or have your site coordinator contact Maria Lucas at mlucas@agacgfm.org or at 800.AGA.721, ext. 308 for pin code information. **Pin codes will be provided only to the registrant/site coordinator.**

AGA is offering a [diverse schedule of audio conferences for 2010](#)-- including TWO sessions in January. As mentioned previously, the automated system will start with the Jan. 13, 2010 audio conference, [Sudden Impact or Long-Term Process? Impact of the Stimulus Plan on Internal Controls](#).

[AGA Staff List](#)

[AGA Membership Application](#)

[CGFM Application](#)

[Audio Conferences](#)

[Training Opportunities](#)

Other AGA links

[Learn More About the CGFM Certification](#)

[Register for AGA's Eighth Annual National Leadership Conference, Feb. 18-19, 2010, Washington, D.C.](#)

[Register for AGA's 59th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition, July 11-14, 2010, Orlando, FL](#)

[Bring New AGA-Sponsored Training Courses to Your Organization](#)

Nashville Chapter Secures “Preferred” Status for CGFM Applicants

Job seekers with the CGFM will have an advantage over uncertified competitors if they apply for certain positions in Tennessee’s Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury.

AGA’s Nashville Chapter was instrumental in making the CGFM a “preferred” qualification for three positions in the Office of Management Services within the comptroller’s office: contract review administrator, business administration manager and legislative sourcing oversight manager.

Nashville Chapter President Karen B. Hale, MAOM, CGFM, said she was asked last spring to review job specifications, titles and duties after the retirements of two longtime leaders in the Office of Management Services—including Past AGA National President Charles Harrison, CPA, CGFM. During the reorganization, she proposed the three job specifications include the statement, “A certification as a government finance manager (CGFM) is preferred.” Comptroller of the Treasury Justin P. Wilson approved the change, effective Aug. 1.

The process took a few months, but it was fairly straightforward. Hale’s office is full of AGA supporters and CGFMs, many of whom were involved in the CGFM’s earliest stages, such as Harrison and Past AGA National President Richard Norment, CGFM, CIA. Her director, for example, is Immediate Past Regional Vice President Melinda Parton, CGFM. “We’re fortunate here to have such a rich history,” Hale said. “They laid the groundwork.”

All three positions are now filled with professionals who have passed the CGFM Examinations. Hale, who is the current business administration manager, said she believes that the CGFM certification strengthens an applicant’s knowledge base. “You can’t just walk in off the street and start working and be successful right away,” she said. “These positions involve a lot of on-the-job training, a lot of mentoring, and the more knowledge you bring to the table on the front end, the better.”

Tennessee has had many successes over the years. The state formally recognizes the CGFM designation with a salary increase if that particular department chooses to do so. The comptroller’s office also sponsored legislation two years ago that requires all municipalities in the state to employ a certified municipal finance officer (CMFO) to produce its financial statements. CGFMs are exempt from the educational requirements of the CMFO designation.

Katya Silver, AGA’s director of Professional Certification Administration, applauds the Nashville Chapter for its work. “It is great to see the Nashville chapter’s initiative and hard work pay off. What a wonderful example of AGA leadership and teamwork!”

In fact, Silver encourages other chapters to learn from what’s been accomplished in Tennessee and around the country. AGA recently held a teleconference dedicated to CGFM recognition—successful practices, challenges, ideas and tools.



MEMBERSHIP CORNER



AGA Greater Lansing Chapter Celebrates Members' Anniversaries

30 Years

Mr. Joseph D. Frick Jan 01

25 Years

Mrs. Cinda Lou Karlik, CGFM Jan 28

14 Years

Ms. Deborah Christopherson, CGFM Jan 16

Ms. Michelle M. Hilliker, CGFM Jan 16

Mr. Jerry J. Kulka, CGFM-Retired Jan 16

Mr. Minesh S. Mody Jan 16

Mr. Duane Smiley Jan 16

13 Years

Ms. Vickie L. Crouch, CGFM Jan 21

Ms. Margaret a. Maday, CGFM Jan 13

Mr. Allan R. Pohl, CGFM Jan 20

Mr. John J. Thrush, CGFM-Retired Jan 20

12 Years

Mrs. Beth D. Colosimo, CGFM Jan 20

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Gienapp, CGFM Jan 29

11 Years

Mrs. Cheryl A. Baker Jan 29

Mr. John J. Hayes, CGFM-Retired Jan 08

Mr. Lamonte T. Lator, CGFM Jan 12

Ms. Karen E. Spak, CGFM Jan 12

Ms Karen M. Stout, CGFM Jan 28

9 Years

Ms. Julie A. DiOrio Jan 01

Ms. Cynthia A. Michels Jan 01

7 Years

Mrs. Ginger A. Burke-Miller Jan 01

Ms. Cynthia M. Johnson, CPA Jan 01

4 Years

Ms. Cheryl Grice Jan 01

Membership Recruitment – Everyone's Responsibility



The Greater Lansing AGA Chapter is continuously engaged in recruiting new members to our organization. At both the October and November luncheons members were encouraged to invite a Non Member and introduce him or her to the benefits of AGA membership. For this promotion, any member who brought a Non Member attended the luncheon free of charge. Non Members who joined the AGA also attended free of charge. Thank you to all of our members who participated in this promotion. Special thanks to David Quigley who was kind enough to not only invite non-members to both luncheons but also for sponsoring their attendance.

Please remember to invite Non AGA Members to participate in AGA functions throughout the year. Encourage them to join AGA so that they can benefit from our association as much as we do.



Financials



**Association of Government Accountants - Lansing Chapter
Chapter Financial Update
November 30, 2009**

ASSETS:

	November - 09	October - 09
Current assets:		
Checking	\$ 4,842.81	\$ 4,443.31
Time Deposits	5,181.71	5,181.71
Prepaid Expenses	0	0
Accounts Receivable	523.00	523.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 10,547.52	\$ 10,148.02

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Accounts Payable	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Total Accounts Payable	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Unrestricted Fund Balance - Beginning of year	\$ 10,148.02	\$ 9,240.31
TYD Income (Loss)	\$ 399.50	\$ 907.71
Unrestricted Fund Balance - End of period	\$ 10,547.52	\$ 10,148.02
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$ 10,547.52	\$ 10,148.02