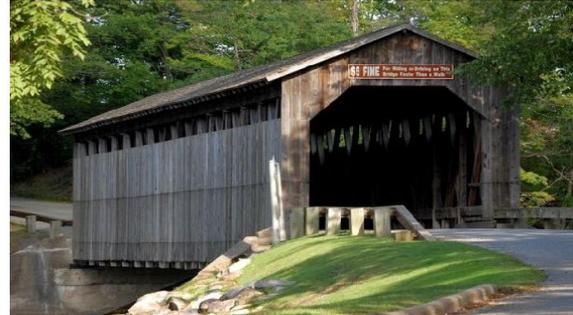




Contributor: Michelle Brockman Location: Detroit Zoo [VIEW LARGER IMAGE]

SPRING IS ON THE WAY. TIME FOR NATURE TO JUMP INTO ACTION!



Contributor: Lin Taylor Location: Fallasburg Park

With spring comes the Greater Lansing Chapter's Annual Professional Development Conference!

Tuesday, March 27, 2012
A Focus on Economic Credibility
 Lansing Community College West Campus
 8 hours of CPE offered
 \$70 members
 \$100 non-members

Pension Accounting
 Brand and Relationship Building through Social Media
 Economic Development
 Public Integrity
 Estate Planning
 GASB Update

Visit the chapter's website to register today!

AGA fosters learning, certification, leadership and collaboration for professionals and stakeholders committed to advancing government accountability.

AGA's Partnership for Intergovernmental Management for Accountability

National AGA established the Partnership for Intergovernmental Management and Accountability to open the lines of communication among governments with the goal of improving performance management and accountability. The Partnership is comprised of high-ranking officials from the federal, state, and local levels of government, including higher education. The Partnership is dedicated to identifying and solving some of the most vexing management and accountability issues facing government today.

Goals of the Partnership include, but are not limited to:

- Enhancing government's ability to effectively and efficiently serve citizens.
- Improving communication among higher education, federal, state, and local governments.
- Establishing relationships that will facilitate the adoption of a solution-oriented agenda that is developed through a consensus of leaders representing all levels of government.

(continued on page 3)



Sunshine Week is a national initiative to promote a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. Participants include news media, civic groups, libraries, nonprofits, schools and others interested in the public's right to know.

With an inaugural grant from John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, which has continued to support the effort, Sunshine Week was launched by the American Society of News Editors in March 2005. This non-partisan, non-profit initiative is celebrated in mid-March each year to coincide with James Madison's birthday on March 16.

In 2011, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press joined ASNE as a national co-coordinator of Sunshine Week, enabling the organizations to join forces and resources to produce Toolkit materials for participants and keep the website and social media sites engaged.

Though created by journalists, Sunshine Week is about the public's right to know what its government is doing, and why.

Sunshine Week seeks to enlighten and empower people to play an active role in their government at all levels, and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger. Individuals and public officials who embody the spirit of government transparency and fight for it in their communities are recognized each year with Local Hero Awards.

Participants include news media, government officials at all levels, schools and universities, libraries and archives, individuals, non-profit and civic organizations, historians and anyone with an interest in open government.

Since Sunshine Week was launched in 2005, many city and state officials have recognized and committed to open government through official proclamations. Some have also held hearings on open government issues or scheduled special sessions for public employees and the launching of a special webpage.



To mark sunshine week, we urge citizens and civic organizations across the country to again press state and local officials to find meaningful ways to

participate in Sunshine Week to demonstrate that they, too, are committed to true transparency in government. One way this can be done is by adopting a meaningful open government proclamation that pledges specific steps to enhance the public's right to know.

Proclamations can be more than just statements of general support. They can also address and pledge action on specific open government concerns and shortcomings that you, your organization and/or the officials themselves have identified.

Toward that goal, the sponsors of Sunshine Week offer this model proclamation. It begins with a generalized statement of support for government in the sunshine, followed by a sampling of open government provisions that have resulted in increased transparency in local and state governments around the country.

If your city, county, school board or state government does something special to recognize Sunshine Week, please let us know. We'd also like electronic copies of any proclamations and other materials to share on the website. You, or the officials, can send them to us at sunshineweek@sunshineweek.org.



UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL EVENTS



**RENEW YOUR
DUES BY
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on line-renewal

March 27, 2012

Professional Development Conference

A Focus on Economic Credibility
LCC West Campus, Lansing
8 hours CPE

April 18, 2012

Audio Conference

Find Strength in Numbers: Sampling
Techniques to Improve Financial Audit,
Control and Program Management
Ottawa Building, Lansing
2 hours CPE

May 9, 2012

Audio Conference

Carlo Ponzi or Bernie Madoff – Who Was the
Bigger Villain
Ottawa Building, Lansing
2 hours CPE

May 23, 2012

Audio Conference

Ethical Dilemmas – Recognizing, Analyzing,
and Resolving Situations Where There Are
Two Right Choices
Ottawa Building
2 hours CPE

July 12 – August 1, 2012

AGA National Professional Development Conference

Training to Solve Today's Fiscal Challenges
San Diego, CA
24 hours CPE

Be sure to check the chapter's website for
added educational events.

Partnership *(continued from page 1)*

- Developing generally accepted approaches and best practices for improving the performance and interaccountability of intergovernmental programs. The following objectives are likely to be instrumental in achieving this goal.
 - strengthening internal control
 - streamlining grants management
 - reducing administrative costs
 - developing common terminology
- Helping promote the development and dissemination of valid, reliable, and useful financial information that decision makers need to make smart, informed choices.
- Clarifying roles and responsibilities for programmatic and financial improvement activities.
- Developing training programs for officials at federal, state, and local levels of government.
- Agreeing on a common approach to determining and measuring program outcomes.

The Partnership's projects include:

- The Fraud Prevention ToolKit
- Cooperative Audit Resolution
- Federal Cost Allocation: Improving Implementation of OMB Circular A-87
- Leveraging the Single Audit - Strategies for Reducing Erroneous Payments

These free products are available at the
National AGA website at agacgfm.org



Bring your food items or cash donations to the PDC on March 27!

Children of Invention

factmonstor.com



And to think, this editor feels great accomplishment when learning a new task in Word or Excel or scheduling a meeting in Outlook. Oh to be young again!



COSO has released, for public comment, an updated Internal Control – Integrated Framework (Framework) intended to help organizations improve performance with greater agility, confidence and clarity. Comments are due by March 21, 2012. Visit www.coso.org for more information.

Six year old Suzanna Good, tired of cleaning the cat food spoon, came up with the idea of an edible spoon shaped cracker. She won a grand prize for her invention in the Weekly Reader National Invention Contest.

Eight year old Theresa Thompson and her nine-year old sister Mary were the youngest sisters to receive a U.S. patent. They invented a solar teepee for a science fair project in 1960. They called the device a Wigwam.

At **age nine**, Margaret Knight began working in a cotton mill, where she saw a steel-tipped shuttle fly out of a loom and hit a nearby worker. As a result, Margaret devised her first invention: a shuttle restraining device. She went on to invent the machine that makes the square bottom paper bags we still use for groceries today. That machine was patented in 1871.

Eleven year old Jeanie Low received a patent on March 10 for inventing the kiddie stool – a fold up stool that fits under the sink so kids can unfold it, stand on it, and reach the sink on their own!

Becky Schroeder began her patenting career when she was **fourteen years old**. She put phosphorescent paint on paper under her writing paper so she could write in the dark. This invention was later used in all sorts of ways. Doctors use it in hospitals to read patients charts at night without waking them, and astronauts use it when their electrical systems are turned down for recharging.

Fourteen year old Pamela Sica invented a push button that raises the floor of the car so the cargo can be raised and easily removed. Her invention won a grand prize for her age group in the Weekly Reader National Invention Contest.

Eight year old Chelsea Lannon received a patent in 1994 for her “pocket diaper” which is a diaper that has a pocket that holds a baby wipe and baby powder puff. She got the idea while helping her mother with her baby brother – while she was still in kindergarten!

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