



Message from the Chapter President



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Except this is not your chapter president. Deb is busy with year-end closing which many of you understand. If that is not enough fun, the DHS Federal Reporting Unit got to prepare and execute an office move at State government's favorite time of the year.

Knowing the chapter president, Deb would encourage you to attend the November lunch meeting about effective communication skills. Each one of us could probably improve in this area. DHS management has often stated that they do not understand the language of *audit-speak*. They contend that it is a special language subject to interpretation by the recipient. Of course, that being said, two auditors can listen to a program person and hear two different explanations of what was said.

The Chapter will be planning its spring conference soon. The event is scheduled for schedule for March 26, 2013. Be sure to check out page 7 for the chapter's calendar of events. Your input is important so if you have an idea for a topic or speaker, be sure to contact any chapter executive committee member (see page 8 for a complete listing).

Lastly, Deb and the entire chapter executive committee would like to wish you each a Happy Thanksgiving.

Vision

AGA is the premier association for advancing government accountability.

Mission

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

Core Values

Service, Accountability, Integrity, Leadership

Eye Opener



38.4 percent

The number of registered voters in the United States who did not cast a ballot for president in 2008.



SOURCE: FactCheck.org



**MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 13, 2012
11:45**

Capitol View Building
201 Townsend Street,
Lansing, Michigan

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION FACE

REGISTRATION

Register on-line at www.aga-lansing.org, click on events. Register before Friday, November 9.

COST

\$12 AGA members

\$20 non-members

Registrants are responsible for payment unless cancellation is received by the registration deadline.

About the Speaker

Jack Pyle helps people learn about the little things that make a big difference in leadership and personal effectiveness.

He has lots of great tips to help you *Get Jacked Up On Selling Your Ideas Face-to-Face.*

Jack spent 30 years managing communication programs with global corporations and state government before starting his own



business. He created a leadership institute for Michigan OSHA.

His mission is to build trust in organizations by improving interpersonal communication. He does this by teaching speaking, listening and conflict management skills.



From the National AGA President



**EVELYN A. BROWN,
CGFM-RETIRED**

We are well into the month of October with many of our 2012 AGA activities already past, and more are on the horizon. I was honored to be invited by Heather Keister, President of the AGA Northern Virginia Chapter, to speak at their monthly meeting. My visit in September, afforded me the opportunity to talk about the benefits of membership in AGA and specifically about mentoring as I delivered the presentation, "Our Professional Journey, A Path to Success".

I was able to talk about the value-added proposition in being a member of this association. It is very rewarding to meet with the chapter members with an audience of young professionals; mid-level and senior level colleagues, and to see such enthusiasm and focus on continuing professional development.

I want to commend Beryl Davis, CGFM, CPA, CIA, CGAP, CGMA, Director, Financial Management and Assurance, U.S. Government Accountability Office, Daryl Purpera, Legislative Auditor, State of Louisiana and Antoine Elachkar, CGFM, CPA, Managing Director, PwC, who served as co-chairs of the technical committee for the Internal Control and Fraud Prevention Training event held, September 24-25. Our AGA staff did an exceptional job in supporting the event, as well.

I attended AGA's Seventh Annual Internal Control and Fraud Prevention Training event held in Washington, D.C. AGA has again delivered an outstanding training event with topical issues that focused on fraud prevention, detection, risk management and ethics and gave all in attendance plenty of opportunities to network, and to meet new friends. There was plenty of discussion about the conference in terms of subject matter expertise, content delivery and relevance to our current working environment and cultural aspects in day-to-day work life. The event also afforded many opportunities for networking.

As a part of the member services focus, we hosted a young professional's roundtable discussion. The session was well attended

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Posted by Dannielle Blumenthal
on October 21, 2012 at 9:27pm

5 Internal Communication Activities Your Boss Will Support



Ragan Communications reports that "Employee Engagement Is (A) Top Challenge For 2013": Executives don't agree with communicators that it's a top priority ("engagement didn't even make the list.")

In any large, complex organization, internal communication must normally go through many bureaucratic hoops to be approved. Also, operational matters frequently crowd out what seem like "mushy" matters to executives.

If you are eager to promote internal communication, but are finding it a daunting hassle, here are 5 tactics that I've used across three government agencies. They may be helpful to you:

1. **Daily News Clips:** Circulate to managers; include blog, twitter and Facebook mentions; make available to all by posting on the Intranet. The more information available to employees, provided by you, the better.

2. **Repurpose External Interviews:** If a senior leader gave an interview to the media, share it with employees or do a weekly roundup. External media tend to force leaders to answer more critical and objective questions because they are answering to the public.

3. **Simplify Existing Language for Factsheets:** These are always needed and if you use existing language, not objectionable. Take a policy guidebook and turn it into a one-pager with graph, chart, or FAQ. Do not change the language; only bullet it, shorten it, and generally make it more accessible.

4. **Provide a "News You Can Use" Weekly Email:** This gives executives an opportunity to share important information, and employees want to hear directly from executives. Most of the email should be substantive but some of it should provide strategic context around news and updates.

5. **Rally Around Giving Activities:** Campaigns that occur regularly, like the CFC in government, are an opportunity for people to let loose a bit for a good cause. Chili cook-offs, book sales, potluck lunches, and similar activities are good for the spirit, the soul and the community.

From the National AGA President (continued)

and afforded the participants an opportunity to develop their professional networks, and learn first hand from some of our diverse leadership in the financial accountability profession. The session moderator was Joseph Sutter, Deloitte, who chairs the AGA Young Professionals Focus Group.

Featured speakers were Aubrey Vaughn, Oversight Systems, and Brian Bloodsworth, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. I, along with Wayne Dunbar, Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Internal Evaluation and Assessment, Bo Shevchik, TFC Consulting, Inc., Aubrey Vaughn, Brian Bloodsworth, David Norquist, Kearney and Company, served as roundtable moderators participating in speed mentoring. Doreen Shute, Senior Vice President, Section IV, CGFM, CPA, and Eva Williams, CGFM, CPA, Past National Treasurer also joined the discussions. Thank you for your support.

I want to keep you informed of some of the on-going activities during the year with the following items: we are very pleased to share with you that at the October 2012 National Executive Committee meeting, Eva Williams was appointed Chair, of a Membership Task Force. The purpose of the task force is to conduct an in-depth review of AGA's membership activities to ensure that AGA is retaining current members at the highest rate possible, and attracting new members at a rate that will sustain AGA as the premier organization for government financial management professionals.

Upcoming activities include the formation of a senior-level task force to review the AGA business model. I mentioned earlier that we would be operationalizing the Strategic Plan and that initiative is well underway and is being led by Deputy Executive Director, Susan Fritzlen. The Executive Director and staff are moving ahead with plans for the NLC: Strategic Innovation for Government Leaders, scheduled for February 12-13, 2013 just in case you want to mark your calendars early.



Contributor: Kikiatt Luckhardt Location: Dexter, Michigan



MEMBER NEWS

Member Anniversaries

11/17/1986	Valerie Wales-Beatty, CGFM
11/02/1999	Bob Simon
11/01/2002	Brenda Vincent
11/01/2004	Kelly Manning
11/17/1986	Valerie Wales-Beatty, CGFM

Welcome

The Chapter has a new member. Gary Simpson joins us from the Omaha Nebraska Chapter. Gary works for the Department of Health and Human Services OIG, Office of Audit Services Region V in Lansing.



CHAPTER FINANCES

Balance Sheet at September 30, 2012

Assets	
Cash	
Checking Account	\$ 5,498.80
Certificate of Deposit	-0-
Accounts Receivable	-0-
Total Assets	\$ 5,498.80
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Accounts Payable	\$ 523.99
Unrestricted Fund Balance	4,974.91
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 5,498.80



CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 10, 2012

CEC Members Present: Deb Christopherson, Heather Hammond, Cindy Osga, Charlotte Roper, Susan Saari, Corey Sparks, Karen Stout, Dan Wawiernia, Amy Zimmerman

CEC Members Absent: Karine Akopov, Tom Colosimo, Linda deBourbon

Meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm. A motion to accept the agenda with changes was seconded and approved.

Minutes: Minutes from the 09/12/2012 CEC meeting approved by e-mail on 09/15/2012.

Financials: Dan distributed financial statements from September 2012. A motion to approve the September financial statements and disbursements of \$881.45 was seconded and approved.

Community Service: The CEC discussed community service events at luncheons. One suggestion is a glove and hat collection for homeless shelters. Deb will do some research on this issue.

Education: Heather reported 64 people had attended the fall PDC. 25 members and 39 non-members. A shopping bag full of books

was collected for the CADL. Heather will put together a summary of evaluations and schedule a meeting to start discussing the spring PDC.

Program Luncheons: Twelve people have registered for the October luncheon. The registration cutoff is October 19. There will be a drawing for a cup giveaway at the October luncheon.

Awards: No report.

Membership/Outreach: Cindy reported the first Chapter Citizen Centric Report is on the chapter website. Newsletter will go out next week. The chapter has received recruitment scholarship money from the National office. Need to come up with ideas for using the scholarship.

Website: Corey reported that Linda will put a link for VITA information on the website. Corey sent an e-mail to Affiniscape to get information about our current website hosting contract. Affiniscape has not responded.

CGFM: Deb reported the next audio conference is scheduled in December.

New Business: Corey received an education opportunity from Denese Ennis at Becker Education. She proposed a one hour CPE dinner and one year access to unlimited CPE through the Becker website.

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THE MAYOR WHO'S DETERMINED TO BRING FLINT BACK

Dr. Mark Funkhouser, a former Kansas City mayor and auditor, is the director of the Governing Institute.



Here's a mayor, and a city, to watch. Dayne Walling came of age watching what his hometown of Flint, Mich., endured in the 1980s as the city, built around General Motors and the auto industry, lost jobs and residents due to a host of factors including deindustrialization, globalization, white flight and crime. The city lost about half of its population, from a peak of almost 200,000 in 1960 to about 100,000 today, while local GM employment fell from a high of 80,000 in 1978 to less than 8,000 by 2010. The 1989 Michael Moore film, "Roger & Me," documents Flint's decline and lays the blame mostly on General Motors CEO Roger Smith.

When he took office, Flint had just had its worst unemployment month in 25 years: 29 percent. In 2010, after laying off police and firefighters to cope with the financial crisis, Walling was himself the target of a recall effort. That attempt failed to get enough signatures to force an election. He ran for his first full term in 2011, and won with 56 percent of the vote. He didn't have to wait for the challenges to intensify. That very election day, the governor of Michigan declared Flint to be fiscally distressed and installed an emergency financial manager.

Walling is a very bright young guy who seems to have devoted his energy and talent almost entirely to preparing himself to lead Flint's recovery. If academic and practical training can lead to success, then the citizens of Flint seem to be in pretty good hands. After graduating with a degree in social relations from Michigan State University in 1996, he won a Rhodes Scholarship, which allowed him to get a second B.A., this time in modern history, from Oxford University and an M.A. in contemporary urban affairs from the University of London. Currently he is a Ph.D. candidate specializing in urban development at the University of Minnesota. His dissertation topic? "Prospects for Economic and Community Development in Midwest Cities."

Walling sees his city's top challenges as the twin problems of unemployment and crime. Unemployment is now about half of what it was in 2009, at 15 percent, but still enormously high compared to the national average of 7.8 percent. And, for the last two years, Flint has had the highest rate of violent crime in the country. To some degree, these two issues go together and between them contribute to a host of other issues around blight and abandonment of residential property.

But it's not just academic training that Walling brings to the game. He's also been able to see and participate in the work of dramatic economic turnaround for cities. During Washington, D.C.'s remarkable emergence from the governance mess it was in the mid-1990s to the thriving city it is today, Walling worked directly with two of the people associated with the city's success. In 1999 and 2000, he served as an analyst for Chief Financial Officer Natwar Gandhi, and from 2000 to 2002 he worked in Mayor Anthony Williams' Office of Partnerships and Grants Development.

The mayor's strategy to address these problems is to develop a comprehensive long-term plan for the city so that each of the major players--the regional chamber of commerce, the schools, the transportation authority, the foundations and others--can see what each is doing, know and buy into their own roles in the plan, and understand that their individual efforts are being complemented by the work of other committed partners.



Flint Mayor Dayne Walling

After leaving Washington in the early 2002, he and his wife were in Minneapolis, both working on doctorates. In addition, he was involved in a couple of urban-affairs programs as a staffer and a volunteer. But all the while he was in Minneapolis, he was watching things at home in Flint and not liking what he saw. He thought the mayor at the time was doing the wrong things for the 21st century, and he was looking to support someone who would challenge the mayor in the 2007 election.

Last year, the city won a \$1.5 million grant from the Department of Housing Development's sustainable communities program to develop this comprehensive plan, and the city seems to be well along the planning-work timeline.

He didn't see anyone stepping up, so in 2006 he and his young family moved back to Flint so that he could run for mayor. He narrowly lost to the incumbent in the 2007 election. He moved on to start his own management-consulting firm, but then, in August of 2009, the mayor resigned in the face of a recall. Seven candidates ran in the subsequent special election and Walling won with 64 percent of the vote.

Big challenges are coming for all cities in America, but within those challenges are opportunities as well. Cities can be turned around--we've seen it done--but few have greater or more longstanding and fundamental problems than Flint's. And added to Mayor Walling's issues is the fact that his powers (not to mention his salary) are severely limited under the emergency status into which the state has placed the city.

Walling is not promising a quick fix--he says it will take at least 10 years to turn the city around. He's young, at 38, and he might be too optimistic, but I think we can learn a whole lot by watching him work on it. I wouldn't bet against him, or against Flint.

Chapter Executive Meeting Minutes (continued)

Denise wants to offer to Greater Lansing, West Michigan, and Detroit AGA chapter members. Corey will contact Denese with questions.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 14, 2012. Austin Building, Lansing, Michigan. Hosted by Charlotte Roper.



CPE Topics and Subjects that Qualify

The CGFM is initially responsible for determining whether a topic or subject qualifies as acceptable CPE. CPE programs include a wide variety of topics and subjects that may contribute to maintaining or enhancing the professional proficiency of some CGFMs, but not others. Determining what topics and subjects are appropriate for individual CGFMs to satisfy the CPE requirement is a matter of professional judgment. Among the considerations in exercising that judgment are CGFM's experience, the government financial management area(s) in which they work and the responsibilities they assume in performing government financial management functions.

To help one determine whether the course would qualify for CPE, the CGFM should answer "yes" to all of the following questions:

1. Is the information covered in this course applicable to government financial management?
2. Does this course contribute to my professional proficiency as a CGFM?
3. Does this course provide information that directly benefits me in my job as a government financial manager or enhance my overall knowledge of government financial management?

Some courses, such as the ones that cover individual or business taxation, may not qualify for the CGFM CPE. If the CGFMs are taking these courses to satisfy the CGFM requirement, they will need to make a connection to their job and proficiency as a government financial manager and be prepared to provide a written explanation of the applicability of such courses.

CPE that would satisfy the CGFM Program's requirement must be in government financial management topics or related technical subjects applicable to government financial management. Examples of such topics and subjects include, but are not limited to, the following:

accounting principles and standards
accounting research
accounting systems
acquisitions management
actuarial techniques and analysis
analytical procedures
assessment of internal controls
assessment and evaluation methodologies
asset management
audit methodologies
audit of contract compliance/costs
audit/evaluation of program results
audit risk and materiality
audit/evaluation standards
audit documentation preparation and review
techniques and tools
auditing research
budgeting
business law
cash management

compliance with laws and regulations
compilation and review of financial statements
computer science
computer security
contracting and procurement
cost accounting
credit management
current industry risks
data management and analysis
debt collection
economics
enterprise risk management
ethics and independence
evaluation design
financial auditing
financial management
financial management systems
financial planning or analysis
financially related fraud
financial reporting
financial statement analysis
forecasts and projections
forensic accounting
forensic auditing
government structure, organization, authority
human capital management
industrial engineering
information resources management
information systems management
information security
information technology
internal control and internal control assessment
interviewing techniques
inventory management
investigations
investment of public funds
operations research
oral and written communications
organizational change management
pension and other employee benefits
accounting
performance measurement and reporting
principles of leadership and management
process reengineering
procurement management
productivity improvement
program evaluation
project management
property management
public accountability
public administration
public finance
public policy and structure
report writing
research methods
sampling methods
social and political sciences
statistics
statistical analysis and techniques
strategic planning
taxation (need to make a connection with your job)

CHAPTER EDUCATIONAL EVENTS



~~**September 19, 2012**
Professional Development Conference
The Changing Environment in the Government
Accountability Community
Library of Michigan
4 hours CPE~~

You can register for all chapter events at www.aga-lansing.org. Click on events.

Check the chapter website and newsletter for updated educational opportunities.

~~**October 23, 2012**
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
Doing More with Less – Paul Artale
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE~~

February 27, 2013
Audio Conference
Internal Controls
Constitution Hall
2 hours CPE

November 13, 2012
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
Effective Business Speaking – Jack Pyle
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE

March 13, 2013
Audio Conference
Government Financial Management
Constitution Hall
2 hours CPE

December 12, 2012
Audio Conference
Just Ethics
Constitution Hall
2 hours CPE

March 26, 2013
Professional Development Conference
Government Accountability Topics
LCC West Campus
8 hours CPE

January 9, 2013
Audio Conference
Government Financial Management
Constitution Hall
2 hours CPE

April 17, 2013
Audio Conference
Internal Controls
Constitution Hall
2 hours CPE

January 15, 2013
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
To Be Announced
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE

April 23, 2013
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
The State Budget – John Nixon
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE

February 6, 2013
Audio Conference
Fraud Prevention
Constitution Hall
2 hours CPE

May 21, 2013
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
To Be Announced
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE

February 19, 2013
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
Strategic Planning – Berri Meyers
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE

May 22, 2013
Audio Conference
Ethics
Constitution Hall
2 hours CPE

OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



West Michigan AGA

To register for events, visit
www.agawestmichigan.org/home/events

November 1, 2012

AGA/GFOA Double Feature
Internal Controls Over Federal Programs
Elements of Internal Controls, A-133 Compliance Requirements, Sample Policies and Procedures
GAAP Update
New and Upcoming GASBs, New Blue Book, Common Reporting Errors
Rehmann Group Office, Grand Rapids Michigan
8 hours CPE

January 23, 2013

Governmental Accounting Training Series Level 2
Rehmann Group Office, Grand Rapids Michigan
8 hours CPE

April 24, 2013

Governmental Accounting Training Series Level 3
Rehmann Group Office, Grand Rapids Michigan
8 hours CPE

National AGA

To register for events, visit
www.agacgfm.org



February 12-13, 2013

Ronald Regan Building and
International Trade Center
Washington, D.C.

14 hours CPE

Western Michigan Chapter ISACA

To register for events, visit
<http://www.isaca.org/chapters2/Western-Michigan/events/Pages/Calendar.aspx>

November 15, 2012

Chapter Meeting
Grand Rapids, Michigan

January 17, 2013

Chapter Meeting
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Chapter Executive Committee

2012-2013

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