



Message from the Chapter President



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I hope you are all enjoying the beauty of the changing leaves and bright pumpkins, the deliciousness of freshly picked apples, and all of the fun activities that fall brings to mid-Michigan!

Our fall professional development conference provided us with an excellent opportunity to learn about pertinent topics and to network with our colleagues. Thank you to all of our great presenters and participants! We look forward to seeing you at our spring conference.

October provides us with two great opportunities for continuing professional education with our luncheon speaker sharing tips for public speaking and our audio conference focusing on the grants management reform occurring related to federal grants. There are more details on both programs contained in this month's newsletter. I hope to see you at all of our events this month!

Take care,

Amy Zimmerman

October's Quote: Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.
Mahatma Gandhi



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

1995

The last time the federal government shutdown.

SOURCE: GOVERNING | NATION | October 1, 2013





**WEB CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 23, 2013
2:00PM to 3:50pm**
Grand Tower, Room 1A
235 S. Grand Avenue
Lansing, Michigan

GRANTS MANAGEMENT REFORM UPDATES AND AGENCY INSIGHTS – WHAT TO EXPECT IN FY 2014

The Federal government issues over \$600 billion in grants each year to states, localities, tribes, universities, and non-profits. In February, the OMB published its long-awaited proposed guidance on grant reforms “Reform of Federal Policies Relating to Grants and Cooperative Agreements; Cost Principles and Administrative Requirements.” The public comment period closed on June 2. What’s next? Join AGA and industry leaders for a conversational session on:

- Grant reform and modernization
- OMB’s preliminary reaction to public comments on reform updates
- Council on Financial Assistance Reform (COFAR) priorities for 2014-2015
- Agency experiences with improving the administration, compliance, monitoring, performance of grant programs, and overcoming human capital challenges
- Partnership collaboration, pilots, and cooperative audit resolution

Speakers

Norman Dong, Interim Controller, Office of Management and Budget

Rich Rasa, Director, State and Local Advisory and Assistance Services, Department of Education, Office of Inspector General

Merril Oliver, CGMS, Deputy Director, State of Maryland Governor’s Grants Office

Dale Bell, Deputy Division Director, National Science Foundation, Division of Institution and Award Support

Gloria Jarmon, CPA, CGFM, Deputy Inspector General for Audit Services, Department of Health and Human Services

Leslie Leager, Division Coordinator, State of Iowa Economic Development Authority

REGISTRATION

Register on-line at www.aga-lansing.org.
Click on events.
Register before Tuesday, April 16, 2013

COST

AGA members - FREE
non-members - \$20

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



**MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY
OCTOBER 28, 2013
11:45**

Capitol View Building
201 Townsend Street,
Lansing, Michigan

UNLEASH YOUR MESSAGE: THE ART OF POWERFUL PUBLIC SPEAKING

Do you dread speaking in front of a crowd? Does putting together a presentation seem like a punishment rather than an opportunity? Are you looking for ways to become a more complete presenter? *Unleash Your Message* will cover the basic tips, tricks, and drills that can elevate your public speaking skills. Learn how to make your message come to life and stick in the audience’s mind in a light hearted format.

You will learn:

- How to find your core message and construct your speech around it
- Effective ways to begin and end any presentation
- 3 key strategies to make your presentations memorable

REGISTRATION

Register on-line at www.aga-lansing.org.
Click on events.
Register before Friday, October 25.

COST

\$12 AGA members
\$16 non-members

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

About the Speaker

Paul Artale is a professional keynote speaker, trainer, and facilitator.



A veteran of the education sector, Paul is no stranger to having a lack of resources (human, financial, and technological). Despite these shortcomings Paul has been able to maximize his organizational effectiveness and output.

Overcoming adversity is something that Paul knows well as he has overcome physical disability in his life. Paul’s attitude comes from his background as a former college football coach and player and is instrumental in the “you can do it” attitude.

AGA's 2013-2014 NATIONAL PRESIDENT

**Mary Peterman,
CGFM, CPA**



WOOT! The AGA program year is off and running! The start of the year is always exciting. Chapter, regional, and national leaders are inspired and motivated. Training and events are scheduled, and shaping the delivery to and engagement of our growing 15,000 member population across the country is our greatest focus.

Being public accountability professionals today isn't easy – take the “normal” pressures of year end, audits and then add sequestration, reduced budgets, increasing complexity and public scrutiny – and what do you get . . . even MORE reasons to be AGA members to access top quality education, training, certification, and most importantly – CONNECTING with each other for collective thought leadership and best practices.

For example, AGA just concluded our National Internal Control and Fraud training event with over 550 people in attendance, a fantastic agenda of insightful speakers, and practical tools and techniques our attendees captured to immediately implement, strengthening controls, and preventing and detecting fraud. With great sponsor support, and a very affordable cost per CPE, AGA training like this continues to develop relevant information and networking, and, to quote our keynote speaker Janine Driver, to help “bad people doing from doing bad things to good people!”

I also want to draw your attention to some tangible things happening in AGA to increase and quantify your member-value proposition. Now, and over the coming months, you will notice some significant changes to our AGA website – with all of our very valuable thought leadership research, tool and resources becoming a “member-only” benefit. Our virtual strategy has been further realized with a web-based training enhancement to our audio conferences, and some “free to members only” web based training. We've already tripled your AGA member dues investment – and I encourage you to stay connected, as even more valuable offerings are in the works.

AGA is the collective strength of us – YOU ARE AGA. You have the ability to make a difference in the future of our accountability profession. I challenge you to be active and connect in new ways this year within AGA, and define your future leadership path both within your professional positions and within AGA leadership. What is next for you? Are you a chapter leader, regional leader, interested in becoming a national leader? National nominations are open right now and due by October 31. Go to the AGA website, read the position descriptions and qualifications, and let's nominate our future leaders now.

Finally, look around the room at your office and at AGA meetings. The single biggest demographic shift in the world is happening right here, right now. As you will note from my picture this month, I have a “milestone birthday” coming up in October. And with this age, I have developed the wisdom of observation. Every day, great institutional knowledge is leaving our public-sector organizations, technology continues to inject even more change in how we work, and younger generations communicating, networking and working in new and innovative ways. Is your organization identifying and growing those “NexGen” leaders? The sustainability and success of our governments and your professional organization depends on it!

So my final challenge to you this month is to identify the public sector leaders of the future, whether it is you or the “up and comers” in your organization. How can you and AGA help them be successful – to be prepared, to be effective and to be stars? Let's get these professionals to AGA membership and meetings, to chapter, regional and national leadership opportunities. Pay attention to their needs, how they communicate – learn from them and how AGA is relevant to their professional success. Your government, your organizations, and our accountability profession will prosper as a result!

And, then, tell me more about how AGA can support your efforts. Email me at mpeterman@mediacombb.net.

See you next month ...



New for National AGA Audio Conferences

Beginning this month, most audio training events will now feature a live, web-based visual component to accompany the audio. This exciting update allows participants to have a more interactive training experience.

What's Changing: We are adding a live view of presentations using webinar technology. You will see presentations in real-time, making them easier to follow and more engaging. The software will also make asking questions easier.

What is Not Changing: The new web conferences will still be group events, offered to your chapter at one price with unlimited attendance. Attendance will still be recorded via a sign-in sheet monitored by your site coordinator. Events will continue to offer 2 hours of CPE credit.

Michigan and Illinois Get Two Medicaid Systems for the Price of One

POSTED BY BRIAN HEATON | SEPTEMBER 17, 2013



Brian Heaton writes for a variety of e.Republic publications, including Government Technology, Governing, Emergency Management, and Public CIO.

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Leaders of Michigan and Illinois are applying the life lesson of sharing to technology, partnering so both states can share and benefit from Michigan's Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS).

Instead of purchasing its own new system, Illinois will access Michigan's MMIS, which retrieves Medicaid information and processes claims, as a cloud-based shared service. The partnership should help both states save millions of dollars in implementation and maintenance costs and is the first of its kind in the United States, according to state officials.

Under federal law, every state must operate technology to support backend administrative functions of their Medicaid programs. Around the country, states are racing to modernize their legacy systems as they prepare for the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. The feds are offering to fund 90 percent of MMIS upgrades and, according to a survey by the National Association of State Chief Information Officers, 78 percent of state CIOs said they expect to modernize their MMIS by 2014.

According to Michigan and Illinois, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) says the technology sharing approach meets federal standards and regulations.

Illinois had been looking to modernize its 1970s-era Medicaid system for quite some time. Throughout 2012 and into 2013, the two states identified their commonalities and differences with processing Medicaid information. There were no "show stoppers" noted, and any changes to Michigan's system were deemed to be configuration adjustments rather than major code changes. That cleared the way technologically for the two states to use the same MMIS.

"The fact [that] we can minimize our risk over a traditional stand-up of a customized system and leverage Michigan ... was an easy sell to the internal folks," said Stephen DePooter, CIO for the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

Illinois CIO Sean Vinck said he and DePooter engaged their state's procurement office early in the process to make sure the partnership with Michigan wasn't seen as an attempt to circumvent competitive bidding, but a rational way to address the state's needs. The states' procurement code allows an exception to competitive bidding for intergovernmental agreements.

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and Michigan Department of Community Health executed a preliminary intergovernmental agreement (IGA) in Dec. 2012 to determine whether MMIS-as-a-service model would work. Further amendments to that initial agreement have been made to continue the process. Another IGA is under discussion to cover the next phases of the project.

If the union doesn't work out, Illinois can separate itself from the contract and pursue alternative options without

penalty. And should that need arise, DePooter felt that accessing Michigan's MMIS via cloud-based technology would enable Illinois to disconnect from Michigan fairly smoothly, given the complexity of the system.

By having its data and procedures modernized as a result of the partnership, Illinois would have little problem if it had to implement its own system, or partner with another state, according to DePooter.

Vinck agreed. The change management process Illinois has to go through to jump onto Michigan's MMIS will make Illinois more agile if something occurred that required severing ties with Michigan. "The state is not prejudicing itself by entering into this partnership on the backend," he said. "We materially improve our position even if at some point in the future, the state of Illinois needs to find an alternative method of getting an MMIS-like service."



Responsibilities & Benefits

According to Michigan CIO David Behen, Michigan will maintain full technical and operational responsibility of running the MMIS application. Michigan will provide application, infrastructure and operational support as a service to Illinois.

Michigan has approximately 30 percent excess capacity in its MMIS, so Behen doesn't expect any performance impact by hosting Illinois. The state will also will work with Illinois to build a Web portal for Illinois users to access the MMIS, including establishing additional security measures to prevent any cross-state data access.

DePooter explained that while the core system will continue to operate in Michigan, the technology will access the data of all Illinois agencies and departments that are involved with Medicaid claims. A majority of that Medicaid data is housed in the state's enterprise data warehouse, which Illinois will continue to support.

The state's technical staff will shift their priorities from focusing on maintaining a backend system to front-end data analysis and system support for agencies.

DePooter added that the change will allow Illinois to use its resources more wisely and efficiently which should result in better service toward state agencies.

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Perspectives: Continue to Build Your Professional Network During Challenging Times



**Denise Wu, CGFM, CPA
Partner
CliftonLarsenAllen LLP**

With the impending shrinking of agencies' budgets, we are expecting to see continuing unpaid furloughs, hiring freezes, and limited job openings. In this challenging climate, what can you do to get the career growth you want? Merely having an impressive list of experiences and accomplishments may not be enough to help you climb the career ladder.

It is critical to take the initiative to build a professional network that goes beyond simply exchanging business cards. Instead, seek out relationships that provide new opportunities, insight, and support. The word "networking" can sound daunting, but it doesn't have to be --if you approach it in a way that is consistent with whom you are. Here are some ideas.

Network with Other Professionals

It pays to take the time out of your busy schedule to attend events that are of interest to you. They provide great opportunities to learn about the emerging issues in our work environment and make professional connections.

Focus on Relationship Building

Don't network with the intent to push your own agenda. Focus on building connections that make you feel most comfortable and allow people to talk about themselves. Being fully present and aware of what they are sharing will make a big difference in the quality of your conversation. Once you make those connections and are comfortable, it becomes easier to talk business, job prospects, and career opportunities. Ask them for their insight, ideas, and feedback on things you are tackling. And ask how you can help them, too! This will begin a process for building professional relationships.

Give Positive Energy and Build a Supportive Network

Start with an appreciation for your new contacts and learn their accomplishments. Ask lots of questions about them and share ideas. This is a great way to polish your thinking and communication. This will also help broaden your perspectives as well as developing new approaches to deal with your agency issues. Try to foster a relationship that is supportive and mutually respectful.

Two Medicaid Systems for the Price of One

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Both Illinois and Michigan should also see significant cost savings as a result of the partnership. By not having to pay the 90 percent cost for two separate systems, Uncle Sam makes out on the deal as well. An early savings estimate has reduced a conservative estimate of \$190 million to purchase a stand-alone system to \$85 million.

That means Illinois will save roughly \$10 million by sharing Michigan's MMIS, while the federal government will save approximately \$76 million. Michigan should also see an estimated 20 percent reduction in operation and maintenance costs, which translates to a savings of \$10 million over five years. Illinois and the federal government also estimate saving \$57 million and \$196 million, respectively, for operational costs over a five-year period versus Illinois purchasing its own stand-alone MMIS.

By using Michigan's MMIS, Illinois will not have to go through formal federal certification for the system. Since Michigan's is already certified, the nine-month process should be cut significantly, improving implementation time.

First Steps

Nick Lyon, chief deputy director of the Michigan Department of Community Health, said enrollment on the shared MMIS will begin in March 2014 and the system will be fully operational at the end of 2015. Behen added that Michigan has multiple project deployment phases planned to accommodate Illinois' impact on the system, with some initial technical work being started this October.



To accommodate Illinois, Michigan is adding an Electronic Health Records Medicaid Incentive Payments program and a Provider Enrollment program. Both will be deployed on Michigan's existing MMIS platform, according to Behen.

A third phase, called Service Implementation Assessment, which is required to provide functional, architectural and technological analysis of the future cloud solution, will be handled by the contractor. Once the assessment is complete, the states will discuss hardware, software and other technical components needed to implement MMIS on a cloud.

"This is really something I think will be seen as groundbreaking for these big systems," Lyon said. "I hope this is sort of a trend where you see states coming together to save the federal government a lot of money and I think that works for the benefit of all."



MEMBER NEWS

Welcome New Members

Christine Berns, DCH
 Meridee Mulrooney, Public Service Comm.
 Suzi Kyes, DHS
 Cecilia Anderson, DTMB
 Ann Dennis, LARA

Welcome Back

Tammie Anderson, HHS OIA OAS

Member Anniversaries June through October

Carol Carlson, CGFM-Retired	34 years
Jane Wallin	34 years
Elden Lamb, CGFM	27 years
Valerie Wales-Beatty, CGFM	27 years
Cal Kladder, CGFM Retired	25 years
Tom McTavish, CGFM	25 years
Pratin Trivedi	24 years
Joseph Asghodom, CGFM	21 years
Cindy Osga, CGFM	21 years
Laura Hirst	20 years
Steven Kirinovic	20 years
Eleanor Ebright, CGFM	19 years
Susan Convery, CGFM	18 years
Eric Formberg, CGFM	18 years
Tom Colosimo, CGFM	17 years
Russ Hecko, CGFM-Retired	17 years
Jean Ramsey, CGFM	17 years
Chris Bayley	17 years
Marcellette Reynolds, CGFM	17 years
Robert Simon	14 years
Kathryn Benson	13 years
Susan Saari	13 years
Doreen Brown, CGFM-Retired	12 years
Craig Murray	11 years
Nicholas Bohac	11 years
Brenda Vincent	11 years
Brian Curran	9 years
Julie Greenway	8 years
Peggy Murphy	8 years
Julie Salman	7 years
Christine Pike	4 years
Susan Sims	3 years
Janelle Thelen	3 years
Karine Akopov	3 years
Zada Schrinier	3 years



CHAPTER FINANCES

Balance Sheet at August 31, 2013

Assets	
Current Assets:	
Checking Account	\$ 4,552
Accounts Receivable	\$ -0-
Total Assets	<u>\$ 4,552</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Unrestricted Begin Fund Balance	\$ 4,005
Income (Loss)	\$ 547
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 4,552</u>



CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 11, 2013

CEC Members Present: Chris Bayley, Linda deBourbon, Heather Hammond, Dan Jaroche, Wanda Jones, Charlotte Roper, Susan Saari, Corey Sparks, Karen Stout, Dan Wawiernia, Amy Zimmerman

CEC Members Not Present: Deb Christopherson, Kenji Griffith, Cindy Osga, Anshu Varma

Call to Order and Acceptance of Agenda: Amy called the meeting to order at 12:00pm. A motion to accept the agenda was seconded and approved.

Minutes: Corey reported the minutes from the August CEC minutes were approved by email on August 19, 2013.

Budget and Financials: Dan W. distributed the August 2013 financial statements. Dan W. received two sponsorship checks from PCG and Maximus. A motion to increase the sponsorship budget to \$1,200 was seconded and approved. A motion to approve the August 2013 financial statements and disbursements of \$812.95 was seconded and approved.

President's Update: Nothing to report.

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HALLOWEEN TRIVIA

Orange and black are Halloween colors because orange is associated with the fall harvest and black is considered with darkness and death.

Jack o'Lanterns originated in Ireland where people placed candles in hollowed out turnips to keep away spirits and ghosts on the Samhain holiday.

Halloween was brought to North America by immigrants from Europe who would celebrate the harvest around a bonfire, share ghost stories, sing and dance, and tell fortunes.

If you see a spider on Halloween, it is the spirit of a loved one watching over you.

Halloween is on October 31st, the last day of the Celtic calendar. It was originally a pagan holiday, honoring the dead. Halloween was once referenced as All Hallows Eve and dates back to over 2,000 years ago.

According to superstition, if you stare into a mirror at midnight you will see your future spouse.

According to legend, a unibrow, tattoos, hairy palms, and a long middle finger are all signs of a werewolf.

Chapter Executive Committee Minutes continued from page 6

Membership: Dan J. reported the chapter has 112 members including 7 new members. Dan contacted the suspended members to see why they had not renewed their memberships. One had renewed, one retired, one has joined different organizations, and one company is no longer in Michigan. Dan J. will send letters to the new members welcoming them to the chapter.

Education: Anshu reported everything is set for the September PDC. Heather will send out a reminder email. Thirty-one people have registered. Grand Traverse Pie Company will provide the refreshments at the break. The PDC community service event will be a book drive for the Capital District Library.

Program Luncheons: Karen reported the first luncheon is October 28, 2013. The topic is Unleash Your Message, The Art of Powerful Public Speaking by Paul Artale.

CGFM and CPE Events: Susan passed out the list of audio conferences. The chapter will sponsor six audio conferences.

Community Service: Nothing to report.

Communications/CCR: Cindy will complete the newsletter around the first of October. Please send her any news items no later than the last week of September. The CCR has not been completed and is waiting for the new template from National.

Website: Linda, Anshu, Chris, and Corey had a conference call to discuss the website replacement plan. Corey drafted a requirements document. Linda will contact YourMembership to see if the chapter can pay for month of hosting services. A payment is due October 1. The chapter would like to avoid a quarterly payment as we believe the new website can be up by the end of October.

Awards: Wanda urged everyone to check out the National awards on the National website to see if we have someone to nominate for a national award.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 1pm.

Next Meeting: October 9. Susan, Karen, and Kenji will host at the Fifth Third Bank Building on Lake Lansing Road.



CHAPTER EDUCATIONAL EVENTS



The chapter's educational events are still being planned. Monthly chapter meetings have been scheduled for:

- Monday, October 28, 2013
- Monday, November 18, 2013
- Wednesday, January 22, 2014
- Wednesday, February, 19, 2014
- Tuesday, April 22, 2014
- Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Webinar/Audio Conferences will be scheduled soon.

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

You may pay by credit card when you register on-line.

Check the chapter website and newsletter for updated educational opportunities.

Chapter Executive Committee

2013-2014

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