



Message from the Chapter President



Table of Contents

- 1 President's Letter
- 2 November Webinars
- 2 November Luncheon Meeting
- 3 November Webinar
- 3 Veteran's Day
- 4 From the AGA National President
- 5 Future of GASB
- 6 AGA's CCR Goes to College
- 7 Member News
- 7 Chapter Financial Report
- 7 Chapter Executive Committee Minutes
- 8 Chapter Calendar of Events
- 9 Other Educational Opportunities
- 9 The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald
- 10 Chapter Executive Committee

Greetings,
November provides us with several excellent opportunities to earn CPE and to network with our colleagues at three audio/web conferences and a luncheon. Please check out the details inside the newsletter or on our website!

November also provides us with the opportunity to reflect on all of the things for which we are thankful and to express that gratitude to those that enhance our lives. Whoever those folks are in your world ... maybe family members, friends, co-workers, medical professionals, day care providers, or veterans that proudly served our county... I encourage you to take a moment to say those simple two words that mean so much, thank you. I extend my thanks to all of you for supporting AGA and I look forward to seeing you at our November events!!

Take care,

Amy Zimmerman

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



November's Quote:

"We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures."

Thornton Wilder,
American playwright and novelist

Eye Opener



\$100

Total annual compensation provided to every member of the New Hampshire State Legislature.

SOURCE: GOVERNING | October 10, 2013





**WEB CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY**
November 6, 2013
2:00PM to 3:50pm
Ottawa Building
Conference Room 3
Lansing, Michigan

DATA ANALYTICS

The Participants in the 2012 World Economic Forum in Switzerland declared data a new class of economic asset and likened it to a nation's currency. Today, we have a big opportunity to marshal vast amounts of data – 'big data' – into actionable information through ever more sophisticated and powerful data analytic tools – 'big analytics.'

Learn how government agencies are cutting through complexity and using information as a powerful asset, both operationally – day-to-day – and strategically. The panel will explore how big data and big analytics are being used to wage the fight against improper payments, gauge mission readiness, de-layer processes and controls, reduce time spent processing benefit claims, target spending reductions and revenue collection, and support enterprise risk management.

REGISTRATION

Register on-line at www.agalansing.org.
Click on events.
Register before Tuesday, November 5

COST

AGA members - FREE
non-members - \$20

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



**MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY**
November 18, 2013
11:45
Capitol View Building
201 Townsend Street,
Lansing, Michigan

STUDENT EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

Internships made easy. Recruiting for a return on investment.

REGISTRATION

Register on-line at www.agalansing.org.
Click on events.
Register before Friday, November 15

COST

\$12 AGA members
\$16 non-members

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

About the Speaker

Senior Internship and Career Consultant for the State of Michigan's Civil Service Commission engaging colleges, universities, individuals and all state departments leading the State of Michigan Internship Program initiative. Jodie is a key connector with training in intercultural competencies delivering a *wholistic* approach to individuals and departments in career coaching and internship development.



Jodie L. Ledford,
M.Ed., B.S. HR

Jodie holds a Masters with high honors in Education including an emphasis on Curriculum Design and Technology along with an honorable Bachelors of Science in Human Resource Management. Ms. Ledford is grateful to be an innovative part of Michigan's strategic plan in connecting, communicating, collaborating, and creating talent in Michigan.



**WEB
CONFERENCE
TUESDAY**
**November 19,
2013**
2:00PM to 3:00pm
1hour CPE

FREE to AGA members

PREVENT, DETECT, AND MITIGATE FRAUD

This members only webinar is designed for anyone who wants to prevent, detect, or mitigate fraud. It will focus on three free hands on ToolKits issued by AGA's Intergovernmental Partnership. The toolkits can be used by officials at any level of government and by a broad cross-section of disciplines including accountants, auditors, management, IT staff, etc.

To register, visit:
<http://www.agacgfm.org/Events---CPE/Calendar/AGA-National-Events/111313toolkits.aspx>



**WEB CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 13, 2013
2:00PM to 3:50pm**
Grand Tower, Room 1D
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.agalansing.org.
Click on events.

Register before Tuesday, November 12

COST

AGA members - FREE
non-members - \$20

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

VETERAN'S DAY

NOVEMBER 11



Veteran's Day originated as Armistice Day on November 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I.



Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance.



November 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938.



Veteran's Day pays tribute to all American service members, living or dead, but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

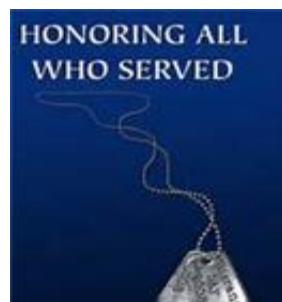
Memorial Day honors those who died in service to their country.



In 1954, President Eisenhower officially changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veteran's Day.



In Europe, Britain, and the Commonwealth countries it is common to observe two minutes of silence at 11 a.m. every November 11.



There are approximately 23.2 million military veteran's in the United States.



AGA's 2013-2014 NATIONAL PRESIDENT

**Mary Peterman,
CGFM, CPA**



So ... as I shared in September, I had a "milestone birthday" on October 8 (I know I look 40 and act like I am 20, right?). What makes this rather interesting is on my birthday, I found myself on a plane to Columbus, Ohio to speak at the Central Ohio's 29th Annual Regional PDC. What makes that interesting, you ask? Well 50 years ago on October 8, 1963 – I was born in Toledo, Ohio ... so I returned to the scene of the crime (almost, and yes I still say "pop" sometimes). Not only did these wonderful Ohio folks put on an awesome and affordable two-day training event for over 200 attendees (great speakers on the schedule), they spoiled me with a new Ohio State cowboy hat and Ohio State UNC blue colors. I wanted to share a couple of photos from my trip – the first is the view out of the windows in "the Boathouse" where the conference was held, and the second ... well, I guess I never realized the importance of bacon in Ohio - based on the amount of dedicated shelf space at the airport!



Speaking of "bacon," the government shutdown is certainly making for some interesting political ping pong, but also, adversely impacting our chapters, our members, our citizens. This trip to Columbus was to have also included an afternoon presentation at a Columbus Chapter (federal) training event, and I was disappointed to learn late last

week they had to cancel their event due to the shutdown. I am hearing stories of this in other chapters as well, events canceled, speakers that cannot travel, etc.

I had the opportunity to meet last week with some House staffers on financial management best practices (a meeting that was scheduled prior to the shutdown). I started the meeting by sharing with them that I had about four high-level areas that I wished to discuss related to these best practices, but that I had added a fifth just before our meeting. I told them this

item REALLY WAS the highest priority from an accountability perspective and when they asked what it was (as they poised in suspense, ready to take copious notes) – I stated, "keeping the federal government open would be my number one financial management best practice." One of the staffers laughed, hesitated for a minute and said something like, "I guess that would go without saying, but I am going to write that down anyway."

Without taking any political sides in this, I hope all of our very smart, connected and thoughtful AGA members are making their feelings known about this to their respective political representatives. I know our federal AGA members not working would much rather be working, and our valued corporate partners are also operating in a time of even more uncertainty. As a person of faith, I will hand this up to the One who has control and as your National President, I encourage you to keep those affected in your thoughts, seek each other out for therapy, and take time away from the insanity with friends, family and love in your lives – cause that's the real important stuff anyway!

Before I go – some stuff going on at AGA National worth of a shout-out:

- AGA's mentoring site has launched! Log in to the website and look under "Careers," and sign up to be a mentor and/or mentoree! Let's help each other be even more dynamic thought leaders!
- We are offering more free to Members Only CPEs! Sign up for the free webcast in November.
- ALL 3 CGFM study guides are available online now!
- The CFO Survey has been released and it is very comprehensive and thought provoking. You can find it on the Thought Leadership Library section of the website.

I hope when we visit again in November, all of this craziness will be behind us ...

P.S. – Bet you thought I forgot – did you meet my challenge from September?



ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY, AND THE UNCERTAIN FUTURE OF GASB

Source: governing.com

<http://www.governing.com/gov-institute/funkhouser/col-accountability-transparency-uncertain-future-gasb-governmental-accounting-standards-board.html>

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



Since its creation nearly three decades ago, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has been embroiled in controversy as it has sought to increase accountability and transparency in state and local government financial reporting. Some of these fights reached a level of vitriol that would astonish those who imagine auditors and accountants to be introverted, passionless bean-counters. But how you count the money matters, and accountants know that.

There is at the moment a proposal to limit the scope of GASB. The proposal's timing suggests a connection to recent federal legislation stabilizing the board's funding in that some of the trustees of the Financial Accounting Foundation, the independent body that oversees accounting standards-setting boards, may have agreed to rein in GASB in order to blunt opposition to the funding provision. But the long history of controversy surrounding GASB suggests that there is more at issue than its funding.

Back in 1999, for example, GASB issued a new standard that required governments for the first time to provide the more comprehensive accrual-basis financial statements and include the cost of capital for their governmental activities in them. While it may seem obvious that a government's financial statements should recognize its cost of capital, there was a bitter 15-year struggle before the standard was issued.

A GASB proposal to develop standards requiring governments to report on service efforts and accomplishments didn't fare as well. It was ultimately repelled by those who asserted that it was not accounting information and would be impossible to produce and audit. And the recent GASB standard on pensions, which finally requires pension liabilities to be reflected on government balance sheets, was the result of a long fight.

That brings us to the current debate, which may have been the tipping point for those who see GASB as overstepping its bounds. Robert Atmore, who retired as GASB chairman in June, thought that it was important that people be able to judge whether a government's fiscal condition appeared to be financially sustainable. A little over a year ago, under his leadership the board put forward a preliminary document exploring the question of whether guidance or guidelines should be provided for additional information along those lines, including five-year financial projections.

You might think that requiring governments to provide more information on their financial condition and fiscal sustainability would be a no-brainer, but you'd be wrong. The proposal was met with apoplexy by some of the most

important players in the government finance arena, including the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), the National Governors Association and the National Association of State Budget Officers, and it may be what results, finally, in the gutting of GASB's influence.

This February, the Financial Accounting Foundation (FAF) issued a proposal to "help clarify the boundaries for the GASB's authority to issue concepts, standards, and guidance. . ." Clarification might sound like a good thing, but the proposal would allow the FAF to expressly forbid GASB from including certain contested areas within its standard-setting activity. Former GASB member Dick Tracy calls this move "an existential threat" to the board, and all but one of GASB's living former board members have signed a letter opposing the move. The other side of this argument is articulated by Jeffrey Esser, executive director of GFOA. Esser calls the FAF proposal "the most positive thing," saying that the problems governments have with GASB center on "when it's gone beyond traditional financial accounting and reporting."

It's certainly true that GASB has ventured into areas that some might not have anticipated when it was created in 1984. According to an independent academic study commissioned by the FAF, GASB has spent much of its first three decades as a "proactive innovator" working not only to improve traditional audited financial reports but also seeking to enhance financial management, transparency and accountability. The FAF proposal would effectively end that aspect of GASB's work, and I think that could be a huge mistake. It would make GASB's work less relevant precisely at a time when huge state and local government financial challenges make what GASB is trying to do more important than ever.

Financial accounting and reporting have a major influence on public policy, so the stakes are high -- too high to be left to the accountants. Our long years of refusing to acknowledge the cost of capital contributed to the infrastructure deficit that plagues most of our state and local governments today, and refusing to acknowledge that pensions are a debt that should be reflected in the basic financial statements has led to huge unfunded liabilities for some governments.

Those inside and outside of government have it in their power -- albeit with disagreement, debate and dialogue -- to influence elected and appointed public officials to make government more transparent, responsive and accountable. If GASB cannot be the instrument by which citizens can make their governments more fiscally responsible, then they will find some other instrument.

Perspectives: AGA's Citizen Centric Report Goes to College

The Executive Director and staff of AGA had a vision to become a pillar in government thought leadership. They planted a seed and watched it grow. This would be the Citizen Centric Report—a 4-page plain-speak document to be prepared by governing bodies for the attendant constituencies. Because the document was so revolutionary in terms of how to get the right information to the constituency in easy to understand language, it spawned more thought on how to effect and attract emerging leaders in government. What comes next is an amazing initiative to embrace academia into the CCR concept.

They developed the Collegiate Case Challenge and pioneered it several years ago. They solicited participation from undergraduate Universities and later added the same challenge for Graduate programs. University teams of 3 would learn the principles of the CCR and prepare one for submission to AGA for review. AGA has content and design guidelines on their website for the Universities to use. The top 2 and sometimes 3 teams would be selected based on the results of judging from highly trained AGA members. All competitors develop their CCR from the same core data (financials, programs, population served etc.) given to them at the beginning of the competition. The core data used in early competitions were hypothetical developed by AGA. The competition has now graduated to using actual data from governments. Last year, the core data came from Loudon County Board of Education, Virginia. These teams would then be judged on their reports by a panel of AGA reviewers to winnow the competition to three finalists. Judging criteria includes: Information about the Community, Performance report on key missions and service, the costs for servicing the citizens and how are these costs paid for, and future challenges the government and constituency must face.

Once the finalists are selected they are given a free trip to Washington, D.C. to present their reports to 3-4 judges



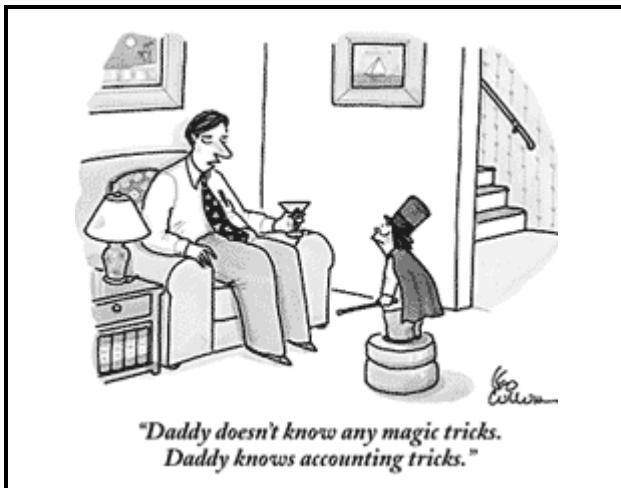
William D. Miller, CGFM, CIA

AGA National President Elect

selected by AGA. These judges are familiar with the CCR concept, format and desired content. The winning team receives a \$100 gift card and the props to say they were number one. Past award recipients are: 2010-University of North Carolina at Pembroke, 2011-Ohio Dominican University, 2012-University of Guam, 2013-University of Guam. The interesting part of the competition is the ingenuity and passion the participants put into their presentations. They divide up the standard 4 page report among the team and formally present it to the judges. The competition is stiff but all participants relished their roles in participating.

As a judge at two competitions, I have been so impressed with the worth of the effort. What we have created is a way to introduce college students to the government—no matter what level. The experience promises to challenge students' moral reasoning, raise their awareness of the importance of accountability and open doors to a career in government. The more competitors we can get the better because government programs are always under scrutiny but direly needed.

As I look down the road and see the changes in technology and focus impacting government programs we are going to need to attract the best and brightest. I am a firm believer that the CCR Collegiate Case Challenge provides the vehicle for energizing up and coming leaders to join the government. The government's bottom line is service at the best cost and at the right time. It is a gratifying profession no matter what division or level of government one chooses to work in because every day the government worker is making a difference in someone's life. It can't get any better than that. So, I believe the CCR challenge is a great segway for a student who wishes to get a feel for the nuts and bolts of a government entity. So, as Rod Stewart said in a song some time ago, the train's a' coming, so let's get on board.



"Daddy doesn't know any magic tricks.
Daddy knows accounting tricks."



"It's not my fault. If a decimal point is so important,
they should make it BIGGER!"



MEMBER NEWS

Welcome New Members

Marna Wilson, MEDC

Member Anniversaries

Valerie Wales-Beatty, CGFM	27 years
Robert Simon	14 years
Brenda Vincent	11 years
Kelly Manning	9 years



CHAPTER FINANCES

Balance Sheet at September 30, 2013

Assets

Current Assets:

Checking Account	\$ 4,580
Accounts Receivable	\$ -0-
Total Assets	<u>\$ 4,580</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

Unrestricted Begin Fund Balance	\$ 4,552
Income (Loss)	\$ 28
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 4,580</u>



CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 9, 2013

CEC Members Present: Chris Bayley, Linda deBourbon, Kenji Griffith, Wanda Jones, Cindy Osga, Charlotte Roper, Susan Saari, Corey Sparks, Karen Stout, Amy Zimmerman

CEC Members Not Present: Deb Christopherson, Heather Hammond, Dan Jaroche, Anshu Varma, Dan Wawiernia

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 September CEC minutes were approved by email on September 16, 2013.

Budget and Financials: September 2013 financial statements were distributed via email. A motion to approve the September 2013 financial statements and September disbursements of \$1,610.93 was seconded and approved. Amy distributed an updated budget to actual schedule.

President's Update: Amy has a regional conference call later this month. Louise Burnett from the national office has been appointed as the national liaison for the chapter.

Chapter Recognition Program: Chris submitted the first quarter report. A total of 8,456 credits were reported. This is 43 percent of the chapter's goal.

Membership: The chapter currently has 112 members. Three new members joined since the last report.

Education: Fifty-two people attended the fall PDC. Amy reported there were several positive comments about the PDC. Sixty-three books were donated to the Capital District Library that were collected at the fall PDC.

Program Luncheons: Karen reported there are 14 people registered for the October 28 luncheon. The speaker will put together a promotional video for the luncheon. We are still looking for speakers and topics for April and May.

CGFM and CPE Events: The October 23 audio conference is on the calendar and available for registration. Susan will send an email about the audio conference. Starting this year the audio conferences are also webcasts. Chris will bring his laptop to the event on October 23 so we can take advantage of the webcast.

Community Service: Charlotte met with Amy and Chris to discuss some community service ideas. Charlotte looked at the VITA website. To participate you must pass an online test, print off a certificate and take it to a VITA site. Charlotte will do a VITA presentation at the October or November luncheon.

Communications/CCR: Cindy completed the chapter's Citizen Centric Report (CCR). She is still working on the October newsletter.

continued on page 10

CHAPTER EDUCATIONAL EVENTS



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

September 24, 2013 Professional Development Conference

Government Accountability
Library of Michigan
4 hours CPE

October 28, 2013 Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Effective Speaking
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE

November 6, 2013 Webinar Conference

Data Analytics
Ottawa Building, Conference Room 3
2 hours CPE

November 13, 2013 Webinar Conference

Grants Management Reform Update
Grand Tower
2 hours CPE

November 18, 2013

Monthly Luncheon Meeting
Student Externship Program Opportunities
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE

December 11, 2013

Webinar Conference
Ethics – Taking the High Road
Constitution Hall, Brake Room
2 hours CPE

January 22, 2014

Monthly Luncheon Meeting
To Be Determined
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE

January 29, 2014

Webinar Conference
Tackling Improper Payments
Ottawa Building, Conference Room 3
2 hours CPE

February 19, 2014 Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Budget Update - Tentative
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE

March 26, 2014 Professional Development Conference

Government Accountability
LCC West Campus
8 hours CPE

April 9, 2014

Webinar Conference
Fraud Detection and Prevention
Constitution Hall, ConCon A
2 hours CPE

April 22, 2014 Monthly Luncheon Meeting

To Be Determined
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE

May 20, 2014

Monthly Luncheon Meeting
To Be Determined
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE

May 21, 2014

Webinar Conference
Ethics
Constitution Hall, ConCon A
2 hours CPE

OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



West Michigan AGA

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

November 7, 2013

AGA/GFOA Double Feature
Technology Workshop
Excel Pivot Tables
GAAP Update
GFOA 18th Annual Government GAAP Update
Rehmann Group Office, Grand Rapids, Michigan
8 hours CPE

West Michigan IIA and Lansing ACFE

November 5-6, 2013

To register for events, visit
www.lansingacfe.com

Professional Development
Davenport University, Grand Rapids, Michigan
16 hours CPE

National AGA

To register for events, visit
www.agacgfm.org



February 11-12, 2014

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 7, 2013

Chapter Meeting
Grand Rapids, Michigan

February 6, 2014

Chapter Meeting
Kalamazoo, Michigan

The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald November 10, 1975



The legend of the Edmund Fitzgerald remains the most mysterious and controversial of all shipwreck tales heard around the Great Lakes. Her story is surpassed in books, film and media only by that of the Titanic. Canadian folksinger Gordon Lightfoot inspired popular interest in this vessel with his 1976 ballad, "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald."

The Edmund Fitzgerald was lost with her entire crew of 29 men on Lake Superior November 10, 1975, 17 miles north-northwest of Whitefish Point, Michigan. Whitefish Point is the site of the Whitefish Point Light Station and Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum. The Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society (GLSHS) has conducted three underwater expeditions to the wreck, 1989, 1994, and 1995.

At the request of family members surviving her crew, Fitzgerald's 200 lb. bronze bell was recovered by the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society on July 4, 1995.

This expedition was conducted jointly with the National Geographic Society, Canadian Navy, Sony Corporation, and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. The bell is now on display in the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum as a memorial to her lost crew.



Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum – Whitefish Point
18335 N. Whitefish Point Road
Paradise, Michigan 49768
888-4292-3747

Chapter Executive Committee Minutes continued from page 7

Website: Linda had conversations with yourmembership.com about paying the website hosting bill on a monthly basis. The chapter will pay October's website hosting bill. We are in the process of evaluating our website to move to a different ISP. Next step is to find a new website hosting site. Linda and Chris will check on some possible hosting options with a goal of having a new website in place by the end of October.

Awards Update: Wanda reported on the AGA national awards. November 8 is the deadline for awards presented at the NLC in February. March 28 is the deadline for awards presented at the PDC in July.

No old or new business.

Meeting adjourned at 12:49pm.

Next Meeting: November 13.
Deb/Cindy host at the Grand Tower.

Chapter Executive Committee

2013-2014

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