



SOUTHERN
WISCONSIN
CHAPTER



Monthly Footnotes

AUGUST 2010 VOLUME XI, ISSUE 1



AGA Southern Wisconsin Chapter Year in Review

Inside This Issue

1. Year in Review
2. President's Message
2. Chapter Board Meeting Minutes
3. May 11th Accounting and Financial Management Conference Summary/Photos
4. National News
6. CGFM Corner
7. Articles
11. Calendar of Events
12. Chapter Contacts



March meeting - CGFM Month

CGFMs in attendance pictured with Governor's Proclamation (L to R)
Mary Laufenberg, Joanne Schultz, David Mellem, Sherri Voigt, Al Vick
not pictured: Laurel Challoner

Walk MS Team, 5/2/10

We raised a total of \$620 from on-line and check donations, including \$50 from the chapter

Thank you for your support!





Bradley Livingston, Director, Dane County Regional Airport at Talula's, March 25, 2010



Passionately Pink for the Cure fundraiser at the October 22, 2009 lunch meeting (Babe's)

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Sherri Voigt, CGFM, CPA

It's just a short newsletter this month to highlight a few of the events from the last program year and share the upcoming calendar of events. (Please view page 11 to check the calendar!) **Lunch meetings start back up on September 23.**

The chapter board is still in "planning mode" for fall meetings. Please feel free to contact any board member with suggestions on topics and/or locations.

Sherri V. 🐾

Chapter Board Meeting Minutes 6/1/2010

Present: Sherri Voigt, Dolly O'Laughlin, Tom Scheidegger, Mary Laufenberg, Roger Birkett

Treasurer's Report \$21,024.89 at 5/31

Membership-94 members with 22 not yet renewed. Reminder e-mails were sent out.

CGFM – 4 people actively studying; 3 in a study group. With this many active the board voted to purchase a second set of review guides for the library.

Community Service -Doing a WI basket for NCSF; WI company gift cards in \$75-80 range (total).

CRP – Dolly submitted all info by 5/31. We made gold level.

Newsletter – Skip summer unless something big happens

Education – Symposium evaluations done; Dave's list of topic ideas

Other Items

Member survey – report ready
Web site fees - Scott researching other host sites

Board Meetings – continue 1st Tuesday of each month at Old Country Buffet

Lunch Meetings - publish in newsletter

Lunch Prices – based on comments in member surveys, look at lunch pricing for 2011 program year

**Need to vote on dates, etc. by e-mail since quorum not present*

2010 Southern Wisconsin Chapter Officers and Directors



Pictured (left to right): front: Tom Scheidegger, Mary Laufenberg, Sherri Voigt, Dolly O’Laughlin; back: Roger Birkett, David Mellem, Lily Radivojevich, Carrie Ferguson

MAY 11 ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE PHOTOS



National President Billy Morehead-
“Ethics 101” presentation



Sarah Gibson, Accent Business Communications, spoke on Effective Gender Communication in the Workplace



Chapter president Sherri Voigt presented a certificate of achievement to the UW-Platteville team, represented by Sharif Gias, Asst Professor of Finance, for placing 1st nation-wide in the Case Challenge in the very 1st year of completion



Lunch in the Great Hall

National News

From the National President Lisa Casias, CPA



I can't believe it's already been almost a month since I accepted the gavel from Immediate Past National President Billy Morehead, Ph.D., CGFM, CPA, in Orlando. If you attended the Professional Development Conference & Exposition, you heard me tell Billy that he'd left me with very big shoes to fill because he was such an enthusiastic and energetic National President. AGA owes him a debt of gratitude for the thousands of miles he logged to visit with chapters and members as well as the thousands of CPE hours he provided during his travels.

As I prepared for my year as National President, I spent a lot of time thinking about the many changes that are occurring in our country, in our profession and within AGA. With that in mind, I chose "Embracing Change: Working Together to Advance the Profession and AGA" as my theme for this year. Over the course of this program year, AGA will embark on the first comprehensive strategic planning process since 2003. We've retained a contractor to help us through this process and have held preliminary discussions as well as focus group sessions during the recent PDC. It's very important that we engage the AGA members in this process to

ensure that the Association's strategic focus is one that serves the needs of our membership and stakeholders. During the month of August, you will receive our member survey that will include questions to assist in formulating the strategic plan. I encourage each one of you to complete and return the survey. Watch this column over the next few months for updates on our strategic planning process. —[Read more.](#)

What Drives You? —The AGA Member-Get-A-Member Program Can Benefit You

The 2010–2011 "What Drives You?" Member-Get-A-Member Campaign offers you the opportunity to win great prizes for sharing the value of your AGA membership with your friends and colleagues and persuading them to join. The campaign runs from May 1 – April 30, 2011 and encourages current members to recruit new members. Since you already know the benefits of being an AGA member and have contacts in the industry, this is a great way to increase AGA's membership, which in turn expands your own professional network and allows AGA to better meet your needs. Prizes are awarded to show our appreciation for your support of AGA and your efforts to help the Association grow. For more information on the "What Drives You?" campaign rules and prizes, go to the [recruitment](#) section of the AGA website.

Do you have a helpful tip that will help other AGA members in their own outreach efforts? If so, please e-mail [Rodneikka Scott](#).

AGA Needs YOU!

People often say they don't volunteer because no one asked them to. AGA is asking. Volunteer today and share your knowledge and experience.

Here Are Six Easy Ways to Get Started:

1. Become an Association leader through service on a committee, focus group or within your chapter.
2. Learn from others by participating in professional development opportunities, chapter meetings, research and events.
3. Volunteer at the Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition.
4. Share your professional expertise and teaching techniques or recommend a colleague as a potential speaker.
5. Join and participate in communities of practice on the social networking sites [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).
6. Support the profession by [recruiting new AGA members](#).

For more information [contact AGA](#).

Members Are Invited to Accept the Challenge of AGA National and Regional Leadership

AGA's National Nominating Committee is currently seeking members for volunteer leadership positions as:

- National President-Elect
- National Treasurer-Elect
- Senior Vice President for Regional Services – Section III
- Senior Vice President At-Large
- Fifteen Regional Vice Presidents (RVP)-Elect

Term

The three-year terms begin July 1, 2011.

Qualifications and Eligibility

To serve in any of these positions, candidates must be AGA members in good

standing and have professional backgrounds for each position. Persons serving as National President, National President-Elect, National Treasurer, National Treasurer-Elect, Senior Vice President, and Regional Vice President may not serve concurrently in any other elective Association office, except the National Executive Committee. Other qualifications apply.

Submissions

All submissions will be forwarded to the National Nominating Committee, which will choose the slate of candidates.

Nominations are due **Friday, Oct. 29, 2010**.

Please note that since the committee often receives more than one nomination per position, not every nominee will be selected. Candidates for elective office are reminded that the National Bylaws do not permit campaigning for elective office. Additionally, only ONE nomination per candidate is necessary and candidates should not solicit additional nominations. Also, the committee will not recognize endorsements of candidates.

For More Information

If you are interested in serving or know of potential leaders, please [click here](#) for a Nominations Brochure that contains information about position terms, qualifications and eligibility, a list of Sections/Regions/Chapters, and National Officer Nomination Form. Or, contact [Louise Kapelewski](#), Nominating Committee staff liaison, at the National Office at 800.AGA.7211, ext. 321. Take advantage of this opportunity to shape the future of your Association!

National Community Service Project Held Outside of New Orleans, With More Locations to Come

By: AGA Past National President Jeff Hart, CGFM, CFE

AGA Senior Vice President **Peggy Javery, CGFM**, of the New Orleans Chapter, Senior Vice President **Karl Boettcher, MBA, CGFM**, and **Rashad Holloway** of AGA's Baltimore Chapter, joined me after the Orlando PDC for our Sixth National AGA Community Service Project, and the first one outside of New Orleans. As many of you know, we have had five AGA National Community Service Projects over the last four years, working with Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans. The day after last year's PDC in New Orleans, 50 AGA folks joined us to build houses in the Ninth Ward. This year, we hoped to do something similar in Orlando. However, the Orlando Habitat operation was only able to handle a few of us, as their operation is much smaller than in New Orleans.

So the four of us worked at the Habitat "Restore" home improvement outlet, which raises money to help fund their home-building operations. With temperatures in the mid-90s, we were all grateful to be working inside with air conditioning this time around. We cleaned out a storeroom, put price tags on items, stocked shelves, rearranged the store's lighting display area, and hung additional light fixtures.

While enjoying lunch together, we talked about the plans for next year in Atlanta. I have already spoken with the Habitat chapter there, and they are prepared for as many as 120 AGA volunteers on **July 14, 2011**, the day after the Atlanta PDC. I have also already spoken with former President Jimmy Carter's office about inviting him to participate with us in what will be our Seventh National Community Service

Project (our sixth project is still scheduled for **May 3–6, 2011** back in New Orleans). I also have coordinated with Executive Director Relmond Van Daniker, DBA, CPA, on my plans to invite President Carter to speak to us at the Atlanta PDC. I also plan to reserve the Carter Presidential Library for a yet-to-be-determined AGA event during the PDC. [Read more.](#)

CGFM Corner



Indian Affairs Makes it Simple for Finance Employees to Earn CGFM

Janet Hogler, CGFM, is not only committed to bringing the best training to employees, but also to making it as convenient as possible.

About six years ago, Hogler brought AGA's three Government Financial Management (GFM) courses to U.S. Department of Energy employees in Pittsburgh, PA, and Morgantown, WV. While successful, in looking back she thought more employees would have taken the three examinations if she had brought the test to them, rather than expecting them to do that footwork on their own.

That's why Hogler added an extra step this time. As Chief Of Staff to the Chief Financial Officer – Indian Affairs, she asked AGA to bring the three GFM courses to their workplace in Reston, VA. She lined up 26 students, most of them from Indian Affairs and a few from the U.S. Department

of the Interior's (DOI) Office of Financial Management, and also arranged for the exams to be held immediately after each course.

Hal Steinberg, CGFM, CPA, taught all three courses over a two-week period in January, with the examination for each course held the day after the class work ended. "Most of the folks said it was pretty intense," Hogler said. In fact, one employee told her, "You put me through hell those two weeks." In the end, most Indian Affairs employees, plus additional DOI employees have passed all three CGFM Examinations. Most others passed two of the three exams and are already studying to retake the exams they did not pass.

Hogler said the courses attracted a range of employees from GS-7 through GS-15. Some were from the Office of Internal Evaluation and Assessments, some from the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, and some from DOI.

"It was funny on the days of the test, they all wanted to change to the afternoon slots to allow more time to study. I would go around to the conference rooms and they were all studying," Hogler said.

Hogler, who says she's "big on training," particularly likes AGA's GFM courses and the fact that the CGFM credential is portable—employees who must move to another agency within federal government or to state or local government can use the credential to show they have a broad range of knowledge in government financial management. It also goes a long way toward boosting the credibility of the office within the financial management community.

The GFM courses were the culmination of a training program that also included courses on the Standard General Ledger,

appropriation law and other topics. She said her boss saw the value in bringing the courses and exams onsite to "bring this group to the next level."

Katya Silver, AGA's director of Professional Certification, said Hogler put all the pieces in place to ensure success for the employees. "I am happy to see Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) make an investment in their staff. This is such a success story! The GFM training, the onsite exams, the employer support and the dedication of the candidates have all paid off—congratulations to BIA and our new group of CGFMs!"

Articles

Federal News

Outgoing OMB Chief: Public Has a Point about Government Waste

In his farewell address on Wednesday, the director of the Office of Management and Budget said the public is onto something when it criticizes the federal bureaucracy. OMB chief Peter R. Orszag told an audience at the Brookings Institution that citizens often are correct when they say federal agencies are inefficient and wasteful in managing programs. He noted two-thirds of respondents to an April Pew Center poll shared that belief. Government inefficiency can be attributed largely to agencies' failure to adopt technology quickly and to use practices that make the private sector successful, Orszag said. The Obama administration's efforts to remedy outdated and unsuccessful government programs are expected to yield \$20 billion in savings in fiscal 2011, he said. □Norah Swanson, *Government Executive*. [Read more.](#)

Reaching the Ear of the President and the Congress

A Commentary on the June 26th National Town Meeting - 'AmericaSpeaks: Our Budget, Our Economy'

In our nation of over 300 million people, it is a rare occasion when the concerns and recommendations of an individual citizen reach the ear of the president, the president's senior advisers, and the leadership of key congressional committees. Yet for more than 3,500 American citizens who participated in the June 26 National Town Meeting, 'America Speaks: Our Budget, Our Economy,' that is exactly what will be happening this summer.

How the National Town Meeting Was Structured

The 3,500 citizens met at 60 regional and community meeting sites all across the nation and were linked together electronically for almost seven hours. Through a highly innovative, Internet-based arrangement, they were able to simultaneously review, consider and discuss a common set of facts, issues and options concerning the current and projected financial condition and budgetary requirements of the federal government. Sitting together, individual participants were able to share their responses to the information presented and openly discuss their concerns and individual opinions on how the U.S. might, one day, return to fiscal balance and strength at the federal level. Most important, they were able to communicate the sense of these discussions instantaneously to Philadelphia, where their views were combined with that of their fellow participants. - Edward J. Mazur, CPA. [Read more.](#)

State and Local News

State, Local Government Employees Get More Benefits, but Tradeoff is in Lower Salaries

An annual scorecard on benefits shows that public employees continue to have richer benefits than their private-sector counterparts, but squeezed state and local budgets could push governments to start cutting back. As of March, 88 percent of state and local government workers had access to employer-sponsored medical plans, compared with 71 percent of private-sector workers, according to a U.S. Department of Labor report released Tuesday. Governments also picked up a larger share of the health-care tab. Public employers paid 89 percent of the premiums for policies covering individual workers as of March, compared with 80 percent at private-sector companies. The more generous benefits given to government workers are part of a larger trade-off, according to economists. Unable to match private-sector salaries for their most valued workers, governments instead offer more attractive benefits packages. - Sara Murray, *The Wall Street Journal*. [Read more.](#)

As State Revenues Tick Upward, Budget Gaps Remain

After enduring two years of crippling budget deficits, states may have slightly better times ahead, according to a new report issued yesterday by the National Conference of State Legislatures. Nearly every state expects to collect more revenue in the 2011 fiscal year than in 2010, the report says. In total, general fund revenues are expected to grow by an average of 3.7 percent in 2011, compared with an average decline of 1.5 percent in 2010. "While not out of woods," the report says, "the performance of revenues in many states has officials looking

up instead of down." - Melissa Maynard, *Stateline.org*. [Read more.](#)

Private Sector News

Job Subsidies Also Provide Help to Private Sector

States are putting hundreds of thousands of people directly into jobs through programs reminiscent of the more ambitious work projects of the Great Depression. But the new efforts have a twist: While the government is paying the wages, most of the participants are working for private companies. The opportunity to simultaneously benefit struggling workers and small businesses has helped these job subsidies gain support from liberals and conservatives. Congress is now considering whether to extend the subsidy, which would expire in September, for an additional year. A House vote is expected on Thursday or Friday. Despite questions about whether the programs displace existing workers, many economists have argued that direct job creation programs are a more cost-effective way to put some of the nation's 14.6 million unemployed back to work than indirect alternatives like tax credits and construction projects. -Catherine Rampell, *The New York Times*. [Read more.](#)

'The Unretired' Mark New Demographic Shift in Workplace

Just as managers finally figure out how to challenge and reward Generation X and Millennial employees, a new demographic segment in the workplace is emerging - Generation U, or the Unretired. The Unretired are those who have found that retirement just isn't working out for them, or they realize that they just can't afford to retire after watching their stock portfolio dwindle and their house value shrink during the recession. Bloomberg

Businessweek, reporting on this new phenomenon, cites the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), which says that 8 out of 10 baby boomers will keep working part- or full-time past retirement age. And the Pew Research Center says these Generation U workers will fuel 93 percent of the growth in the U.S. labor market through 2016. And consider the recent results of a Towers Perrin survey of 500 human resources executives - 59 percent said that employees are postponing retirement. - AccountingWEB. [Read more.](#)

Accounting Standards News

GASB Issues Suggested Guidelines for Voluntary Reporting of Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA) Performance Information

After more than two decades of extensive research and constituent outreach, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has issued its *Suggested Guidelines for Voluntary Reporting, SEA Performance Information*. The purpose of this document is to provide state and local governments with suggested guidelines intended to provide a common framework for the effective external communication of SEA performance information. [Read more.](#)

GASB Posts Video on Codification Efforts to Website

The GASB has posted a new installment in its series of informative videos to its website. The current video presentation features **Cheryl Cochet** of the GASB staff discussing the GASB's codification efforts, including the codification of pre-

November 30, 1989 pronouncements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) and American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). The GASB video, *GASB's Codification Efforts*, may be viewed at www.gasb.org.

FMSB Comments on GASB Codification

AGA's Financial Management Standards Board (FMSB) on Friday sent a comment letter to GASB on its proposed *Statement on the Codification of Pre November 30, 1989 FASB and AICPA Pronouncements*. This proposed Statement incorporates guidance that previously could only be found in certain pronouncements of FASB AICPA. By incorporating and maintaining this guidance in a single source, GASB will reduce the complexity of locating and using authoritative literature needed to prepare state and local government financial reports and, thereby improve the consistency and comparability of government financial reports. [Read the letter](#)

Compliance with the Yellow Book

AGA is offering a one- or two-day training course on The Yellow Book (also known as GAGAS), which encompasses numerous engagements, such as auditing financial statements, performance auditing and engaging in attest work (reviews, examinations and agreed-upon procedures). Anyone working on a Yellow Book engagement must understand its general, fieldwork and reporting standards. The participants will be able to understand the requirements contained within Yellow Book such as those for financial statement audits, performance audits and attestation engagements.

For more information about this course, contact [Joe Jozefczyk](#), AGA's director of education, at 800.AGA.7211, x307, or [Lynn Hoffman](#), programs coordinator, x342.

ARE YOU MOVING?

If you are moving, or have already moved, please notify both your chapter and AGA National of your address change. You can update your address online at the national website: www.agacqfm.org/membership/form_address.htm



SHARE YOUR NEWS

Do you have some interesting news that your fellow chapter members may be interested in? If so, you are welcome (and encouraged) to

submit an article to the Newsletter Editor at radojevich@co.dane.wi.us. Deadline for submission of articles is the 25th of the month. Feel to send in topic suggestions or features to include.

COMMENTS

We would love to hear feedback on newsletter changes. Let us know what you like, what you hate, what we can do better! Contact the Newsletter Editor at radojevich@co.dane.wi.us or the Chapter President at sherri.voigt@wisconsin.gov

Southern Wisconsin Chapter Calendar of Events for 2010-2011

August 31, 2010 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

September 23, 2010 – Lunch meeting

October 5, 2010 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

October 21, 2010 – Luncheon topic and location to be determined

November 2, 2010 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

November 18, 2010 – Luncheon topic and location to be determined

December 7, 2010 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

January 4, 2011 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

January 27, 2011 – Annual Tax Update

February 1, 2011 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison, WI

February 24, 2011 – Luncheon topic and location to be determined

March 1, 2011 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

March 24, 2011 – Luncheon topic and location to be determined

April 5, 2011 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

April 28, 2011 – Luncheon topic and location to be determined

May 1, 2011 – MS Walk 2011 (community service event)

May 3, 2011 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

May 10, 2011 – *Annual Spring Symposium*

June 7, 2011 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

Dates after September are still tentative

Note: Community service, VITA, and social events will be announced during the year.

AGA Southern Wisconsin Chapter 2010-2011 Officers and Directors

President – Sherri Voigt, CGFM, CPA, DNR, sherri.voigt@wisconsin.gov, 608-267-9818

President Elect – Vacant

Past President – Eric Busse, DPI eric.busse@dpi.state.wi.us, 608-267-9199

Chapter Recognition – Dolly O’Laughlin, olaughlin@co.dane.wi.us, 608-242-6314

Secretary – Vacant

Treasurer – Roger Birkett, CPA, jabirk@charter.net

Historian – David Mellem, CGFM, CIA, CISA, US DHHS OIG, david.mellem@oig.hhs.gov,
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Webmaster – Scott Thornton, scott@goochpages.com

Community Service Chair – Sherri Voigt, CGFM, CPA, DNR, sherri.voigt@wisconsin.gov

Research Coordinator & Liaison w/ Other Profession Organizations – Vacant

CGFM Chair – Vacant

Awards Chair – Vacant

Early Careers Chair – Vacant

Directors -

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