



SOUTHERN
WISCONSIN
CHAPTER



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Monthly Footnotes

NOVEMBER 2010

VOLUME XI, ISSUE 4



Dane County Farmers Market

November Luncheon Meeting Welcome Members and Non-Members

TOPIC: Henry Vilas Zoo-Open Every Day of the Year for Free-Financial Challenges

SPEAKER: James Hubing, Director, Henry Vilas Zoo

DATE: Thursday, November 18, 2010

REGISTRATION: 11:30 a.m. **LUNCH:** 11:45 a.m.

COST: \$6 for Members, \$12 for Non-Members

PLACE: Talula, 802 Atlas Avenue (off Hwy 51 at Cottage Grove Road)

MENU: All meals served with French fries and fountain soda or iced tea

- Cheeseburger-with cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomato, red onion, pickle
- Basil-Marinated Chicken Sandwich-with monterey-jack cheese, lettuce, tomato, red onion, pickle
- South Western 3 Bean Burger-vegetarian burger with pico de gallo, guacamole, & chipotle sour cream on a ciabatta bun

RESERVATIONS

Please contact Sherri Voigt **by 1 p.m. on Monday, November 15, 2010** with your name, membership status, meal choice at (608) 267-9818/e-mail:

sherri.voigt@wisconsin.gov. If you need help getting a ride to lunch, please contact Sherri for car-pooling information.

NEW MEMBERS FIRST LUNCHEON MEETING

If you are a new member and this is your first luncheon, please note that when calling in your reservation. Your first chapter luncheon meeting is FREE!

ABOUT THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER

James Hubing has been the Director of the Henry Vilas Zoo since 2000, He was previously head of employee relations for Cuna Mutual Group, and Director of Administration for Dane County, 1974-1990. He is one of 1,000 people personally trained by Al Gore to speak about global climate change.



Back by Popular Demand Who says there's no free lunch?

Members Who Attend 3 Training Sessions September to March

Earn a Free Lunch

Coupon Valid at the April or May Lunch

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Sherri Voigt, CGFM, CPA

Just a brief note to thank everyone who participated in the Komen Passionately Pink for the Cure event at the October lunch meeting.

The notes and photos from the lunch meeting will appear in the December newsletter.

Due to Thanksgiving, the November lunch meeting is earlier in the month.

The meeting will be Thursday, November 18. The Director of the Henry Vilas Zoo will be discussing some of the unique operating and financial challenges of operating a free admission zoo.

I hope to see you there!

Sherri V. 🍷

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





National News

**National President
Lisa Casias, CPA**

From the National President,

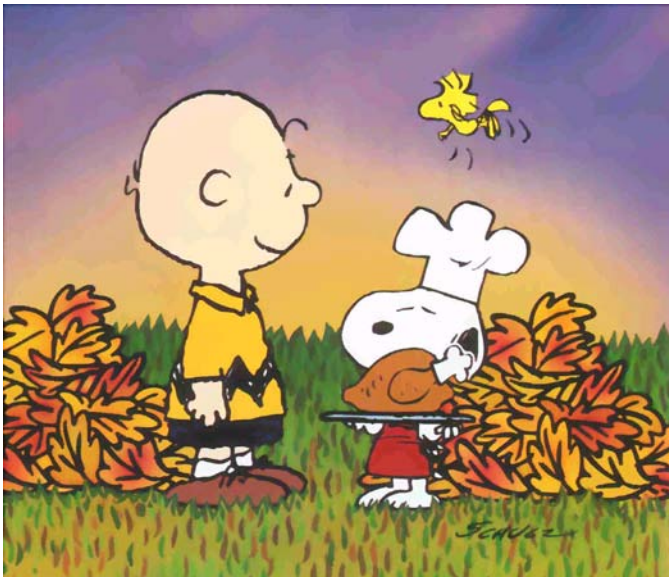
This month, I'm pleased to feature **Gwendolyn Sewell, CGFM**, a member of AGA's San Antonio Chapter since 1999, as a member deserving special recognition for her hard work on behalf of AGA. Nominating member **Helene Baker**, past RVP, said, "Gwendolyn Sewell has been the support behind various presidents that had received Silver, Gold and Platinum level recognition. Without her support behind these chapter presidents, this chapter would have not seen such continuing success. Gwendolyn works tirelessly for each president, completes point schedules, newsletters, announcements, organizes events and Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) meetings. She well deserves to be recognized in the

upcoming publication of AGA."

We asked Gwendolyn to tell us about her volunteer service and what she gets out of her contributions to AGA.

Please tell us a little about your service to your chapter and how you came to be so involved.

During Chapter Years 2007–2008, 2008–2009 and 2009–2010, I became involved as this President-Elect and continuing as current President-Elect. I serve behind the Presidents: **Ernest Dabon, Darrel Wagner, CGFM**, and **Cheryl Garcia** all who brought our chapter to Gold awards. My involvement is in a support role in doing many chapter activities in developing chapter newsletters, advertising events, helping with sign-in, collections luncheon finances, charity events and recording chapter points into the AGA system. My support is to give to all CEC Board members the added assistance needed during our busy work lives, and I'm grateful to each and every one of them and their support to the chapter. I enjoy being in the support role as President-Elect. [Read more.](#)



Registration Open for National Leadership Conference

Government financial managers are deeply committed to producing timely, reliable and useful financial information, with the goal of running government programs more efficiently. At AGA's National Leadership Conference (NLC), those sentiments are more than just words.

The NLC brings together a stellar lineup of respected government financial management and accountability leaders

to share valuable insight, proven strategies, lessons learned, and discuss the newest management techniques and the most recent information on always-changing standards and regulations.

Don't miss this opportunity to earn 14 CPE hours, share best practices, find solutions to shared challenges, network with your peers and learn from the top financial management leaders and industry experts.

Join us **Feb.17, 18**, 2011 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. and show your commitment to a more accountable future.

[Register Online Now!](#)

[Print Registration Form](#)

What Drives You to Earn Free Membership?

It takes only a few minutes to recruit a new AGA member. By recruiting new members everyone wins. The new member will have an opportunity to grow professionally through all the benefits AGA has to offer, and you will earn an incentive for every member you recruit.

Everyone who recruits a new AGA member earns a sponsorship lapel pin. Recruit **TWO** members and start earning AGA Dollars. You'll earn five AGA Dollars for each new member who joins. AGA Dollars are good for one year and can be used like cash for publications, membership dues renewals and national conference registrations. Recruit **SIX** members by **Dec. 31, 2010** and receive next year's membership dues renewal **FREE**.

Other prizes include a Net book laptop, American Express gift cards, complimentary registration to AGA's 2011 Professional Development Conference & Exposition in Atlanta, GA, lodging at the Marriott during the PDC and

complimentary AGA national meeting registrations.

You already know how your AGA membership helps your career—share this knowledge and offer a colleague all the benefits that AGA offers you.

Remember to tell them about the excellent networking opportunities, certification program, publications, education and training that makes AGA the premiere association for the government accountability community.

Write your name on the sponsor line of a membership application. The recruit can fill out the rest and submit it to AGA.

[Read more about AGA's What Drives You campaign.](#)

What Drives YOU? Start Recruiting Today!



CGFM Corner



Take the CGFM Examinations After the NLC

Don't miss the opportunity to take the CGFM Examinations and earn your CGFM after the annual National Leadership Conference (NLC). AGA is offering a two-day Intensive Review Course on Monday, **Feb. 21** and Tuesday, **Feb. 22** and an opportunity to take CGFM Examinations on **Feb. 23– 24**. The cost of the course, worth 18 CPE hours, is \$279 for qualified participants. Special Bonus: The CGFM Examinations are offered at no cost to course attendees. This course is designed as a supplement to previous preparation for the CGFM



Examinations, so this is a perfect opportunity for those individuals who have already attended GFM training courses or have been preparing by using the CGFM Study Guides. Enrollment is limited and participants must first apply and be accepted into the CGFM Program, so don't delay.

More information and a registration form are available on [AGA's website](#).

Articles

Federal News

Americans Give Low Marks to Obama Transparency Effort at Agencies

The public isn't convinced that the Obama administration is being fully open with Americans, more than a year and a half after the president launched a government wide transparency effort, according to [a new survey conducted by ForeSee Results and Nextgov](#). But compared to regulated industries in the United States, the White House is doing a lot better. The White House earned a score of 46 out of a possible 100 on its attempts to be transparent about what the West Wing is doing; federal agencies came in with an aggregate score of 40; Congress rated 37; and the banking and health care sectors both were at 32. At the bottom of the list: the energy industry, with a 30 rating. There are several reasons why Americans -- and



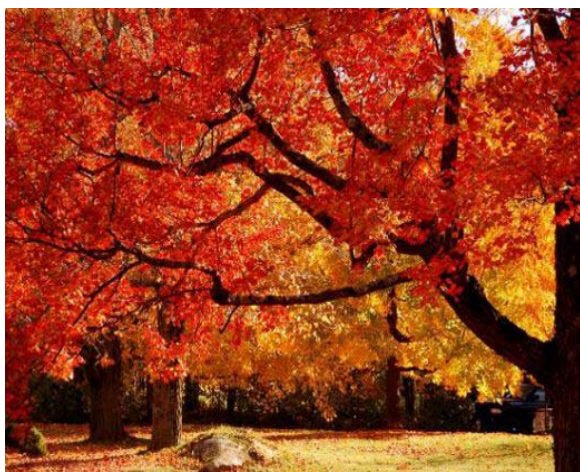
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or call 334-244-3495

agencies -- might not yet be buying into Obama's transparency campaign, Foresee Results analysts said. For one, the economy has tanked, causing people from all walks of life to lose faith in what the government is saying and doing. □\Aliya Sternstein, *Nextgov*. [Read more.](#)

Awards Honor Federal Inspectors General

Politicians talk plenty about rooting out waste, fraud and abuse, but the folks who actually find the corruption enjoyed a few brief moments in the limelight Tuesday. The nation's federal watchdogs honored 85 of their own at an awards ceremony consistent with the work ethic of many inspectors general: It started on time and lasted an hour, as promised. It featured no refreshments or souvenirs and no long-winded acceptance speeches. Members of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE), which hosted the event at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, said privately that keeping the event short and to the point would avoid any appearance of gloating. But why not celebrate? Inspectors general recovered more than \$8.9 billion in federal funds in fiscal 2009 and identified \$44 billion in potential savings, more than double than in the previous year, according to the council. Watchdog investigations resulted in 5,900 successful criminal prosecutions



and 4,485 suspensions or debarments of delinquent individuals or contractors, the group said. Dozens of federal inspector general offices fielded 417,349 calls to telephone tip lines and published more than 7,000 audits, evaluations and other reports. □\Ed O'Keefe, *The Washington Post*. [Read more.](#)

State and Local News

State and Local Governments Escalate Battle Over 'Amazon Tax'

The numbers vary, but one ballpark figure is \$8.6 billion. That's the amount of revenue researchers at the University of Tennessee estimate could flow into state and local government coffers if sales taxes were collected on Internet transactions this year. No wonder the 23 states that have worked to streamline sales and use taxes are pushing federal legislation (introduced in July) that would allow them to require that online retailers collect the tax. Four states (Colorado, New York, North Carolina and Rhode Island) have struck out on their own and passed various so-called "Amazon taxes" □\laws that make online retailers responsible for sales tax collections if residents in those states run websites that drive business to the retailer. In the past two years, another 13 states have considered Internet tax-collection laws. The legislatures in California and Hawaii passed bills, only to have them vetoed by their governors. North Carolina □\one of the four with an Amazon tax □\is trying to move the enforcement ball forward with a pro-active program. The Department of Revenue has offered the affected online retailers a path to good tax-collection citizenship: Sign up to collect the tax for the next four years and past failures to do so will be forgiven and forgotten. Don't sign up, and you leave yourself open to an audit. □\Penelope Lemov, *Governing*. [Read more.](#)

Unpaid State Bills Shift Burden to Local Governments

Anthony Picente decided he'd had enough. The state of New York had fallen \$34 million behind on payments to Oneida County, the upstate county around Utica where Picente is the top elected official. Picente was counting on the money to reimburse the county for services it provides that are in high demand these days: job training, food stamps and other key pieces of the social safety net. By July, Picente hadn't seen a check from Albany in months. He was still waiting for reimbursements for money the county spent in December. So Picente decided to fight back. Counties in New York State are expected to make their own weekly payments back to the state, in order to help pay for the state's Medicaid program. Picente sent a [letter](#) to Governor David Paterson with a simple message: We won't pay Albany until Albany pays us. □ Daniel C. Vock, *Stateline.org*. [Read more.](#)

Federal Accounting Corner

Cash In-Transit Accounts

The Standard General Ledger (SGL) has two accounts for cash in transit: 1110 Undeposited Collections and 2120 Disbursements in Transit. Agencies could use these accounts for all cash transactions with the public prior to confirmation, but the SGL guidance lists only a few transactions that use these accounts.

Disbursements In Transit

The SGL accounts should be matched to steps in the disbursement process so payment officers can tell from the general ledger where in the process payments are. While there are a number of liability accounts that can be disbursed, the most common is 2110 Accounts Payable. This account should represent payments that

have been processed internally but not yet sent to Treasury for disbursement (or, for self-disbursing agencies, the checks have not yet been printed). Once these are cut to a schedule (or checks printed), the payment should be in account 2120 Disbursements in Transit. The confirmation of the schedule by Treasury (or private bank) moves the balance to 1010 Fund Balance with Treasury. □ Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM, CPA. [Read the entire column.](#)

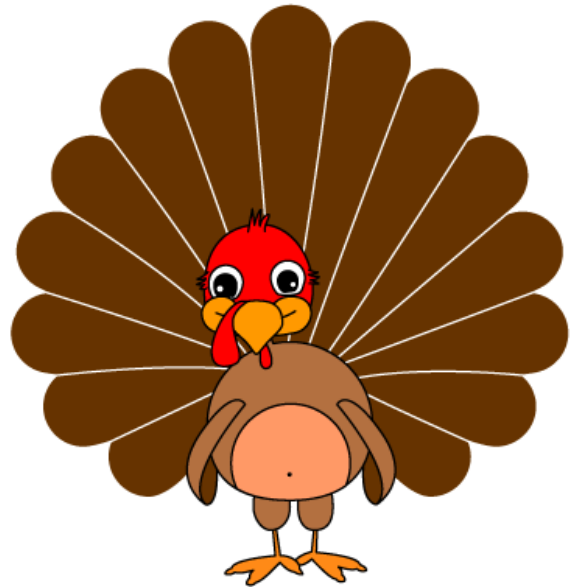
Private Sector News

10 Worth Watching: Women Who Inspire Accounting Profession

For years, women in public accounting have faced many challenges in reaching high-ranking leadership positions □ primarily because they were forced to choose between firm and family at a time when partner status came within reach. The women who have made it to executive level often tell tales of major personal sacrifice, and many following in their footsteps just don't want to travel that road. We know that the number of women rising through the



ranks is increasing due to alternative career paths, flex time and technology, aids that have helped all people—not just women—make work more manageable in today's workplace. Yet even with more women present and breaking through the glass ceiling, and more female accounting graduates primed for public accounting work than male, the numbers are not as good as they should be. Still, we're optimistic. We know there are many women out there doing exceptional work in accounting across a wide spectrum of areas, from traditional managing partner, to software provider, to recruiting and standard setting. This year, we wanted to honor 10 women who are inspiring for what they offer the profession. Without further ado, the inaugural Accounting Today 10 Worth Watching list. □Liz Gold, *Accounting Today*. [Read more.](#)



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

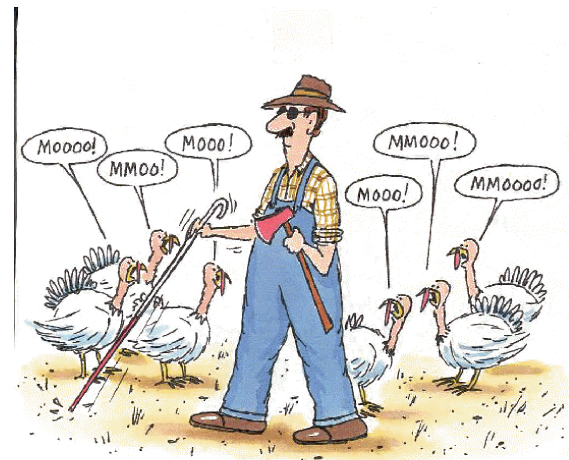
ARE YOU MOVING?

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.agacgfm.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 NewsletterEditor@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.



Southern Wisconsin Chapter Calendar of Events for 2010-2011

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

September 23, 2010 – Lunch Meeting, Tom Winkler, Government Accountability Board, Role of the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board, Dayton Street Café

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

October 27, 2010 – Lunch Meeting, Representative Spencer Black (D-Madison, WI), Dayton Street Café

November 16, 2010 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

November 18, 2010 – Lunch Meeting, James Hubing, Henry Vilas Zoo-Open Every Day of the Year for Free-Financial Challenges, Talula

December 7, 2010 – “Next Steps in Accountability & Control over Recovery Act Funds,” CD Audio Conference in the WI Department of Revenue conference room (August 12, 2009 original broadcast date)

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

June 9, 2011 – Luncheon topic and location to be determined

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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Carrie Ferguson, CPA, LAB, carrie.ferguson@legis.state.wi.us, 608-259-9839

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

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Julie Gordon, CPA, UW System, jgordon@uwsa.edu, 608-263-4395

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SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER