



SOUTHERN
WISCONSIN
CHAPTER



Monthly Footnotes

MARCH 2011

VOLUME XI, ISSUE 8



Photo by April Fowler

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March Luncheon Meeting Welcome Members and Non-Members

March is CGFM Month

TOPIC: The American Red Cross Serving our Community, Down the Street, Across the Country and Around the World

SPEAKER: Tom Mooney, CEO, American Red Cross-Madison Chapter

DATE: Thursday, March 31, 2011

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

COST: \$6 for Members, \$12 for Non-Members, CGFMs may attend for free!

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 11 a.m. on Monday, March 28, 2011** 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 assistance.



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 MEETING

Tom Mooney, Chief Executive Officer of the Madison Chapter of the American Red Cross will be discussing not-for-profit economic issues. "The American Red Cross Serving Our Community, Down the Street, Across the Country and Around the World" details the last three years of national donations compared to local donations, how the local chapter in our area operates, and how the American Red Cross is assisting Japan.



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Sherri Voigt, CGFM, CPA



I'm truly sorry about the late newsletter and lunch meeting announcement. We had some unforeseen challenges in booking a March speaker. On the plus side, we have filled in several of the upcoming months (see the calendar of events on page 12 to preview some of those.) With the delay, the lunch meeting will now be held Thursday, March 31. I hope we are still able to match your schedule.

March is CGFM Month!!!! (Certified Government Financial Manager) Our chapter has received a proclamation from Madison Mayor, David Cieslewicz, declaring that March, 2011 is CGFM

month. We are working on a similar proclamation from the Governor's office. To celebrate, CGFM holders may attend the March lunch meeting for free.

The April meeting will be held in the morning. It will be a 2.5 hour audio cd session featuring the audio conference that was live broadcast on February 2. The title is: "Making Internal Controls Work in Your Organization" with presenter John J. Hall. It will be held at the Department of Revenue in the large conference room and a light breakfast will be provided. Look for details soon!

Sherri V.

Last Chance to complete

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

Wisconsin Federal Employee Trudy Givens Wins National SAVE Award and Meets with President Obama to Discuss Her SAVE Idea

Congratulations to Trudy Givens of Portage, Wisconsin, the 2010 SAVE (Securing Americans' Value and Efficiency) Award Winner! Thousands of Federal employees submitted their ideas to streamline government and save your tax dollars. Thousands of citizens voted for four finalists. Out of more than 18,000 ideas, all of which were read and helped inform your government, Trudy's idea earned her an opportunity to meet the President and discuss her idea.



WELCOMING THE 2010 SAVE WINNER TO THE WHITE HOUSE

On Tuesday night, January 25, 2011, President Obama spoke about giving the American people a government that's not only more affordable, but also more effective and more efficient. Federal employees are important partners in that effort. From inspecting the food heading to our tables and making sure Social Security checks go out on time to treating wounded troops and helping returning Veterans pursue higher education, Federal employees are working day in and day out to serve the American people. The President believes these frontline workers are essential to any effort to improve government.

The SAVE Award was implemented in 2009 to gather ideas from employees across the country about how to cut waste and make government work smarter for the American people. On Friday, January 28, 2011, the President met with the employee who the public voted the 2010 winner: Trudy Givens of Portage, Wisconsin.

Trudy is a 19-year employee of the Bureau of Prisons, currently serving as a Business Administrator at the Federal Correctional Institution in Oxford, Wisconsin. Over the course of her career, Trudy noticed that several copies of the *Federal Register* — the federal government's official daily publication for rules, proposed rules, and notices from Federal agencies and organizations, as well as executive orders and other presidential documents— were delivered to her workplace several times per week, but employees rarely referenced the documents. The *Federal Register* was made available online years ago, and most

members of the interested public reference that online version now. Trudy thought that in keeping with the President's spirit of cutting out waste and going green, the government should cease the printing and mailing of thousands of *Federal Registers* to employees who don't need them.

Even ideas that sound small can add up. Printing just one page of the *Federal Register* costs a little more than a penny, but when you amplify that across the whole of government, suddenly you're talking millions of dollars. We expect to save the vast majority of those dollars – at current costs that could be up to \$4 million dollars per year-- by limiting print distribution to those who need it.

And Trudy's not alone. Employees across the government are contributing ideas to make their agency work more effectively and efficiently. Through the SAVE competition, we are starting to see a cultural shift where employees are really becoming engaged in rooting out waste. Several agencies including the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Interior, and Defense have launched their own internal competitions or online engagement tools to encourage employees to submit their ideas to save money and make government work more efficiently and effectively all year round.

It is incumbent upon all of us in public service to be conscientious stewards of your taxpayer dollars. But it is particularly important to do so when the fiscal times are tough. Congratulations, Trudy, for winning this year's award, and thank you for your contribution to making the government more effective and efficient.

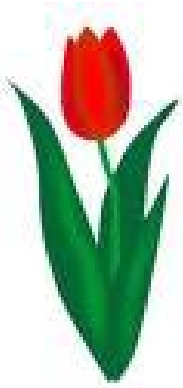
President Obama believes the best ideas usually come from outside of Washington. That's why in 2009 he launched the SAVE Award (Securing Americans' Value and Efficiency), seeking ideas from frontline federal employees to make government more effective and efficient and ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely. In just three weeks, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) received tens of thousands of ideas on how to make government more efficient and effective. Not only did the winner go to the White House to present her idea to the President, but 20 SAVE Award ideas made their way directly into the 2011 Budget, and others helped identify cost-savings across an array of areas.

Congratulations Trudy!



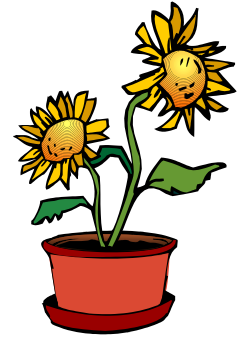
AGA Government Finance Case Challenge 2010-2011

Congratulations to University of Wisconsin Platteville – One of 3 Finalist Teams



Participating Institutions

North Carolina State University
Northern Illinois University
Ohio Dominican University
Old Dominion University
San Diego State University
Tennessee State University
The University of Arkansas at Little Rock
The University of Maryland - University College
The University of North Carolina at Pembroke
The University of Wisconsin - Platteville



Results

Recipient of AGA's Government Finance Case Challenge Award Announced —

AGA congratulates the Ohio Dominican University team on receiving the Government Finance Case Challenge award. Team members included: **Jay Laudick, Lindsay Shenefield, Eric St. John** and **Joshua Wolfe**. The three finalist teams, which included North Carolina State University and the **University of Wisconsin - Platteville**, did an outstanding job with their reports and presentations at AGA's Ninth Annual National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. All teams constructed a Citizen-Centric Report for the fictional city of Pepperdom, VA. The 2011–2012 competition will begin in October 2011. [Learn more.](#)

The best undergraduate accounting/financial management/business students in the country were invited to compete in the fourth annual Government Finance Case Challenge, sponsored by the Association of Government Accountants (AGA).

Student teams collaboratively analyzed and offer a written response to a case centered on how a U.S. city government creates a citizen-centric report. All members of the three highest-scoring teams received a scholarship to attend AGA's National Leadership Conference, set for February 17-18, 2011 in Washington, D.C.

Teams presented their finalized solutions before a panel of federal/state/local government leaders, corporate partners and CFOs. The winning teams were announced at the awards luncheon on the final day of the conference. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winning team. Each student participant will receive a free one-year membership to AGA.

Thank you Sharif Gias, Assistant Professor of Finance at UW-Platteville for once again taking your student team to the Finals of the AGA 2011 Government Finance Case Challenge -- Professor Gias' team won the competition in 2010.



National News



**National President
Lisa Casias, CPA**

From the National Office

NLC Ends on an Optimistic Note

After a conference filled with dire predictions about the confounding challenges facing government at all levels, AGA's Ninth Annual National Leadership Conference ended Friday on an optimistic note with an address from Office of Management and Budget Controller **Danny Werfel**.

Beginning with a story from his boss, Jeffrey Zients, OMB's deputy director for management and chief performance officer, Werfel talked about law signing ceremonies when the president is surrounded by the heavy hitters who saw the legislation through Congress. There's lots of clapping and handshaking as they celebrate another success in getting a piece of legislation



to the president's desk. When it's over, everyone walks away. The message Zients left with Werfel is that's when the real work begins.

"The paradigm is that the work hasn't even begun yet, and that the execution is the critical element of that new program or policy," Werfel said, adding that he's been thinking a lot about that paradigm during the budget debates that are dominating the headlines this week.

His focus is on the federal work force, which takes the brunt of the criticism when things go wrong and unfairly symbolizes inefficiencies in government. This same work force will be responsible for carrying out whatever budget level is determined in a way that minimizes disruption of services to citizens.

"That is our job sometimes in the federal work force—to be the ones who take the punches," he said. "But it's what we signed on for, and I'm proud to be a part of it."
[Read more from Werfel.](#)

[Learn more from NLC keynote speakers.](#)

Jeanette Franzel, MBA, CGFM, CPA, managing director of Financial Management and Accountability at the U.S. Government Accountability Office, on "[Financial Risk and Fiscal Accountability.](#)"

Alice M. Rivlin, Ph.D., Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution and Member, President's Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform on "[Stabilizing the Federal Debt: Can We Do It?](#)"

Ron Elving, Senior Washington Editor, National Public Radio, on "[The Presidency, the Congress and the Press.](#)"

Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Director, Congressional Budget Office, on "[Federal Budget Outlook](#)."

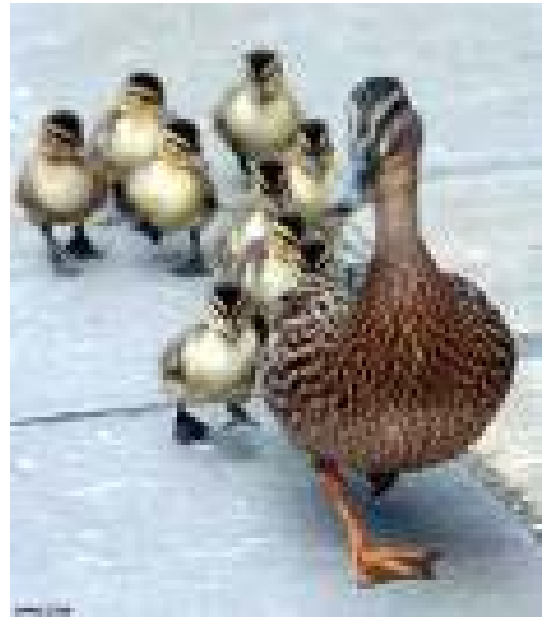
Supporting the Professional Interests of Young Leaders Through the Emerging Leaders Focus Group

February is Early Career Month here at AGA. The National Office offers free programming geared toward Early Career members through events put on by the Emerging Leaders Focus Group. Local chapters are also targeting young professionals.

At the National Leadership Conference last week, several free programs were held for young professionals, including an Early Career Happy Hour sponsored by the Northern Virginia, Washington D.C. and Montgomery/Prince George's County Chapters. A CGFM informational session was also held.

Chastity Crawley, CGFM, of AGA's Dallas Chapter and Allison Shoemaker of AGA's Virginia Peninsula Chapter, co-chairs of the Emerging Leaders Focus Group, put together a round table session titled "Managing the Brand of YOU," which focused on branding yourself in your place of employment.

The keynote speaker included respected speaker **Joseph Kull, CGFM, CPA**, director, PricewaterhouseCoopers, who offered practical and proven techniques for establishing professional identity. He was later joined by **Daphne Jefferson**, Department of Labor, **Douglas A. Glenn, CPA, CMA**, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, **Everett L. Mosley, CGFM**, Mosley & Associates, and **Kelly Gorrell, CGFM**, Kearney and Company, who shared their insights and answered questions on growing a professionally successful and personally rewarding career within both



government and private industry.

The audience included students, professors, early career and mid-career level individuals. Registration for this free event was spectacular and participants were energized and looking forward to using some of the techniques they gained. For more information on programs by the Emerging Leaders Focus Group, contact Membership Manager [Rodneikka Scott](#).

AGA Members Get Discounted Rate for Audit Excellence Conference

The Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA) welcomes AGA members to its annual conference in Charlotte, NC. Called, "Racing Toward Audit Excellence," the conference is set for May 16–17 at the Marriott Charlotte City Center.

Join our lively group of government financial professionals as we learn more

about fraud, risk, information technology, report writing, and much, much more. Don't forget all the extras Charlotte has to offer: NASCAR Hall of Fame, Discovery Place, Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, Lowe's Motor Speedway, Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, and the EpiCentre.

Earn 15 CPE hours and 12 more if you attend a Sunday and Wednesday workshop. AGA members will be offered the ALGA member rate of \$450 for the two-day conference. [Register today!](#)

CGFM Corner



March is CGFM Month!!!

The AGA Southern Wisconsin Chapter has joined chapters across the country in getting a proclamation naming March as CGFM Month. See the scanned document below.



2011CGFM-mayorprocl.pdf (265 KB...)

We are working on a similar proclamation to be signed by the Governor.

Articles

State and Local News

Census: Near-Record Level of U.S. Counties Dying

In America's once-thriving coal country, 87-year-old Ed Shepard laments a prosperous era gone by, when shoppers lined the streets and government lent a helping hand. Now, here as in one-fourth of all U.S. counties, West Virginia's graying residents are slowly dying off.

Hit by an aging population and a poor economy, a near-record number of U.S. counties are experiencing more deaths than births in their communities, a phenomenon demographers call "natural decrease."

Years in the making, the problem is spreading amid a prolonged job slump and a push by Republicans in Congress to downsize government and federal spending.

"You're the anchors of our Main Streets," President Barack Obama told



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small business leaders in Cleveland on Tuesday. "We want your stories - your successes, your failures, what barriers you're seeing out there to expand. How can America help you succeed so that you can help America succeed?" - *Associated Press*. [Read more.](#)

Decline in Bond Market Has States Nervous

Illinois plans to sell \$3.7 billion in pension obligation bonds this week, as part of Governor Pat Quinn's plan to address the state's persistent budget deficits.

The last three months have not been pretty in the municipal bond market. Spooked by predictions of government bankruptcies and defaults, investors - especially those in big mutual funds - have fled the field, selling off \$20 billion worth of state and local bonds in the process. The exodus, in turn, has left states that need to borrow wary. The number of new offerings from state and local governments is down to a level not seen in 11 years.

Basically, as panicked investors sell off their old bonds on the street, states have not restocked the shelves in the market by issuing new ones.

All this turmoil could cost taxpayers money. Interest rates on the highest-rated

municipal bonds are up by more than one-third since late August, notes Kinney Poynter, the director of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers. As rates go up, states have to pay more to issue their debt,' Poynter says, 'which means citizens have to pay more for infrastructure projects like roads, schools, etc. So it's had a dramatic effect.' - Daniel C. Vock, *Stateline*. [Read more.](#)

Federal News

GASB Proposes Guidance for Applying Termination of Hedge Accounting Provisions

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued its Exposure Draft (ED), Derivative Instruments: Application of Hedge Accounting Termination Provisions (an amendment of GASB Statement No. 53). The deadline for submitting written comments on the ED is April 15, 2011.

GASB Statement No. 53, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Derivative Instruments, provides for the use of hedge accounting for derivatives that are effective hedges. Hedge accounting entails reporting fair value changes of a





hedging derivative as either deferred inflows or deferred outflows of resources, rather than recognizing those changes in investment income. The Statement requires that hedge accounting cease, and all accumulated deferred amounts be reported in investment income, when a hedging derivative is terminated. [Read more.](#)

Study: One-fourth of Federal Websites Surveyed Rank High in Transparency

A quarter of federal websites surveyed scored high in online transparency, which also was found to be associated with high ratings for customer satisfaction and participation, according to a new study from the research firm ForeSee Results.

For the eight of 32 federal websites that scored 80 or higher on a 100-point transparency scale in 2010, there is a strong correlation with customers being more satisfied, more likely to rely on the website as a primary resource of information and more likely to recommend the website to others, Foresee said in a report issued Feb. 22.

Top-scoring agencies for the fourth quarter of 2010 included the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,

Navy, Air Force and the National Human Genome Research Institute. - Alice Lipowicz, *Federal Computer Week*. [Read more.](#)

Federal Agencies, Contractors Preparing for Government Shutdown

Federal agencies continued reviewing shutdown plans Wednesday in anticipation of a possible closure of the federal government that could begin as early as next week.

Most of this week's planning probably revolves around determining which employees would need to work, according to Barry Anderson, a budget expert who handled shutdown-related concerns for the Office of Management and Budget during the Clinton-era closures.

A series of memos written by Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti in the closing days of Jimmy Carter's administration still dictate how agencies should make those determinations. Federal programs drawing funds from annual appropriations should continue to operate if there is a "reasonable and articulable connection between the function to be performed and the safety of human life or the protection of property," Civiletti wrote. - Ed O'Keefe, *The Washington Post*. [Read more.](#)

Accounting Standards News

FASAB Hosts Second Forum on Managerial Cost Accounting

Wendy Payne, executive director of the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board, is hosting a second forum to provide an opportunity for the federal community to learn about others' experiences with using managerial cost accounting (MCA). As requested by participants at the last forum, this next forum will focus on the use of MCA beyond just the traditional use for calculating widget-based user fees.

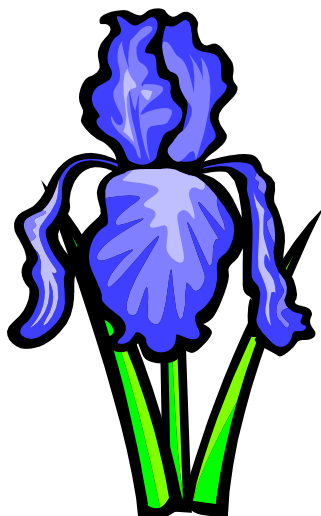
The forum, Managerial Cost Accounting Part II: Usefulness of MCA Beyond the Widgets, will be held:

Wednesday, March 16, 2011
8: 30 AM to 12:30 PM
GAO Auditorium
441 G. Street, NW

Visit the [forum's webpage](#) to see the agenda and register for the event. Registration is open on a first-come, first-served basis until seats are filled. FASAB staff will provide speaker bios, presentations and certificates of attendance via e-mail after the session to document attendees' CPE.

COMMENTS

Do you have feedback? Let us know what you like, what you hate, what we can do better! Contact the Newsletter Editor at radivojevich@co.dane.wi.us or the Chapter President at sherri.voigt@wisconsin.gov



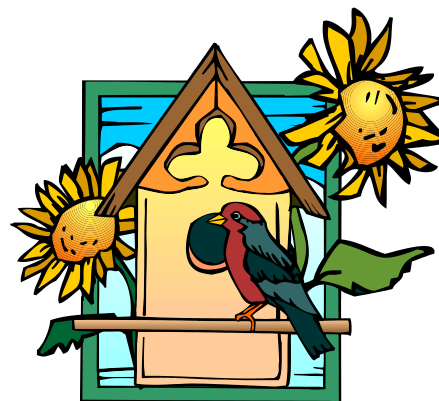
ARE YOU MOVING?

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 NewsletterEditoratradivojevich@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, Concourse Hotel

November 16, 2010 – Board Meeting Cancelled, 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 Restaurant

December, 2010 – no Board Meeting or Lunch Meeting

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

January 27, 2011 – Lunch Meeting, Annual Tax Update, Mardee L. Blattner, CPA, MST, Baker Tilley-Virchow Krause, Imperial Gardens Restaurant

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

February 24, 2011 – Lunch Meeting, FBI Perspective on Detecting and Pursing Fraud, Neil Purtell, Retired FBI Supervisory Special Agent

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

***March 31, 2011 – Lunch Meeting, American Red Cross Serving Our Community: Down the Street, Across the Country and the World, Nicole Hoffmann and Tom Mooney, Madison Chapter of the American Red Cross – Talula Restaurant**

***Date changed from 3/24/11**

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

April 26, 2011 – Audio CD session: “Making Internal Controls Work in Your Organization,” John J Hall (live broadcast 2/2/11), 8:30-11, WI Department of Revenue conference room

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 – Lunch Meeting, The Demolition and Remediation & Redevelopment Costs of the Badger Ammunition Plant in Baraboo, Mike Sitton, US Army – location to be determined

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

AGA Southern Wisconsin Chapter 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

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Research Coordinator & Liaison w/ Other Profession Organizations – Vacant

CGFM Chair – Vacant

Awards Chair – Vacant

Early Careers Chair – Vacant

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