



SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER



Inside This Issue

- 1. October Lunch Meeting
- 3. President's Message
- 4. Passionately Pink for the Cure
- 5. Job Announcement
- 6. National News
- 8. CGFM News
- 8. Articles
- 12. Calendar of Events
- 13. Chapter Contacts

Monthly Footnotes

October 2011

VOLUME XI, ISSUE 2



October Luncheon Meeting Welcome Members and Non-Members

TOPIC: Government Accountability Professionals: Where Have We

Been and Where Are We Going?

SPEAKER: Janice Mueller

DATE: Thursday, October 20, 2011

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, ample free parking)

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

- Cheeseburger-with cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomato, and onion on a ciabatta bun
- Basil-Marinated Chicken Sandwich-with lettuce, tomato, onion, and monterey-jack cheese on a ciabatta bun
- Veggie Wrap-spinach, tomato, cucumber, and carrots wrapped in a flour tortilla with a dill cream cheese dressing

RESERVATIONS: Please contact Sherri Voigt by 11 a.m. on Monday, October 17, 2011 with your name, membership status, and meal choice at sherri.voigt@wisconsin.gov or (608) 267-9818. 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 ABOUT THIS MONTH'S LUNCHEON SPEAKER

From 1998 until her retirement in June 2011, Janice "Jan" Mueller directed the work of the nonpartisan Legislative Audit Bureau. At the October meeting, Jan will look back on almost 35 years of public service and share her insights on how government changed during this period and discuss what the future may hold for government accountability professionals.

The Legislative Audit Bureau is consistently recognized as a national leader in the field of financial auditing and program evaluation. Jan was the first woman to serve as Wisconsin State Auditor and under her leadership more that 425 audits and evaluations of state agencies and programs were released.

Jan has received several honors and awards including the 2011 Outstanding Achievement Award from the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society, which recognized her expertise, contributions, and dedication to the legislative institution; the 2004 Wisconsin First Woman Award from Wisconsin Women in Government, which recognized her many contributions to the field of public service; and 2011 Assembly Joint Resolution 45, adopted by all members of the Wisconsin Legislature, which commended her for her public service, objectivity, independence, and nonpartisanship.

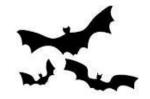
Jan has contributed to many professional organizations including serving on the U.S. Comptroller General's Advisory Council on Government Auditing Standards; the Executive Committee of the National State Auditors Association; and the Advisory Board of the Accounting and Information Systems Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.





PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Carrie Ferguson, CPA





It was a pleasure to see so many faces – both familiar and new – at our first chapter luncheon meeting this September. Our speaker was Madison Police Chief Nobel Wray, and his talk on "Policing in the New Economy" was both informative and engaging. If you were not able to attend, or if there was a note you forgot to jot down during the presentation, please check out some of the highlights of Chief Nobel Wray's discussion in next month's newsletter.

There were many points that I personally took away from his presentation, but one point that particularly struck me was his comment about research showing that a typical citizen's satisfaction with the police department increased if that citizen knew the name of an officer or other member of the department. An obvious reason for this increased satisfaction may be that if citizens know someone at the department. they may have a little better understanding about what goes on at the department which really means that these citizens may have a little better understanding of what sorts of programs their tax dollars are supporting. That sort of understanding is critical in today's economy - not just for the Madison Police Department but also, for all types of government services. Because of this, projects like AGA's effort to encourage more governments to publish Citizen Centric reports should also help to

increase public satisfaction with government, since these reports provide a quick snapshot about what those governments are accomplishing. Similarly, I look forward to the work our chapter's board will do in helping our new chapter accountability chair, Sherri Voigt, publish a similar Member Centric report for our Southern Wisconsin Chapter of AGA. We hope you'll find it to be a useful read.

However, while I believe these Citizen Centric reports – both for governments and for our chapter - will help to increase understanding of those entities, another point I took away Chief Nobel Wray's comment was the importance of personal contact itself. Information may be critical, but putting a face to something helps to build community. The value of community is something that goes beyond economics. Both AGA members and nonmembers alike are part of the government accountability community, and when we can meet at events like these monthly luncheons and share ideas, we help to strengthen that community with increased understanding.

A few of you that attended this meeting may even have shared some interesting items you learned with family or friends, which means our gathering as a community has had a ripple effect. So in that spirit of building and strengthening our community, I look forward to seeing many more familiar and new faces at the rest of the events our chapter has planned this year! Be sure to keep tuned to this newsletter and our chapter website www.aga-wis.org to stay informed about what those events will be.

Passionately Pink for the Cure at October 20 Meeting!

Q: What is Passionately Pink for the Cure?

A: Passionately Pink for the Cure is an awareness and fundraising program benefiting Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

Q: How will the funds raised be used?

A: Eighty-seven cents of every dollar Komen receives goes toward our mission. Twenty-five percent is used to fund life-saving research and 75% is shared with our Affiliates across the country to be used in local education, screening and treatment efforts.

Q: Will I receive a tax receipt?

A: Susan G. Komen for the Cure issues receipts for any funds of \$10 or more received directly by Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Anyone who provides a check written directly to Komen will receive an acknowledgement within approximately four to six weeks from the date it was deposited.

Q: Is my donation tax-deductible?

A: Yes, contributions to Susan G. Komen for the Cure may be tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Please consult your tax advisor

for more information

Q: When are the donations due?

A: Team captains are encouraged to send in donations as soon as their Passionately Pink for the Cure day is over. (October 20)

Q: Can donations be made online?

A: We encourage it! Donors can either to go to passionatelypink.org, click register/donate and find the team's page, or go directly to the team's donation page using the team URL. Online donors receive immediate acknowledgements, and you don't have to worry about sending checks by mail. Best of all, the money Komen saves in postage and handling goes toward the cause.

Team: agasowi Link: http://www.info-komen.org/site/TR/PassionatelyPink/PassionatelyPink?pg=team&fr_id=1846&team_id=145766

Q: How should checks be made out?

A: Please make checks payable to Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

of the law. Please consult your tax advisor for more information

Q: When are the donations due?

A: Team captains are encouraged to send in donations as soon as their Passionately Pink for the Cure day is over. (October 27)

Q: Can donations be made online?

A: We encourage it! Donors can either to go to passionatelypink.org, click register/donate and find the team's page, or go directly to the team's donation page using the team URL. Online donors receive immediate acknowledgements, and you don't have to worry about sending checks by mail. Best of all, the money Komen saves in postage and handling goes toward the cause.

Team: agasowi Link http://www.info-komen.org/site/TR/PassionatelyPink/He adquartersSite?team_id=194849&pg=t eam&fr_id=2263

Q: How should checks be made out?

A: Please make checks payable to Susan G. Komen for the Cure.



Natural Resources, Department of

Management Accountant Advanced

Job Announcement Code(s): 11-04833

County(ies):

Classification Title: / JAC: ACCOUNTANT-ADV 11-04833

Job Working Title: Management Accountant Advanced

Type of Employment: Full Time (40 hrs/week)

Starting salary is between \$52,736 and

\$87,696 per year depending upon experience and qualifications, plus an excellent benefits package. This position is in pay schedule and pay range 07-02. A six-month probationary

period is required.

Contact: Lorie Caffrey, Human Resource Specialist, 608-

266-1407, Lorie.Caffrey@Wisconsin.gov

Bargaining Unit: Fiscal and Staff Services

Area of Competition: Open
Deadline to Apply: 10/18

10/18/2011 October 18, 2011

Exam Information: 00265 - 004 Accountant Advanced-

Management Preview Exam

The <u>Department of Natural Resources</u> is dedicated to the preservation, protection, effective management, and maintenance of Wisconsin's natural resources. We are currently looking for two professionals to join our team as Management Accountants Advanced, Bureau of Finance, Madison.

Job Duties:

The Accountant Advanced positions are responsible for the appropriation and expense/revenue budget management of a major segment of the Department of Natural Resources program. The Management Accountant is also responsible for the integration of federal aid accounting into the financial management structure along with the maintenance of primary/secondary funding identification, relationships and tables. Management Accountants are instrumental in the development and financial system implementation of the biennial budget. As the key financial advisor, the management accountant provides counsel to both financial, program managers and upper department management.

Special Notes:

A criminal background check will be conducted prior to an offer of hire. The positions are located in Madison with statewide responsibilities so therefore occasional over night travel will be necessary.

Job Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

Ability to analyze and prepare budgets; Ability to interpret and use of financial reports; Knowledge of modern accounting and auditing theory and practice; administering databases and spreadsheets, retrieving data, and disseminating information. Ability to make decisions using good judgment; to implement principles of quality management, continuous improvement, and customer service; effectively and efficiently manage the timely completion of simultaneous tasks with firm deadlines.

How To Apply:

Apply Online! Preview the exam by clicking the Preview Exam link at the top of this page and prepare your responses in a word processing document. Your response to the questions is the examination and will be used to determine your eligibility for this vacancy. Your resume will only be used to clarify your responses to the exam. Once you have completed your response to the examination, follow the steps below on-line, starting with setting up an account.

The deadline to apply is October 18, 2011. If you need assistance with the online application process, contact Lorie Caffrey at 608-266-1407 or lorie.caffrey@wi.gov.

National News



Richard O. Bunce, Jr. Senior Advisor to the President

From the National Office

The 2011–2012 national conference year got off to a great start with the Sixth Annual Internal Control and Fraud Conference, held September 19 and 20 at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C. Keynote speakers Patrick Kuhse and Pamela Meyer set the tone for an outstanding educational program. The conference also featured the first public presentation of the report on lessons learned in the 20 years since



the CFO Act was enacted, prepared by the CFO Council and the Council of Inspectors General. Such cutting-edge sessions are regular features of AGA's national conferences. You can view a summary of the Internal Control and Fraud Conference sessions at www.agacgfm.org/fraud_2011/coverage.htm.

Following the Internal Control and Fraud Conference, your National Executive Committee met on September 21. This year the NEC is laser focused on the Strategic Plan that was approved by the National Board of Directors in July, and the plan's goals and objectives form the core agenda for each NEC meeting. In particular, we are committed to improving our membership numbers and to clearly demonstrating the value of AGA membership to our current and potential members.

We are also doing more to promote the CGFM designation. For example, the federal Office of Personnel Management (OPM) recently released Draft Qualification Standards for Four Occupations in the Accounting and Budget Occupational Group, revising the required competencies and related proficiencies for certain federal positions and grade levels. The draft qualifications did not include the CGFM as a preferred certification. AGA's Professional Certification Board responded to the Draft in a letter to OPM strongly recommending that the CGFM be included in the final criteria. We will continue similar efforts throughout the year, including meetings with appropriate federal, state and local officials. Read more.

Experts Lined Up for AGA's Seventh Annual Performance Management Conference

AGA's Seventh Annual Performance Management Conference is scheduled for Nov. 3-4, 2011, at the beautiful W Hotel in Seattle. Northwest governments have been leaders in showing the rest of the country how performance management, measurement and reporting can help governments become more efficient, effective and accountable to the people they serve. Experts who serve in state and local governments will discuss their practical experience. Whether you are starting from scratch or honing your skills, hear about promising practices and lessons learned from the front lines. Learn more about the conference.

AGA, Accenture Offer Free Pre-Conference Workshop in Performance Management

Would you like to learn more about how ready and capable your organization is to measure all aspects of performance management? Accenture is offering a free workshop to help you identify your agency's strengths and weaknesses so you can get a good sense of how you can use performance management.



The workshop, worth 5 CPE hours, will be held 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on **Wednesday**, **Nov. 2, 2011**, the day before AGA's <u>Seventh Annual Performance</u> <u>Management Conference</u> at the W Hotel in Seattle. This workshop is offered at no charge to conference registrants. There will be a cost to non-conference attendees. Contact Evie Barry if you are interested.

AGA Needs Volunteer Leaders for National, Regional Positions; Nomination Deadline is Monday

Nomination Deadline is Monday, October 31, 2011

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 I*
- Senior Vice President for Regional Services – Section IV*
- Fourteen Regional Vice Presidents (RVP)-Elect*

*Please note that the 2012-2015 terms are based on the updated chapter and regional governance alignment. Please pay close attention to the <u>nominations</u> <u>brochure</u>, and contact <u>Louise Kapelewski</u> if you have any questions.

Term—The three-year terms begin July 1, 2012.

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 office of the Association, except the National Executive Committee. Other qualifications apply.



Submissions—All submissions are sent to the National Nominating Committee, which will choose the slate of candidates. 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 process will not recognize endorsements of candidates.

For More Information—If you are interested in serving or know of potential leaders, view the <u>nominations brochure</u> that contains information about position terms, qualifications and eligibility, a list of Sections/Regions/Chapters, and National Officer Nomination Form. Or, contact <u>Louise Kapelewski</u> at 703.684.6931, ext. 321.

CGFM Corner



CGFM Intensive Review Course Scheduled for February

Don't miss the opportunity to take the CGFM Examinations and earn your CGFM at the next Intensive Review Course event in February. AGA is

offering a two-day Intensive Review Course on Monday, Feb. 27, 2012 and Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012 and an opportunity to take CGFM Examinations on Feb. 29–March 2, 2012. The cost of the course is only \$279 for qualified participants, and it offers 18 CPE hours. 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 for this event are available on AGA's website.

Articles

Federal News

AGA to Conduct Research on the Consolidated Financial Statements of the U.S. Government

Research will identify potential solutions and develop plans of action to facilitate the reconciliation of the Government budgetary and financial information, and consequently mitigate long-standing material weaknesses contributing to the disclaimer of audit opinion on the Federal Government Consolidated Financial Statements (CFS).

As part of its ongoing efforts to conduct timely and relevant research to benefit governmental accounting, auditing, and



financial management, AGA will be researching long-standing financial management weaknesses in the processes used to compile the federal governments financial statements.

AGA's research is expected to produce recommendations and a suggested plan of action to address some of the key material audit weaknesses contributing to the disclaimer of opinion on Consolidated Financial Statements (CFS) of the U.S. Government. The project will also outline optimal preparation and compilation architecture for the government-wide entity. In so doing, AGA hopes that its research will benefit the Federal financial management community as a whole and facilitate Treasury responsibilities as preparer of the CFS. Jennifer Curtin, AGA. Read more.

Panel Calls for Quarterly Employee Performance Reviews

Federal managers should review employees quarterly to create a culture of ongoing, continuous feedback and let poor performers know they need to straighten up, a task force recommended Wednesday. The Employee Performance Management Workgroup, made up of federal chief human capital officers, Obama administration officials, and representatives of union and

management organizations, also said the government must improve how it selects supervisors, and require mandatory training for them on how to manage their employees' performance. The draft **Employee Performance Management** Accountability Framework does not recommend any structural changes to the government's personnel systems. The Office of Personnel Management and the Chief Human Capital Officers Council took changes to laws, regulations and labor contracts and payfor-performance off the table before the working group began. "None of this stuff is groundbreaking," OPM Deputy Chief of Staff Justin Johnson said. "It's a comprehensive collection of good management practices. We like to call it common sense that isn't vet common practice." • \Stephen Losey, Federal Times. Read more.

State and Local News

State Legislators Want Revenue on the Table in Debt Talks

A bipartisan group of state lawmakers from around the country spent Sept. 21 on Capitol Hill, urging the congressional Super Committee to consider all possible avenues for deficit reduction\including new revenue that House Speaker John Boehner appears to have taken off the table. Legislators from more than a dozen states urged the 12-member Super Committee, which kicked off its meetings earlier this month, to go big





and reach a bipartisan deal that would cut the nations debt but spare states from severe budget cuts. State Representative Peggy Welch, an Indiana Democrat, said the lawmakers were told during their visit that states could expect cuts of • q10 to 25 percent of their overall budgets as a result of the committees work, know that there will be cuts, New Hampshire Representative Terie Norelli, a Democrat, told reporters during a briefing at the offices of the National Conference of State Legislatures, which organized the lobbying trip. • hat we are asking is that cuts to state budgets be proportional to everything else that's on the table. John Gramlich, and Jim Melewitz, Stateline.org. Read more.

How State and Local Governments Can Help Create 'Good Jobs'

Job creation has become a hot phrase in the national discourse. A question asked less often: What kind of jobs should be created? Paul Osterman, a professor at MIT's Sloan School of Management, took that issue to task in a new book, *Good Jobs America: Making Work Better for Everyone.* In it, Osterman and his co-author, the late Beth Shulman, lament the number of Americans working in low-wage jobs, many of them lacking benefits and an opportunity to grow. *Governing* sat down with Osterman to discuss bad jobs and what state and local governments can do to encourage businesses in their area to provide workers

with quality work conditions, livable wages and future career paths. For his purposes, Osterman defines a "good job" in terms of wage level. Employees working a good job would earn above a poverty-level wage. \what it would take to raise a family of four• \which amounts to a little more than \$10 an hour. Osterman says he considers that to be a "very conservative" description of a good job, as other aspects such as decent benefits and acceptable work conditions are not considered. Using those parameters, Osterman estimates that 20 percent of Americans currently stuck in "bad jobs." • \Dylan Scott, Governing. Read more.

Private Sector News

The Rich Respond to Obama's 'Buffett Rule'

Once the debt-ceiling rancor faded, financial gurus and observers had little reason to think debate on taxing the wealthy would ignite again before Nov. 23. That's when the 12-member congressional super committee issues its recommendations on finding at least \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction. Then came President Obama's announcement on Monday of the Buffett Rule, a plan to raise taxes on American households making more than \$1 million annually. Suddenly, the millionaires who support such a plan (like Warren Buffett himself) had cause for hope



after many months of anti-tax furor and tax hike inaction, an excellent policy proposal, says Wealth for the Common Good co-founder Chuck Collins. The defenders of wealth and power are going to go crazy over this proposal, but our job is to help balance the story. We already putting out calls; our members will call their legislators; they'll organize their peers; they'll write letters to editors. Yet it was also as though the Buffett Rule came with an unspoken corollary: Where proposals to tax the rich come, rhetoric and strong words on both sides of the issue will surely follow. Lou Carlozo, Reuters. Read more.



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.





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@danesheriff.com or the Chapter President at carrie.ferguson@legis.wisconsin.gov



Southern Wisconsin Chapter Calendar of Events for 2011-2012

August 23, 2011 – Board Meeting, Hometown Buffet, Madison

September 22, 2011 – Lunch Meeting, Chief Noble Wray, Madison Police Department, Policing in the New Economy, Dayton Street Café (inside The Concourse, 1 West Dayton)

October 4, 2011 – Board Meeting, Hometown Buffet, Madison October 20, 2011 – Lunch Meeting, Janice Mueller, Talula Restaurant, 802 Atlas Avenue

November 1, 2011 – Board Meeting, Hometown Buffet, Madison

November 17, 2011 – Lunch Meeting, Property Value Assessments and How They Are

Utilized in the City of Madison's Budget, David Schmiedicke, City of Madison

Finance, and Mark Hanson, City of Madison Special Assessor, location to be determined

December 6, 2011 – Board Meeting, Hometown Buffet, Madison December, 2011 – Audio conference--topic Ethics, location to be determined

January 3, 2012 – Board Meeting, Hometown Buffet, Madison
January 26, 2012 – Lunch Meeting, Annual Tax Update, Mardee L. Blattner, CPA, MST,
Virchow Krause & Company, Imperial Gardens Restaurant

February 7, 2012 – Board Meeting, Hometown Buffet, Madison, WI February 23, 2012 – Lunch Meeting, Topic and location to be determined

March 6, 2012 – Board Meeting, Hometown Buffet, Madison March 22, 2012 – Lunch Meeting, Topic and location to be determined

April 3, 2012 – Board Meeting, Hometown Buffet, Madison April 19, 2012 – Lunch Meeting, Topic and location to be determined

May 1, 2012 – Board Meeting, Hometown Buffet, Madison May 7, 2012 – MS Walk 2012 (community service event) May 10, 2012 – Annual Spring Symposium

June 5, 2012 – Board Meeting, Hometown Buffet, Madison June 7, 2012 – Lunch Meeting, Topic and location to be determined

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

AGA Southern Wisconsin Chapter 2012 Officers and Directors

President – Carrie Ferguson, CPA, LAB, <u>carrie.ferguson@legis.wisconsin.gov</u>, 608-259-9839 President Elect – Vacant

Immediate Past President - Sherri Voigt, CGFM, CPA, DNR, sherri.voigt@wisconsin.gov

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

Secretary - Sherri Voigt, CGFM, CPA, DNR, sherri.voigt@wisconsin.gov

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

Historian – David Mellem, CGFM, CIA, CISA, US DHHS OIG, david.mellem@oig.hhs.gov, 608-264-5415 ext 25

Membership Chair - David Mellem, CGFM, CIA, CISA, US DHHS OIG,

david.mellem@oig.hhs.gov, 608-264-5415 ext 25

Newsletter Editor - Lillian Radivojevich, radivojevich@danesheriff.com, 608-284-4801

Education Chair – Mary Laufenberg, CGFM, CPA, DOR,

mary.laufenberg@revenue.wi.gov, 608-266-1670

Webmaster - Scott Thornton, scott@goochpages.com

Community Service Chair – Michele Tessner, CPA, DPI, michele.tessner@dpi.wi.gov CGFM Co-Chairs –

Michelle "Bea" Beasley

Michele Tessner, CPA, DPI, michele.tessner@dpi.wi.gov

Directors -

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

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

Thomas A. Scheidegger, CPA, thomas.scheidegger@bakertilly.com

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