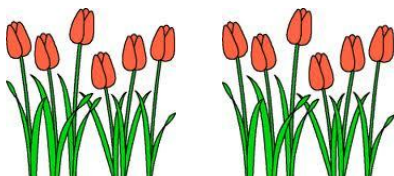




Inside This Issue

1. Luncheon Meeting
2. President's Message
4. Luncheon Update and Photos
5. March is CGFM Month photo
5. Board Meeting Minutes
6. Annual Spring Symposium – May 10, 2012, Union South
7. National News
8. CGFM Corner
9. Articles
12. Calendar of Events
13. Chapter Contacts



Monthly Footnotes

APRIL 2012

VOLUME XI, ISSUE 7



April Luncheon Meeting Welcome Members and Non-Members

TOPIC: The Importance of Global Markets to the State of Wisconsin's Economy

SPEAKER: Lora Klenke, Vice President
International Business Development,
WI Economic Development Corporation

DATE: Thursday, April 19, 2012

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-Marinaded Chicken Sandwich-with lettuce, tomato, onion, and monterey-jack cheese on a ciabatta bun
- Cheese Quesadillas- Monterey jack and cheddar cheese served with homemade chipotle sour cream, guacamole, and pico de gallo.

RESERVATIONS: Please contact Sherri Voigt by **1 p.m. on Monday, April 16, 2012** with your name, membership status, and 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 IS FREE

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 LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Lora Klenke is the vice president of International Business Development for the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). Lora is responsible for the state's export and foreign direct investment growth strategy. She advises the Governor, cabinet members and business leaders on global business opportunities, trade issues and diplomatic protocol. She brings more than 15 years of global development, engagement, research and strategic partnering experience to WEDC. Prior to joining WEDC, Lora served as Director of Market Development at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), where she led the department's economic development programs for local, regional and global markets. At DATCP, she spearheaded a strategic process to identify the state's core agricultural sectors and target export markets. She has executed numerous export initiatives in countries such as China, Japan, Korea, India, Mexico, Canada and Turkey.



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE Carrie Ferguson, CPA



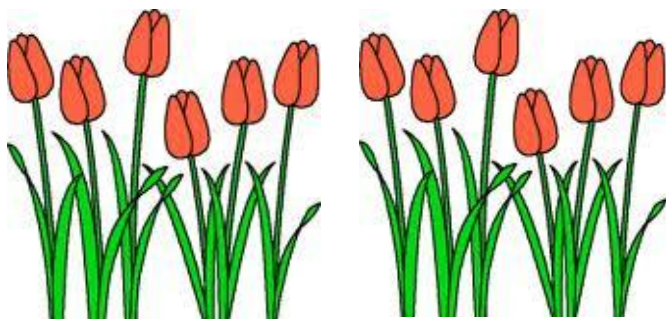
Spring has definitely arrived, bringing with it all the lovely flowering trees, green grass, allergies.... Well, I suppose there will always be room for improvement in anything we encounter, even seasons. Still, along with the warmer weather, Spring is generally a time of new beginnings.

In your work life, a new beginning might mean taking on a new assignment or learning a new skill. Hopefully, AGA can provide some help providing educational opportunities for you to build those new



skill sets. Our program year is quickly coming to the end, but we still have our upcoming luncheon meeting April 19, our annual symposium on May 10, and a combined session with both a recent audio course and a live speaker to be scheduled sometime in June (watch future newsletters for the announced date). I hope to see many of you at each of these events.

New beginnings might also include taking that step to renew your AGA membership (if you haven't done so already). Or, if you are not already a member, this is a good time to join.



Remember, you get half off the price of the upcoming symposium (i.e., a savings of \$35) if you become a member. In addition, the member price for each luncheon meeting also nets you 50 percent savings – not to mention your first lunch as a new member is free. The training we schedule in our upcoming year will also include savings for members.

Speaking of the upcoming year, why not help us plan our events and activities? You can become involved by embarking on another new beginning – joining the Southern Wisconsin Chapter board. Joining the board doesn't have to mean an immediate commitment to a specific office or chair position. Instead, you can serve as a general director, where you would assist with projects as needed. Board meetings are generally held only once each month, so feel free to come and check one out. In fact, our April board meeting was rescheduled for Monday, April 23, so you can even join yet this month.

We currently have three general directors serving on our board: Eric Busse, Julie Gordon, and Tom Scheidegger. I'd like to thank all of them for their service this past year.



**2012 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, Lillian Radivojevich,

March 22, 2012 Lunch Meeting Railroad Grants and Their Compliance Issues

Frank Huntington of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation came to speak about railroad grant programs. The DOT manages three main grant programs related to rails:

1. Freight Rail Preservation Program (FRPP)
2. Freight Railroad Infrastructure Improvement Program (FRIIP)
3. Transportation Economic Assistance Program (TEA)

These are largely pass-through assistance programs through the regional transit commissions. The programs were set up in 1993 to preserve rail service.

The FRPP was created to resolve the issues with so many railways being abandoned. It provides up to 100% funding for land acquisition and 80% for improvement acquisition costs or rehabilitation/construction costs. The first goal is to preserve rail services. The secondary goal would be for rails to trails types of programs.

The FRIIP utilizes a revolving loan program with 10 year paybacks to get the work done. Interest rates started out at 0% and have increased to 2% currently.

These are competitive programs that go through a rating and ranking process. The key factor is benefit/cost.

Biennial Budget history

2011-13 \$30 million/biennium
2009-11 \$60 million
2007-09 \$22 million
2005-07 \$12 million
2003-05 \$ 4.5 million

The TEA has had over \$10 Million awarded for 68 rail related projects since program began in 1988. Types of projects include:

- Rail sidings, passing tracks and crossings
- Team tracks and yards
- Inter-modal facilities

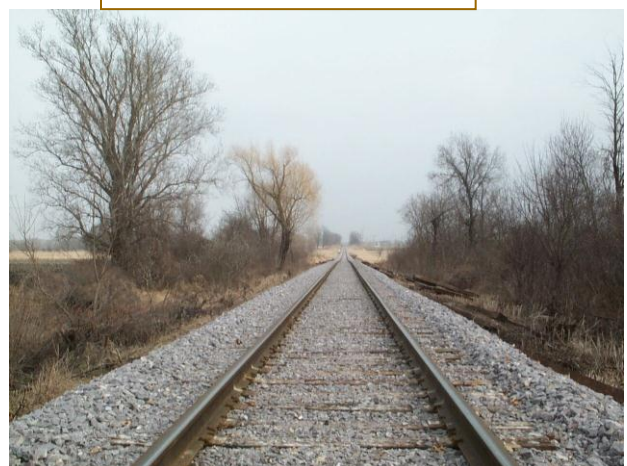
The programs are likely to continue since there is strong local support (from governments and users.)

He showed some photos of projects and two samples are shown below. The DOT gets out at least once each year to each line to verify the work is being done to specifications before making any reimbursements.

Line Needing Rehab



Line Rehabilitated with Welded Rail



March is CGFM Month!



Pictured (left to right): Joanne Schultz, Andy Stovich, David Mellem, Ed Tuecke, Al Vick, Sherri Voigt.

The AGA Southern Wisconsin Chapter celebrated “**March is Certified Government Financial Manager Month**” at the March 23 lunch meeting. CGFMs in attendance received a free lunch registration and an AGA mouse pad. The Chapter has framed proclamations from Governor Walker and Mayor Soglin to commemorate the month.

March 6, 2012 Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

Present: David Mellem, Tom Scheidegger, Michele Tessner, Bea Beasley, Mary Laufenberg, Sherri Voigt, Lily Radivojevich, Carrie Ferguson, Dolly O’Laughlin.

Membership

- We have 81 members. We should all check at our agencies for people to add to the training list. We will also do a targeted membership information e-mail to non-members to show the benefits of AGA.

CGFM

- We have a set of the updated review guides in our library.
- A draft check-out policy is being created and will be given to board for review at an upcoming meeting.

Accountability

- Moving closer to having a member-centric report for the chapter
- Briefly discussed questions to include on the annual member survey that might help with future reports.

Chapter Recognition

- The next report is due March 31.

Community Service

- The paper bag collection (for the MOM Food Pantry in Middleton) at the February lunch meeting went well.

Newsletter

- March newsletter should be sent out tomorrow.

Education

- March and April lunch speakers are set up
- Symposium planning update
 - * Meals discussed after reviewing the attendee comments from 2011; decision made to offer the same meals as last year with a couple of adjustments to quantities on breads and meat lasagna
 - * The evaluation should have added questions to evaluate parking around Union South and how the facility works out in general.
 - * Carrie will contact Union South/Parking to ask about passes for speakers and deliveries.
- Ideas for future training
- Recap of A-133 Cost Allocation training event and plans for repeat of course.

Other Matters?

- Officer list due to National AGA by April 30. Please let Carrie know if you are interested in returning or know of someone who would like to join the board.

Next Board Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 3, 2012

**2012 ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SYMPOSIUM -- REGISTER TODAY!**

**THIRTY-FIFTH ACCOUNTING AND
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
CONFERENCE**

May 10, 2012

**University of Wisconsin Union South
1308 West Dayton Street
Madison, WI 53715
(608) 890-3000**

**The Association of
Government Accountants
Advancing Government Accountability
Thursday, May 10, 2012**

7:30 a.m. Registration 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Conference

Objective: This conference is designed to enhance understanding of some of the problems encountered today in the public sector, inform of public policies and emerging issues, and provide managerial techniques to affect positive changes. The 35th Annual Accounting and Financial Management Conference continues the Association of Government Accountant's commitment to a planned program of professional education and development for public sector financial managers.

Format: Lecture, question and answer

Level: Update/Overview

CPE Credits: 7 hours

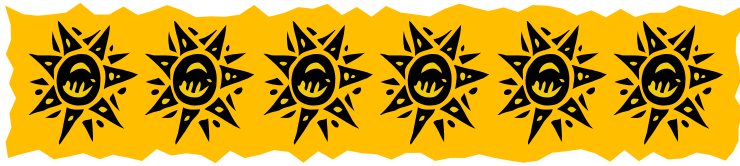
Fee: AGA Member \$35

Non-Member \$70

Retired AGA Member \$25

Registration Deadline: April 27, 2012

Full brochure on-line at: www.aga-wis.org



National News



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

- **More than 80 training sessions.** Learn strategies for improving performance in a cost-constrained environment.
- **Earn 24 CPE hours.**
- **Solutions to common challenges.** PDC exhibitors can demonstrate new products, services and cutting-edge technologies to increase efficiency at your organization.

From the National Office

Don't Miss the Best Training Event of the Year

AGA's 61st Annual PDC, **Training to Solve Today's Fiscal Challenges**, is the premier education and training event for government financial managers and accountability professionals nationwide. Make plans now to join AGA in San Diego, July 29–Aug. 1, for:



Attention Government Employees— Register today and save **up to 20 percent**. That's just **\$30 per CPE hour**. [Learn more.](#)

It's Time to Renew; Online Process is Quick and Easy

The AGA membership year comes to a close on March 31 so if you have not already renewed, now is the time. The easiest and quickest way to renew is to [visit AGA's website](#), enter your member ID number and password and then the billing button.

Don't know your ID number? No problem, enter your e-mail address at the [Find My ID](#) link. Forgot your password? [Reset your password](#) now.

Help Recognize Leaders in the Accountability Community Through 13 AGA Awards

AGA's National Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for 13 national awards that recognize the leaders advancing our profession and setting the

standards of excellence. These awards, covering research, education, chapter service, international achievement and many other areas, will be presented during AGA's 61st Annual PDC in San Diego, from July 29–Aug. 1. In many cases, individuals do not have to be members of AGA to be eligible. All nominations are due by **Friday, April 13**. [Nomination forms are available online](#). For more information, contact [Louise Kapelewski](#).



CGFM Corner

Toward the Future

The challenge facing today's government financial managers is to keep up with the changing times. New innovations, new regulations and new methods of implementation require staying abreast of the latest developments.

AGA presents a dynamic program of educational events every year that will expand your knowledge and sharpen your skills.

The field of government financial management will be far different tomorrow from what it is today. Having a broad knowledge and a recognized professional



designation will be the way to distinguish yourself from the crowd.

There's no time like the present for joining the thousands of other leaders in government financial management who already have discovered the unique value and benefit of the CGFM designation.

"Professional recognition through certification or other designation provides a distinct advantage in the job market. Certification can attest to professional competence in a specialized field of accounting and auditing."
—Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-2011 Edition*

One of the key findings of [AGA's 2010 Compensation Survey](#) is that those who had earned a CGFM designation reported a higher average salary than those who do not hold this certification: \$105,815 compared to \$78,905, a difference of 34 percent. When compared to the average salary of individuals with no designations—\$68,416—the average salary of CGFM's was 55 percent higher.





Value and Recognition of the CGFM Credential

The foundation of the CGFM is the requirement for Education, Experience and Examinations. Building on this foundation is a Code of Ethics and required Continuing Professional Education (CPE).

This designation is already recognized as a professional standard. Each year, more and more federal agencies and state and local governments are realizing the value of the CGFM and are formally embracing the designation. It is often listed as a preferred hiring qualification on federal RFPs. The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Board of Regents has also recognized the CGFM. It is accepted as a waiver for part IV of the CIA examination.

Articles

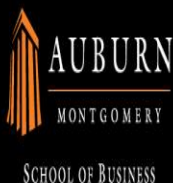
Federal News

Army Systems Leave Soldiers Vulnerable to Late, Inaccurate Pay

The Army has major problems when it comes to matching up the information in its pay system against the data in its personnel systems. The mismatch is a major threat to the U.S. Department of Defense's path toward audit readiness. Audit concerns aside, Congress is concerned that soldiers aren't getting paid what they're owed. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) said that even while the Army has made some strides toward improving its pay practices, the service is a long way off from the kind of data integrity independent experts would need to see in order to green light the systems as audit-ready, GAO found. — Jared Serbu, *Federal News Radio*. [Read more.](#)

Congress Approves Bill Requiring Feds to Post Financial Statements Online

Congress on Thursday gave final approval to legislation requiring the financial disclosure reports of some 28,000 federal officials to be posted on the Internet by August. The Senate voted 96-3 to send the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge (STOCK) Act to President Obama for his signature. The measure passed the House last month. While the bill's main purpose is to ensure that lawmakers and their staffs don't use non-public insider knowledge when dealing in stocks and other investments, it also mandates posting the disclosure statements—known as Office of Government Ethics (OGE) Form 278s—on a public website. Some 28,000 filers, including presidential appointees, Senior Executive Service members, and general



Government Financial Management Program
Get the competitive edge - Courses online

Visit www.aum.edu/gfm
or call 334-244-3495



and flag officers, would fall under the law. — Sean Reilly, *Federal Times*. [Read more.](#)

State and Local News

Detroit Teeters on Brink of Bankruptcy as State Takeover Looms

A state-appointed commission has declared that Detroit is in the midst of a “severe financial emergency,” as city and state officials scramble to find a way to keep the city from bankruptcy. Facing a budget deficit of \$200 million, Detroit is burning up cash reserves for basic services. The 10-member financial commission, appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder, has until Monday to deliver an action plan, which could include a takeover by state government. Governor Snyder will have 10 days to make a decision. Although the city has long been under financial duress, the crisis escalated after Moody’s Investors Service issued two separate downgrades of the city’s bond rating. —Mark Guarino, *The Christian Science Monitor*. [Read more.](#)

Texas City Manager Trims Payroll by Laying Himself Off

City Manager Dan O’Leary of Keller, TX, decided that someone from the top management ranks at City Hall had to go. So the person he laid off was himself. “It’s a

little unusual for a city of our size to have three city managers,” O’Leary said, referring to his two assistant city managers, Steve Polasek and Chris Fuller. “There was a time that was needed, but at this point in time, I don’t think we need three city managers.” —Susan McFarland, *Star-Telegram*. [Read more.](#)

Private Sector News

PCAOB Hears Pros and Cons of Audit Firm Rotation

The Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) heard testimony from a series of high-profile auditing experts on the advantages and disadvantages of requiring companies to rotate their auditing firms on a regular basis. The testimony came in response to a concept release that the PCAOB proposed last year on the controversial matter of mandatory audit firm rotation. On the first day of the two-day hearing, the PCAOB heard from former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, along with several former chairmen of the Securities and Exchange Commission—Arthur Levitt, Harvey Pitt and Richard Breeden—and the heads of the five largest auditing firms. Volcker came out in favor of mandatory auditor rotation. However, Pitt, who is now CEO of Kalorama Partners,



said he did not favor the idea. —Michael Cohn, *Accounting Today*. [Read more.](#)

Accounting Standards News

Annual ALGA Conference Set for May in Arizona

The 2012 Association of Local Government Auditors Annual Conference, worth 15 CPE hours, is set for May 7–8 at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, AZ. The theme is "The Heat is on for Local Government Auditing." Topics include risk assessment, data mining and analysis, social media, leadership, law enforcement auditing, career development, auditing standards updates and more. [Learn more about the agenda, registration and travel information.](#)

Upcoming Audio Conferences

April 18: [Find Strength in Numbers: Sampling Techniques to Improve Financial Audit, Control and Program Performance](#)

May 9: [Carlo Ponzi or Bernard Madoff—Who Was the Bigger Villain?](#)

May 23: [Ethical Dilemmas—Recognizing, Analyzing and Resolving Situations Where There are Two Right Choices](#)



1st Place

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 Newsletter Editor at radojevich@danesherriff.com. 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 2011-2012

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

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

October 4, 2011 – Board Meeting, Hometown Buffet, Madison

October 20, 2011 – Lunch Meeting, Janice Mueller; Topic – Government Accountability Professionals: Where Have We Been and Where Are We Going? Restaurant -- Talula, 802 Atlas Avenue (off Hwy 51 at Cottage Grove Road)

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

November 17, 2011 – Lunch Meeting, Mark Hanson and Dave Schmiedicke, Property Value Assessments and How They are utilized in the City of Madison Budget

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, Holly Skaife, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Capital Market Consequences of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, Restaurant -- Dayton Street Café (inside The Concourse, 1 West Dayton)

March 1, 2012 – Cost Allocation Training, WI Department of Revenue Building

March 6, 2012 – Board Meeting, Hometown Buffet, Madison

March 22, 2012 – Lunch Meeting, Railroad Grants and their Compliance Issues, Frank Huntington, WI DOT, Vintage Brewing Company.

April 19, 2012 – Lunch Meeting, Lora Klenke, Vice President, International Business Development, WI Economic Development Corporation, location to be determined

April 23, 2012 – Board Meeting, Hometown Buffet, Madison **New date******

May 1, 2012 – Board Meeting, Hometown Buffet, Madison

May 7, 2012 – MS Walk 2012 (community service event)

May 10, 2012 – Annual Spring Symposium, UW-Madison Union South

June 5, 2012 – Board Meeting, Hometown Buffet, Madison

June, 2012 – CPE Event, Ethics Topic, location to be determined, 3 CPE hours

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

AGA Southern Wisconsin Chapter 2011/2012 Officers and Directors

President – Carrie Ferguson, CPA, LAB, carrie.ferguson@legis.wisconsin.gov, 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@danesherriff.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, michelle.beasley@wisconsin.gov
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, jgordon@uwsa.edu, 608-263-4395
Thomas A. Scheidegger, CPA, thomas.scheidegger@bakertilly.com

Chapter Website – www.aga-wis.org

Chapter Address – PO Box 1454; Madison, WI 53701-1454



SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER