

Chapter Year 2008-09

December 2008



<http://www.agafortworth.org>

Association of Government Accountants (AGA) Chapter at Fort Worth, TX
COWTOWNER Newsletter For Chapter Year 2008-2009 December 2008

Our Mission: To be the AGA chapter dedicated to providing continuous educational opportunities for our members, promoting AGA Government Financial Management certification with fidelity anchored in professionalism, integrity, and competency.

Chapter President's Message

Welcome to the "Cowtownner" the Fort Worth AGA's newsletter. I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas with family and friends.

We have a new monthly article written by our Southwest Regional Vice President, Helene Baker. Check out her comments from various national sources.

I have included minutes from the December Chapter Executive (CEC) meeting and our December audio conference chapter meeting. An article on the upcoming January 2009 audio conference is there, too.

We will keep you informed by newsletter as to our upcoming meeting dates, speakers and community service! Please support your AGA Fort Worth Chapter.

Volunteer!! Be active!! Help us be better for you!

Bob Kanaga, CGFM
Chapter President
2008-2009 Chapter Year

AGA-Fort Worth Chapter CEC Meeting December 08, 2008

The Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) met at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 08, 2008 at the Meadowbrook Public Library, 2800 Stark St., in East Fort Worth, TX 76112. Attendees were: Bob Kanaga (President) and Lakshmi Krishnamurthy (Co-Treasurer), and Bob Kanaga (Education). Willie Hunter (Co-Treasurer) joined us via the telephone. Shad Sanders did not attend the meeting.

Bob Kanaga, opened the meeting and thanked Lakshmi and Willie for attending for attending. The following topics were discussed during the meeting:

1. Treasurer Discussion. Co-Treasurer Lakshmi Krishnamurthy reported the two expired checks from National AGA have been re-issued by AGA National, received by us and deposited.

Creating Exceptional Value for Government Accountability Professionals

2. Membership Discussion. It was reported that two new members have been signed up using the \$25 incentive scholarship funds. The Chapter will gain five new members for the use of the money in this manner.

3. Chapter Survey. It was discussed and approved that the Chapter send out a survey to members to check on current interest in AGA Chapter activities. It was suggested that emphasis be placed on how the Chapter is providing 18 hours of FREE CPE to members through Audio Conferences this Chapter Year. This action item has not been accomplished to date.

4. Assistance to El Paso Chapter. Bob Kanaga reported that the El Paso AGA Chapter did receive the \$100 check we sent them. He said that their Chapter President Bertha Tafoya (BTafoya@epcounty.com) called and sent him an e-mail thanking our Chapter for the present of \$100 and words of encouragement. Also Kathy Hightower (DCAA) is a good contact for the El Paso Chapter at (915) 534-6215 Ext. 24.

5. Chapter recognition Points. Second Quarter Chapter Recognition Report is due Dec 31, 2008. Bob Kanaga said he would complete it before the due date.

6. Next Audio Conference. The next audio conference is January 21, 2009.

Our next Chapter CEC Meeting will be Monday, January 12 at 5 p.m. at the Meadowbrook Public Library.

Our meeting ended at 5:45 p.m.

Bob Kanaga
Chapter President

Message from Regional Vice President, Helene Baker
November 2008

Least we forget Safety on our Shores to Bailouts of Auto Manufacturers
- Helene Baker, TX OK Regional Vice President -

In browsing on our National Homepage to recognize chapters I again came across this article from the modern day 'Pearl Harbor' on our mainland that reminds me of the fragile environment we still live in. Since 'safety' of our citizens is the forefront of all of government our shores have been safe and will continue in the new administration to be safe. Even with tragic moments of insurance company and possible bank failures and bailouts of these firms and car manufacturers that we have seen over the past few months and ethics concerns of statesmen across the country embedded in our city, county and federal government we will still be safe and will become even a better and stronger nation. Least we forget from what has brought us to safety and will continue to bring us to safety read this recount for 'remembrance' of the World Trade Center from our own AGA members of the New York Chapter.

"CHAPTER HERO
By Robert C. Stein

Richard Hoffman CGFM and our Chapter's President Elect works on the 12th floor at 61 Broadway, which is about a quarter of a mile from the World Trade Center Complex. On the morning of September 11th he did not realize that anything out of the ordinary was happening until he heard a loud "boom" and the building he was in started to shake.

He immediately left his office and took the elevator to the lobby. While in the elevator someone told Richard that a plane had hit the World Trade Tower. He said that his first thought was that a small private plane or sightseeing plane had crashed into the building.

Richard used the back entrance of his building and went out onto Trinity Place. He described Trinity Place as being in chaos. Traffic was a stand still. Fire engines and emergency vehicles with sirens blaring were going nowhere. People were rushing around in all directions.

At Trinity Place and Exchange Street an MTA Express Bus driver was redirecting traffic to Broadway, to clear a path for the emergency vehicles. Richard positioned myself at Rector Street and Trinity place, and together with a truck driver and a Traffic Enforcement Agent they eventually cleared a path for the emergency vehicles. While expediting the flow of traffic he approached 10 to 12 men and asked each one to help him move a small pickup truck, which was double-parked, onto the sidewalk. (The driver was not with the truck).

After the street was cleared of traffic Richard went back to his office, only to decide that he should go back down and see for himself what was happening.

He was ready to exit the building a second time when he saw people running away from the vicinity of the World Trade Towers; and at the same time he heard a crackling sound. He said that he could not imagine what was happening or what the people were running from. Maybe somebody was shooting at them? Anyhow, being a logical person, Richard decided to return to the safety of the lobby when the street suddenly went dark, and debris was flying everywhere. At this point he realized that something terrible was happening and his adrenaline began to flow- big time.

He opened the door to the street and started choking from the dust and debris in the air. Richard went back into the building, to the receiving area, and somebody provided him with an inexpensive respirator mask. He left the building and went outside to see if anybody needed help. Walking toward the World Trade Towers he found 6 to 8 people crouching against a build near Rector Street. Somebody said that the World Trade Tower had collapsed! He asked the people to join hands and escorted them back to the lobby of his building. Then he continued to the World Trade Towers. . . .”

For full article: <https://members.agacgfm.org/scriptcontent/membersonly/commendation.cfm>

December Community Service Activity

Bob and Cindy Kanaga helped several Meadowbrook Middle School Art students paint the front windows of the Medowbrook Middle School for the holiday season. The project took two hours to complete and was inspected by the school principal at its completion. We will report 100 points for our involvement in this event.



December 10, 2008

Audio Conference on 21st Century Financial Manager: A New Mix of Skills and Education Levels

Our December 10, 2008 AGA Chapter Meeting/Training Seminar was held at the Fritz Lanham Federal Building, Room 5A30E, South, 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. We had a total of four members and guests present for the audio presentation on "21st Century Financial Managers: A New Mix of Skills and Education Levels".

The audio presentation was put on by AGA National. The Speakers were:

Mr. John D. Webster, CGFM, CPA, Former CFO, Library of Congress, Chair of AGA Audit Committee; Doctor Kenneth Smith, Ph.D., Professor, Arkinson Graduate School of Management, Willamette University; and Mr. John J. Radford, CGFM CIA, CFE, Controller, State of Oregon, Member of the AGA National Executive Committee.

Bob Kanaga, Chapter President opened the meeting by welcoming all members and guests attending. He provided handout presentation books to each guest; a form to go on-line to evaluate the presentation and a form to be filled out for CPE for the seminar. Bob collected the CPE info forms at the end of the seminar and forwarded them to AGA Nation for approval. National will return the CPE Certificates to each of the individuals attending.

This seminar addressed the following areas:

Field of Study was Human Resource Management. It was presented that there has been a significant shift in accounting series (05XX) positions from clerical to professional. Technology, consolidation, standardization, outsourcing, contracting out have contributed to this shift. Specific educational areas colleges are failing to provide adequately for include: Students preparing to be Accountants need more skills in written (writing concisely) and oral communications, understanding of basic budgetary and accounting concepts and relationships, and analytical capability and business acumen to be able to provide the right information at the right time; Students preparing to be Budget Analysts need more skills in written and oral communications, knowledge of agency's program operations and processes, analytical capability necessary to evaluate and present budget information, and knowledge of accounting systems and appropriate law; And students preparing to be Management and Financial Analysts need more skills in cost accounting and analysis skills, written and oral communications, knowledge of agency's financial systems, knowledge of accounting concepts and appropriations law, ability to integrate planning, budget, and program performance information.

Universities need to use more case studies and simulations (less lecture and text work). Use of more projects and less exams and papers. Demand more critical thinking and less technical remembering. Offer more cross-disciplinary approaches.

At the end of the seminar, the presenters held a question and answer session which lasted about 30 minutes. Each participant will be awarded 2 CPE for attending this seminar.

Special thanks was given to Gene Merrell for arranging the use of the GSA Conference Room. Our next meeting will be January 21, 2009. It will be a two (2) hour seminar on "How XBRL Can Enable Improved Financial Performance Reporting". It will be held in the Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building, 819 Taylor Street, Room 5A30E, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. Sign in and a light lunch will start at 12:30 P.M. and the audio presentation will be from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

The meeting ended at 2:50 p.m.

Bob Kanaga, CGFM
Chapter President

Next Month's Training -- January 21, 2009
How XBRL Can Enable Imp[roved Financial Performance Reporting

AGA is pleased to announce its latest audio conference on one of its important ongoing research projects that demonstrates the value of government financial and performance reporting.

With new data comes the opportunity to break old paradigms. In the third in a series of audio conferences on the AGA-sponsored research on Performance Based Management (PBM), participants report on the new perspectives brought about by integrated financial and non-financial information. PBM delivers what one pilot test participant calls "integrated awareness," the big picture information that decision-makers need to keep their organizations steering in the right strategic direction. It also provides the data managers need to detect and solve performance problems. All this, plus PBM shows taxpayers both the how and what of their return on investment in government.

To share their expertise and experiences in PBM reporting are Clifton A. Williams, CGFM, CPA, Partner, Grant Thornton LLP; and James Brimson, MS, founder of Activity Based Management Institute.

Please join us for two hours of lively discussion about this important and timely topic. In addition to the speakers' commentary, there will be approximately 20 minutes for Q & A so that the participants can ask the speakers questions and share their own experiences.

Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Location: Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building, 819 Taylor Street, Room 5A30E South (5th Floor, GSA Area), Fort Worth, TX 76102

Time: Lunch: 12:30 to 1:00 , Presentation 1:00 – 2:50 p.m.

Learning Objectives: To understand the need for a new mix of skills and competencies in the government financial management work force arena.

Prerequisite: Some familiarity with work force issues

Advance Prep: None required

CPE: Two credit hours

Field of Study: Accounting (Government)

Treasurer's Report

Bank balance as of November 30, 2008 is \$6,559.72.

Lakshmi Krishnamurthy & Willie Hunter
Co-Treasurers Fort Worth Chapter

Chapter Recognition Points as of September 2008

Points earned through December 2008 are 9,525 Points

Next Chapter Recognition Report will be completed by March 31, 2009.

Chapter Activity Plan for 2008-09 Chapter Year

Months	CEC Meetings	Chapter Luncheons	Community Service/Social Activity	Other Events
May 2008		Wed. May 14, 2008 Audio Conference <i>Ethics</i> 2 CPE		
June 2008	Thur. June 5 CEC Meeting	Discuss Chapter Revitalization		June 1 Officer's List Due
July 2008	Sat. July 12 CEC Meeting held by phone	Discussed Chapter Revitalization with National & RVP several times.		July 15 Chapter Plans Due
August 2008	Fri. Aug 22 CEC Meeting held by phone	Revitalization Luncheon with local CFOs set for August 26 at Reata at 11:30 a.m.		
September 2008	Wed. Sept 3 CEC Meeting	Wed. Sept 10, 2008 Audio Conference <i>Fraud Prevention & Detection</i> 2 CPE		Sept 30 First Qtr CRP Due Annual Chapter Audit Due
October 2008	Mon. October 13 CEC Meeting	Wed. October 15, 2008 Audio Conference <i>Results of AGA's Research on Performance Based Management reporting</i> 2 CPE		
November 2008	Tues. November 18 CEC Meeting	Wed. November 12, 2008 Audio Conference <i>Internal Controls</i> 2 CPE	Buy gifts for Salvation Army Angel Tree Angels	
December 2008	Mon. December 8 CEC Meeting	Wed. December 10, 2008 Audio Conference <i>21st Century Financial Managers: New Mix of Skills & Education Levels</i> 2 CPE		Dec 31 Second Qtr CRP Due
January 2009	Mon. January 19 CEC Meeting	Wed. January 21, 2009 <i>How XBRL Can Enable Improved Financial & Performance Reporting</i> 2 CPE		
February 2009	Thur. February ? CEC Meeting	Wed. February 11, 2009 Audio Conference <i>Fraud</i> 2 CPE	Attend the Tarrant Area Food Bank's Empty Bowls event	
March 2009	Thur. March ? CEC Meeting	Wed. March 11, 2009 Audio Conference <i>Internal Controls</i> 2 CPE		Mar 31 Third Qtr CRP Due
April 2009	Thur. April ? CEC Meeting	Wed. April 8, 2009 Audio Conference <i>Auditing</i> 2 CPE	Sell soft drinks at MayFest	Chapter Officer Elections
May 2009	Thur. May ? CEC Meeting Welcome new Officers	Wed. May 9, 2009 Audio Conference <i>Ethics</i> 2 CPE	Donate prizes to the Junk Yard Dog Golf Tournament.	May 31 Fourth Qtr CRP Due

CEC Meetings: at 5:00 p.m. Meadowbrook Public Library, 2800 Stark St., in East Fort Worth, TX
76112

Chapter Meetings: See Audio Conference location below

Audio Conferences: Fritz G. Lanham Federal Bldg, 5th Floor (GSA), Suite 5A32E

POSITION	NAME & AGENCY	WORK PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
President	Bob Kanaga	(817) 929--8243	rhkanaga@aol.com
President-Elect			
Secretary			
Co-Treasurer	Lakshmi Krishnamurthy	(817) 437-0451	Krishnamurthy.lakshmi@gmail.net
Co-Treasurer	Willie Hunter SBA	(817) 684-5342	willie.hunter@sba.gov
Newsletter			
Education			
Co-Programs			
Co-Programs	Bob Kanaga	(817) 929-8243	rhkanaga@aol.com
Meetings			
Publicity			
Community Service			
Membership	Shad Sanders DCAA	(817) 763-4885	shad.sanders@dcaa.mil
CGFM			
Awards	By Committee		
Historian	Lakshmi Krishnamurthy	(817) 437-0451	Krishnamurthy.lakshmi@gmail.net
Early Careers			
Webmaster	Debbie Currie	(404) 808-7924	agaftw@yahoo.com
Immediate Past President			
Regional VP	Helene Baker	(832) 567-9872	helenebaker@satx.rr.com

