



<http://www.agafortworth.org>

Association of Government Accountants (AGA) Chapter at Fort Worth, TX
 COWTOWNER NEWSLETTER FOR CHAPTER YEAR 2009-2010 DECEMBER 2009

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Chapter President's Message

Welcome to the December 2009 Edition of the Fort Worth AGA's Newsletter the "Cowtowner". I hope you had a great Thanksgiving Holiday.

I wish each of you a very fulfilling Holiday Season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Our November 18 audio conference had five members in attendance. The topic of The Auditors Roles in Government Performance Measurement was not very popular. However, AGA continues to provide education to strengthen this area.

Our October and November Community Service Project of donating money to the Tarrant Area Food Bank concluded on November 18. We collected \$110 from members and sent it to the Tarrant Area Food Bank that day.

Our December Community Service Project was to help provide needed gifts to needy children from the Meadowbrook Middle School. We worked with the Buffalo Santa Program organized at the school.

Our Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) meeting was held immediately following the Chapter Meeting on November 18.

Our December 16 audio conference will be a session on Occupational Fraud taught by our National AGA President, Wm. Morehead, Ph.D., CGFM, CPA.

Your Chapter Officers 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 Retired
Chapter President

Chapter Meeting Minutes

Our November 18, 2009 AGA Chapter Meeting/ Training Seminar was held at the Fritz Lanham Federal Building, Room 5A30E, 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. We had a total of five members present. We had no non-members, so we did not collect any conference fees. One member donated \$100 to our Community Service Project for the Tarrant Area Food Bank. A sandwich lunch was served to all attendees.

The audio presentation entitled “Auditor Roles in Government Performance Measures” was conducted by AGA National. The Speakers were: **Paul D. Epstein**, Project Manager, Auditor Roles in Government Performance Measurement, and Leader of results that Matter Team, Epstein & Fass Assoc.; **Stuart S. Grifel, CIA, CGAP**, Audit Services Division, Clerk and Comptroller’s Office, Palm Beach County, FL; and **Stephen L. Morgan, CGFM, CIA, CGAP, CFE**, former City Auditor of Austin, TX.

Bob Kanaga, Chapter President opened the meeting by welcoming all members attending. The AGA Moderator, Mr. Ray Harris conducted the seminar. Each speaker presented a portion of the PowerPoint presentation which can be downloaded from:

Click on “Nov 18 ppt ” at public.me.com/ckanaga/, then click on attached files. There are three files.

This seminar addressed the following areas as detailed in the PowerPoint presentation:

Role 1: Audit Performance and Performance Measurement Systems

Role 2: Assessing Performance Information or Performance reports

Role 3: Define measurement performance by developing performance measures or measuring performance outside the traditional audit process.

Role 4: Encourage or Assist Management by offering planning, design, improvements to, or advocating for performance management systems and their use.

Role 5: Assist Elected Officials and Citizens by providing external reporting, capacity building, or advocacy for use of performance information.

These roles can be found at www.AuditorRoles.org.

At the end of the seminar, the presenters held a question and answer session which lasted about 20 minutes. Each participant will be awarded 2 CPE for attending this seminar. The meeting ended at 2:50 p.m.

Special thanks was given to Babette Haines, GSA Analyst and member, for arranging the use of the GSA Conference Room.

Bob Kanaga, CGFM Retired
Chapter President

Latest Trends in Occupational Fraud, Dec. 16 Audio Conference, 1–2:50 p.m. CST

Government financial managers and auditors at all levels will gain a better understanding of the challenges facing our organizations regarding the impact of fraud and corruption. This audio conference will cover the following topics:

- Latest statistics (including types, frequencies, perpetrators and victims) of occupational fraud and corruption
- Impact of fraud and corruption on the workplace and economy
- Impact of the economy on fraud and corruption
- Highlight several fraudulent activities perpetrated on governmental entities
- Trends in detection of fraud
- Impact of internal control systems on the prevention, detection and deterrence of fraud and corruption.

Continued study into fraud and corruption prevention, detection and deterrence is a must for

government financial managers. With the financial pressures many are facing in our country today, statistics show fraudulent activity in the workplace is on the rise. Combine the increased personal financial pressures with the fact many governmental entities are not filling vacant positions and are downsizing, a recipe for increased fraud exists. Fewer people are now doing more tasks throughout governmental entities, which are creating challenges in their internal control systems. Now, more than ever, government financial managers must be vigilant against fraud and corruption in the workplace.

To share his practical experience in auditing and academic research on internal controls and fraud is William A. Morehead, Ph.D., CGFM, CPA, Chair of Accountancy, CIS and Finance, Delta State University, AGA National President, AGA Past National Treasurer, and Chair, AGA National Executive Committee.

Chapter Recognition Program

The Fort Worth Chapter has earned a total of 6,817 points through August 2009.

Our next Chapter Recognition Report will be completed on December 31, 2009.

Chapter Executive Committee Meeting

The Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) met at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at Fritz G. Lanham Federal Bldg, Fort Worth, TX 76102. Attendees were: Babette Haines (Membership & CGFM), Bob Kanaga (President), Joel Welch (Financial Audit Volunteer) and Bob Kanaga (Education). Debbie Currie, Willie Hunter, and Lakshmi Krishnamurthy (Treasurer) sent in proxy statements.

Bob Kanaga, opened the meeting and thanked Babette, and Joel for attending. Bob reminded officers that all Chapter Newsletter articles are due December 9, 2009 for the November newsletter. The following topics were discussed during the meeting:

1. **Treasurer Discussion.** Bob Kanaga introduced Joel Welch who is working on our 2008-09 Chapter Financial Report Audit. Joel again asked for additional information relating the the end on 2008 and we responded that we did not have any better data than we gave him. He basically recommended that we do a better job of documenting our financial activity. Joel stated he hopes to have the audit completed in a few weeks.
2. **Membership Discussion.** Membership Officer Babette Haines said she continues to invite GSA employees to join AGA. Bob Kanaga asked Babette to submit a short monthly Membership activity article for the newsletter.
3. **CGFM Plan Discussion.** CGFM Officer Babette Haines said she would submit a montly article for the newsletter about CGFM activities. Babette also stated she found the CGFM Study Set which GSA had ordered when Gene Merrel worked there. She said she is working on organizing a CGFM study group and has five people interested in participating.
4. **Community Service Activities.** Bob Kanaga reported that all attendees at the November 18, 2009 Chapter meeting were members, therefore no money was collected for attending the audio conference.

Bob Kanaga reported we collected a total of

\$110 (\$100 at the November 18, 2009. Chapter meeting and \$10 at the October 7 Chapter Meeting). The money was mailed to the Tarrant Area Food Bank on November 18, 2009.

Lakshmi Krishnamurthy called in to report that she would be unable to attend the CEC meeting because she was still serving on the Tarrant Grand Jury and they did not recess as anticipated for her to attend the Chapter and CEC meetings. She also reported that she will have worked a total of twelve hours at the Fort Worth Presbyterian Night Shelter by the end of November.

Our December Community Service event was changed from working with the Salvation Army to helping homeless students from the Meadowbrook Middle School in East Fort Worth through the Buffalo Santa Program. Those members and even some non-members who were interested received their student's wishes the last week in November. Gifts were due back to Bob Kanaga by December 8, 2009 and delivered to the Buffalo Santa Committee at the Meadowbrook Middle School the week of December 14, 2009. Our volunteers bought gifts for thirteen homeless students. Approximately \$2,000 was spent on gifts by our volunteers.

5. **Chapter recognition Points.** Bob Kanaga reported that the First Quarter Chapter Recognition Report was submitted to National AGA and the Chapter has earned 6,817 points through August 2009. The next report will be submitted December 31, 2009.
6. **Education Report.** Bob reported that 5 members attended the November 18, 2009 Audio Conference training.
7. **Next Chapter Meeting.** Our next chapter meeting will be an audio conference held on December 16, 2009. The two hour seminar will be on **Latest Trends in Occupational Fraud.**
8. **Next CEC Meeting.** Our next Chapter CEC Meeting will be Wednesday December 16, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. at the Fritz G. Lanham Federal Bldg, Fort Worth, TX 76102.

Our meeting ended at 3:30 p.m.

Bob Kanaga
Chapter President

Chapter Treasurer's Report

As of November 30, 2009 we have a total \$5,623.48. There is \$120.43 in our Share Account; \$4,839.78 in our Money Market Account; and \$663.27 in our Share Draft (Checking) Account.

Lakshmi Krishnamurthy,
Chapter Treasurer

New Criteria Created for AGA's Annual Newsletter and Website Contests

At our annual leadership session for chapter communicators at the 2009 PDC in New Orleans, some of you expressed an interest in updating the newsletter and website contest criteria, which hadn't been revised in several years. The task force was formed in September and has finished its work as of December 1st.

[Visit the website](#) for details on the updates the task force made to the contests. See the rating sheets for the [newsletter contest](#) and the [website contest](#).

Special thanks go to **Roger Mazula, CGFM**, New York Capital Chapter, for chairing the meetings, developing the rating sheets and sharing his many years of experience with the group

Task force members studied the criteria used by other associations and thoroughly discussed various options to come up with the updated criteria. Thank you to the task force members, who gave so generously of their time:

Christina Lilly, Baltimore;

Sarah Feltus, Central Kentucky;

Deb Fraley, CPA, Ozarks;

Bob Kanaga, CGFM-Retired, Fort Worth;

Corinne Dougherty, CGFM, CPA, Montgomery/Prince George's County;

Joanne Kmets Walsh, CGFM, Cleveland;

Walt Darling, Topeka;

Riley Shaul, CGFM, CPA, Oklahoma City; and

Alex Guiang, CGFM, Silicon Valley.

December Community Service Project

Our Chapter members and friends of AGA contributed over \$2,000 worth of gifts to thirteen needy students attending the Meadowbrook Middle school. Through the teacher coordinated group called the Buffalo Santas (The Buffalo being the school's mascot), we obtained needy student's names. We asked for volunteers and were pleasantly surprised by their generosity.

The gifts were delivered on Wednesday, December 16, 2009. Dean of Instruction Laura Bennett accepted the gifts on behalf of the school's Buffalo Santas group.

Thank you everyone for your contribution to this community service project. Photo shows Bob Kanaga delivering and Laura Bennett accepting the gifts.



Chapter Activity Plan 2009-2010 Chapter Year

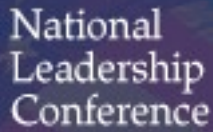
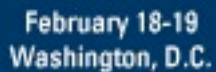
Months	CEC Meetings	Chapter Luncheons	Community Service/Social Activity	Other Events
May 2009	Wed. May 13 CEC Meeting Welcome new Officers	Wed. May 13, 2009 Audio Conference <i>Ethics in the Workplace</i> 2 CPE	Work at Mayfest on April 30 Chapter provided Gift Junk Yard Dog Golf Tournament is May 15 at Whitestone Golf Course.	May 15 Officer's List Due May 31 Fourth Qtr CRP Due
June 2009		GSA members attend National PDC.	Worked at Habitat for Humanity at PDC in New Orleans.	Sent Basket to National Community Service Fund at PDC
July 2009	Sat. July 10 CEC Meeting	Officers Prepare Activity Plans	Presyberian Night Shelter On going Volunteer work	July 15 Chapter Plans Due
Aug 2009	Wed. Aug 12 CEC Meeting after AC	Wed. Aug 12 Audio Conference <i>Stimulus Spending: Are Internal Controls in Place?</i> 2 CPE		
Sept 2009	Wed. Sept 2 CEC Meeting	Wed. Sept 2 Audio Conference <i>Grants Management in Today's Environment</i> 2 CPE	Wed. Sept 16 Chapter members attended an orientation presentation at the Trinity River Valley Project Headquarters.	Sept 30 First Qtr CRP Due Annual Chapter Audit Due
Oct 2009	Wed. October 7 CEC Meeting	Wed. October 7 Audio Conference <i>Internal Controls for Auditors, Managers and Staff</i> 2 CPE	Chapter members donated food items to the Tarrant Area Food Bank. Collected food was added to the GSA office location food drive.	
Nov 2009	Wed. Nov. 18 CEC Meeting	Wed. November 18 Audio Conference <i>Auditor's Role in Government Performance Measures</i> 2 CPE	We collected monetary donations for the Tarrant Area Food Bank and mailed in \$110 to the food bank.	
Dec 2009	Wed. December 16 CEC Meeting	Wed. December 16 Audio Conference <i>Latest Trends in Occupational Fraud</i> 2 CPE	Bought gifts for needy students at the Meadowbrook Middle School through the Buffalo Santas Program.	Dec 31 Second Qtr CRP Due
Jan 2010	Wed. January 13 CEC Meeting	Wed. January 13, 2010 Audio Conference <i>Internal Controls</i> 2 CPE		
Feb 2010	Wed. February 10 CEC Meeting	Wed. February 10, 2010 Audio Conference <i>Understanding IT Audits for Program Managers and Auditors</i> 2 CPE	Attend the Tarrant Area Food Bank's Empty Bowls event	
Mar 2010	Wed. March 3 CEC Meeting	Wed. March 3, 2010 Audio Conference <i>Fraud</i> 2 CPE		Mar 31 Third Qtr CRP Due
April 2010	Wed. April 21 CEC Meeting	Wed. April 21, 2010 Audio Conference <i>The Latest Tools and Techniques for Auditors</i> 2 CPE		Chapter Officer Elections
May 2010		Wed. May 19, 2010 Audio Conference <i>Ethics</i> 2 CPE	Junk Yard Dog Golf Tournament	May 31 Fourth Qtr CRP Due

CEC Meetings: After Audio Conferences or as noted in Schedule above.

Chapter Meetings: See Audio Conference location below

Audio Conferences: Fritz G. Lanham Federal Bldg, 5th Floor (GSA), Suite 5A30E or 5A27

AGA National News

Registration & Housing Now Open for AGA National Leadership Conference!National
Leadership
ConferenceFebruary 18-19
Washington, D.C.

Make plans now to attend AGA's National Leadership Conference (NLC), to be held **Feb. 18–19, 2010** in Washington, D.C.

Join us to hear from high-level government officials and industry leaders, participate in informative sessions, learn about the latest research, share best practices, discover innovative management techniques and see the technological tools that can aid efficiency and improve effectiveness.

Technical education sessions will focus on hot topics in government financial management and accountability, current issues relating to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the effects of political transitions and what the future holds. The NLC also features an exhibit hall showcasing the newest tools and innovations to help agencies do their jobs more easily and effectively.

In addition to an outstanding technical education program, and the ability to earn 14 CPE hours, AGA's NLC is packed with opportunities to network, make professional connections and meet new friends.

Visit our website for more information. Show your commitment to a more accountable future: **register by fax or online today!**

NLC Hotel Accommodations: We have reserved a block of rooms at the JW Marriott on Pennsylvania Avenue to accommodate NLC attendees. The rate is \$207 per night (plus tax) for single and double occupancy. However, rates are only guaranteed until **Friday, Jan. 29**, or until the room block is sold out.

Reservations received after Jan. 29, *or after the room block has been filled*, will be made on a space-available basis, and may be subject to significantly higher rates. Rooms sell quickly...we encourage you to make your hotel reservations early, for the best price and availability.

- To make a reservation, please call the JW Marriott at 800.393.2503 and mention you are attending the "AGA NLC" to receive the discounted rate.

You can also [reserve a room online](#).

Fort Worth Chapter Officers

Chapter Officers	Name	Email	Phone
Chapter President	Robert Kanaga	rhkanaga@aol.com	(817) 929-8243
President Elect			
Treasurer	Lakshmi Krishnmurthy	krishnamurthy.lakshmi@gmail.com	(817) 437-0451
Secretary	Robert Kanaga	rhkanaga@aol.com	(817) 929-8243
Membership	Babette Haines	babette.haines@gsa.gov	(817) 978-0432
Newsletter	Robert Kanaga	rhkanaga@aol.com	(817) 929-8243
Education	Robert Kanaga	rhkanaga@aol.com	(817) 929-8243
Meetings	Willie Hunter		
Community Service	By Committee		
CGFM Officer	Babette Haines	babette.haines@gsa.gov	(817) 978-0432
Early Careers	Babette Haines	babette.haines@gsa.gov	(817) 978-0432
Chapter Historian	Appointed		
Awards Committee	By Committee		
Webmaster Officer	Debbie Currie	agaftw@yahoo.com	
Chapter Research	By Committee		