

Chapter Year 2008-09



March 2009



<http://www.agafortworth.org>

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

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 Fort Worth AGA's Newsletter the "Cowtown". The 2008-2009 Chapter year has started to wind down. Last month I mentioned Chapter officers being invited to a seminar in Denver, CO to learn more about how AGA National works for the local AGA Chapters. We can send three or four folks who agree to be Chapter officers to this meeting. National AGA sponsors this annual sectional training seminar, called the Section Leaders Meeting (SLM). Next year's officers from the Southwestern, Midwestern, South Central, and Texas-Oklahoma Regions will converge to learn the insider information of how AGA plans to operate in the 2009-2010 Chapter Year. **National AGA rewards your commitment to become a local Chapter officer by offering to pay your normal business expenses to the seminar.** This year the SLM for our Section will be held in Denver, CO on May 1 (Friday) & 2 (Saturday). Fly in on Thursday, attend the all day and evening meetings on Friday. Then on Saturday have breakfast with everyone and fly home or spend an extra night (Saturday) at your own expense and fly out on Sunday on your already paid for roundtrip ticket. You will have had a great AGA experience and a mini-vacation, too. National AGA has already asked who we will be sending to Denver to represent our chapter next year for President, Education Officer, and Membership Officer or any other officer position for that matter. If you have been considering becoming more active in your AGA Chapter, please contact me as soon as possible.

In this issue you will find details on the following activities for CPE.

Our next FW Chapter Audio Conference will be on April 8. Two hours of CPE
Dallas is sponsoring our regional two day PDC on April 23-24. Sixteen hours of CPE

Our Texas-Oklahoma Region RVP Helene Baker has provided an article on "challenges to Government Agencies". Check out her comments below.

I have included minutes from the February Chapter Executive (CEC) meeting and our February audio conference chapter meeting. An article on the upcoming April 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-Retired (817) 929-8243
Chapter President**

Creating Exceptional Value for Government Accountability Professionals

2008-2009 Chapter Year

AGA's Next Radio Show Offers Financial Management Suggestions to the Obama Administration

AGA's radio show, "Your Money, Your Government," will feature a discussion on federal financial management issues for the first 100 days of the Obama administration. Guests are former Comptroller General of the United States **David M. Walker**, CEO, Peter G. Peterson Foundation, and **Richard Keevey**, director, the National Academy of Public Administration's Performance Consortium and professor at Princeton University. [Listen to the shows online](#) and check out the upcoming show and speaker schedule. Tune in to the broadcast at WFED AM 1500 at noon **March 31**.

AGA-Fort Worth Chapter CEC Meeting March 11, 2009

The Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) met at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building, 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102. Attendees were: Bob Kanaga (President) and Lakshmi Krishnamurthy (Co-Treasurer), and Bob Kanaga (Education). Willie Hunter (Co-Treasurer) and Shad Sanders sent us their proxies.

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

1. **Treasurer Discussion.** Co-Treasurer Lakshmi Krishnamurthy reported there was no monthly activity during March other than updating the the Chapter's financial report.
2. **RVP Teleconference.** Lakshmi Krishnamurthy sat in for Bob Kanaga on the February RVP Teleconference Call.
3. **Membership Discussion.** It was reported again that we still have \$75 remaining in our incentive scholarship funds. The Chapter could gain three new members by offering to pay \$25 of a person's AGA dues to help them become an AGA member.
4. **Community Service Activities.** Lakshmi Krishnamurthy reported that she will work twice at the Fort Worth Presbyterian Night Shelter in March. She said she works a three hour shift every other week. No group activity was held in March.
5. **Chapter Recognition Points.** Second Quarter Chapter Recognition Report was submitted on December 31, 2008. Bob reported that we now have 9,525 points earned to date.
6. **Education Report.** Bob reported that 9 folks attended the March 11, 2009 Audio Conference training.
7. **National Awards.** It was reported that the Lakshmi Krishnamurthy submitted Bob Kanaga's name to National AGA for the Chapter Service Award for his efforts to revitalize the Fort Worth Chapter during the 2008-2009 Chapter Year.
8. **Next Audio Conference.** The next audio conference will be April 8, 2009.
9. **Next CEC Meeting.** Our next Chapter CEC Meeting will be Monday, April 6 at 5 p.m. at the Meadowbrook Public Library.

Our meeting ended at 3:15 p.m.

Bob Kanaga, CGFM Retired

Chapter President

**Message from Regional Vice President, Helene Baker
March 2009****ECONOMICAL RECOVERY REVISITED AND TAX PROVISION CHANGES FOR 2009**

Helene Baker, CGFM, CFE, TX OK Regional Vice President

Our President Barack Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to help all Americans in this economical downturn of the century. This year of recovery will aid the neediest of Americans and provide health, welfare and tax relief. Of the general tax relief there are various credits for taxable years 2009 and 2010 and credit extensions from 2008. Making work pay credit of \$400 (\$800 married), earned income credit percentage 45% with a reduction of marriage penalty of \$5,000, refundable child credit of \$3,000, Hope Scholarship credit up to \$4,000, educational

computer expenses, first-time homebuyer credit extension until December 31, 2009 with a waiver of recapture on purchase in 2009, suspension of unemployment compensation tax beginning with taxable year 2009 up to \$2,400, additional deduction for sales and excise tax on motor vehicles up to purchase price of \$49,500. In addition, alternate minimum tax relief extends through 2009 and increase in the minimum tax exemptions to \$46,700 and \$70,950 beginning with taxable year 2009. Keeping up your membership and participating in your National and local chapter activities will keep you informed during these times. Join your local chapter board and add leadership experience to your skills. Your National Office will be having a Sectional Leadership Meeting in Denver, CO at the end of April. Your National Office funds various chapter positions to attend this function. There will be over 20 chapters from two Sections represented at this event and will provide networking opportunities. For more information on this meeting contact one of your board members today.

[Congressional Record: February 12, 2009 (House)]

[Page H1307-H1357]

From the Congressional Record Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]

[DOCID:cr12fe09-146]

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1, AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

TITLE I--TAX PROVISIONS

Sec. 1000. Short title, etc.

Subtitle A--Tax Relief for Individuals and Families

PART I--General Tax Relief (reworded and abridged)

Sec. 1001. Making work pay credit for two years 2009 and 2010 gives a credit to the lesser amount of 6.2 percent of earned income or \$400 (\$800 married). Taxable year reduced (but not below zero) determined by 2 percent of the modified AGI as exceeds \$75,000 (\$150,000 married).

Sec. 1002. Temporary increase in earned income tax credit for 2009 and 2010 credit percentage is 45 percent. Included here is the reduction of marriage penalty of \$5,000.

Sec. 1003. Temporary increase of refundable portion of child credit for 2009 and 2101 is \$3,000.

Sec. 1004. American opportunity tax credit with income limitations for 2009 or 2010 increases the credit on the Hope Scholarship by 100% of qualified tuition and related expenses not to exceed \$2,000 plus 25 percent not to exceed \$4,000.

Sec. 1005. Computer technology and equipment allowed as a qualified higher education expense in 2009 and 2010 for purchase of any computer technology or equipment minus software or Internet access and related services while enrolled at an eligible educational institution.

Sec. 1006. Extension of and increase in first-time homebuyer credit (principal residence) is extended from July 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009 and provides a waiver of recapture when purchased between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009.

Sec. 1007. Suspension of tax on portion of unemployment compensation for any taxable year beginning in 2009 and thereafter gross income to exclude unemployment compensation not to exceed \$2,400.

Sec. 1008. Additional deduction for State sales tax and excise tax on the purchase of qualified motor vehicle taxes by State or local sales or excise tax imposed not to exceed tax on purchase price over \$49,500.

PART II--Alternative Minimum Tax Relief

Sec. 1011. Extension of alternative minimum tax relief for nonrefundable personal credits is extended through 2009.

Sec. 1012. Extension of increased alternative minimum tax exemption extended and amounts increased from \$46,200 to \$46,700 and \$69,950 to \$70,950 in taxable years beginning in 2009.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/ARRA_public_review/

Conference Report on H.R. 1 (1 of 5): [PDF](#), [ASCII](#)

Conference Report on H.R. 1 (2 of 5): [PDF](#), [ASCII](#)

Conference Report on H.R. 1 (3 of 5): [PDF](#), [ASCII](#)

Conference Report on H.R. 1 (4 of 5): [PDF](#), [ASCII](#)

Conference Report on H.R. 1 (5 of 5): [PDF](#), [ASCII](#)

Meeting Minutes for March 11, 2009**Audio Conference on Building Fraud Risk Assessment into Audit Planning**

Our March 11, 2009 AGA Chapter Meeting/Training Seminar was held at the Fritz Lanham Federal Building, Room 5A27, 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. We had a total of nine members and guests present.

The audio presentation was put on by AGA National. The Speakers were: Mr. Robert Gray, CGFM, CIA, CFE and CPA and Mr. Terry Carnahan, CGFM, CPA.

Bob Kanaga, Chapter President opened the meeting by welcoming all members and guests attending. This seminar addressed the following areas:

Mr. Gray presented a very thorough overview of why internal controls are necessary from two perspectives: that of the auditor, and that of the auditee. Mr. Gray summarized the Auditor's role as: "We are here to help!"; auditors and accountants are the trained experts to teach about internal controls; they work with managers to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse; and they introduce preventative audit steps. Mr. Gray's summary for auditees was: "We are glad to see you"; They need to understand the audit approach which includes knowing their rights and responsibilities, they insure audit evidence is available, and they stay informed and involved; they should know the Government Auditing Standards; they should understand that Internal Controls are the first line of defense against fraud; they have created an Internal Control Handbook; They conduct self-assessments regularly; and they document everything.

Mr. Carnahan presented more technical aspects of internal controls. He referenced OMB Circular No. A-123 which defines management's responsibility for internal control in Federal agencies. He then discussed common issues with compliance. These included comments on no linkage to other compliance initiatives (other agencies), too expensive, no return on investment, unfunded mandate and it diverts resources away from the mission, maintaining internal controls as a high priority, and time constraints. The most interesting discussion involved integrating and sustaining compliance. Mr. Carnahan stated that this area of internal control covers finance, operations, and compliance. It has five control environment areas: Monitor change; analyze and plan action; update controls portfolio; perform tests; and report and archive. All this must be done by integrating and balancing risk with program improvements. Transforming compliance will likely take many months or years. Alignment of people, processes, systems risk and controls, along with the appropriate tone at the top can help shape ongoing compliance issues as opportunities rather than problems.

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 Gene Merrell, GSA Executive and member, for arranging the use of the GSA Conference Room.

Our next meeting will be April 8, 2009. It will be a two (2) hour seminar on "The Future of Government Auditing - Which Direction(s) Are We Heading?". It will be held in the Fritz G. Lanham

Federal Building, 819 Taylor Street, Room 5A30E or Room 5A27, 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.

Bob Kanaga, CGFM Retired
Chapter President

The Dallas AGA 2009 PDC

"The Impact of Accountability: Challenges Affecting Government"

When: Thursday and Friday
April 23-24, 2009

Where: Renaissance Dallas—
Richardson Hotel
900 East Lookout Drive
Richardson, TX 75082

CPE: 16 Hours

<u>Cost:</u>	<u>2-Day</u>	<u>1-Day</u>
AGA Member	\$295	\$185
Non-Member	\$365	\$255
Retiree	\$195	\$125



AGA

DALLAS CHAPTER



Join AGA Dallas! Membership is only \$90/year and facilitates access to over 30 CPEs per year. So for only \$20 more your membership is paid for and you will qualify for the member rate.

Registration

- Online registration:
 - Go to www.regonline.com/aga (Credit Card Payment Only)
- Mail-In/Fax:
 - Complete the registration form on Page 3 and send it to:

Dallas Chapter—AGA
ATTN: Erica Estrada
1301 Young Street, Suite A938
Dallas, Texas 75202
FAX: 214-767-1350

Deadline for Registration is COB, Friday April 17, 2009

A Special Thank-You to Our Corporate Sponsors!







**The Future of Government Auditing - Which Direction(s) Are We Heading?
Next Month's Training -- April 8, 2009**

AGA, in conjunction with the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT) and the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA) is pleased to announce a new and increasingly important topic to our audio conference schedule—the future of auditing.

Auditing has evolved over the years with many different types of audits being developed—financial, performance, follow-up, managerial, operational, etc. Some believe auditors have become too cozy with the auditees and have sacrificed their independence for cooperation and expediency, while others view auditing from a “gotcha” mentality whereby it is the role of the auditor to find as many things wrong as necessary and catch the bad guys.

Listen as a group of experienced, audit executives from each level of government address specific questions regarding the direction auditing is taking and what the audit industry must do to maintain its credibility. Learn the differences—and similarities—in the perspectives these experts bring to the table.

To share their practical experiences in auditing and views towards the future of auditing are **Jeanette M. Franzel, CGFM, CPA**, Director of Financial Management and Assurance, U.S. Government Accountability Office; **David R. Hancox, CGFM, CIA**, Audit Director, Office of the State Comptroller, State of New York; and **Drummond Kahn, CGFM, CIA**, Director of Audit Services, City of Portland, Oregon.

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Location: Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building, 819 Taylor Street, Room 5A30E South or 5A27 (5th Floor, GSA Area), Fort Worth, TX 76102

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

Learning Objectives: To learn theory behind Internal Controls Planning and Implementation.

Prerequisite: Some familiarity with auditing **Advance Prep:** None required

CPE: Two credit hours

Field of Study: Auditing

Treasurer's Report

Bank balance as of February 28, 2009 is \$5,989.94.

*Lakshmi Krishnamurthy & Willie Hunter
Co-Treasurers Fort Worth Chapter*

Chapter Recognition Points as of September 2008

Points earned through March 31, 2009 are 14,630 Points

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

Creating Exceptional Value for Government Accountability Professionals

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 21 CEC Meeting	Wed. January 21, 2009 <i>How XBRL Can Enable Improved Financial & Performance Reporting</i> 2 CPE		
February 2009	Mon. February 9 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	Mon. March 11 CEC Meeting	Wed. March 11, 2009 Audio Conference <i>Internal Controls</i> 2 CPE		Mar 31 Third Qtr CRP Due
April 2009	Mon. April 6 CEC Meeting	Wed. April 8, 2009 Audio Conference <i>The Future of Auditing</i> 2 CPE	Sell soft drinks at MayFest	Chapter Officer Elections
May 2009	Mon. May 11 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 5A30E

Chapter Officers for 2008-2009

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@us.army.mil

