

Chapter Year 2008-09



October 2008



<http://www.agafortworth.org>

Association of Government Accountants (AGA) Chapter at Fort Worth, TX
COWTOWNER Newsletter For Chapter Year 2008-2009 October 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 updated "Cowtownner". I have freshened up our header. October is a fast moving month. I appreciate the cooler weather and making plans for all the Fall activities.

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 October Chapter Executive (CEC) meeting and our audio conference chapter meeting. An article on the upcoming November 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 September 3, 2008

The Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) met at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 13, 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). We had a proxy from Willie Hunter (Co-Treasurer). Shad Sanders did not respond to the email announcing the meeting.

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

1. Treasurer Discussion. A Membership Scholarship check from National AGA for \$125 was reported received by Bob Kanaga. The check was turned over to the Chapter Treasurer to be deposited. Treasurer stated

Creating Exceptional Value for Government Accountability Professionals

she would contact National AGA to obtain replacement checks for the expired checks received from National AGA last year for local dues payment to our Chapter. The CEC approved that the Chapter sign up for two more audio conferences. A check for \$200 was written to Bob Kanaga who will sign up the Chapter up for the additional seminars at the special rate.

2. Membership Discussion. It was discussed what to do with the \$125 which was received from National AGA to assist local Chapters with Membership activities. The CEC voted to pay out \$25 to each new member who signs up to help pay their dues. **OR** a paid member can receive \$25 for signing up a new member and bringing the new member and the paid registration to a Chapter meeting. 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.

4. Assistance to El Paso Chapter. In the October Regional Chapter RVP teleconference with Chapter Presidents, it was suggested that local Chapters discuss and vote on whether to send a "Welcome to AGA" note and check to the newly formed El Paso Chapter of AGA. CEC voted to send them \$100. The El Paso address is: El Paso AGA Chapter, PO Box 26483, El Paso, TX 79926. Kathy Hightower is a good contact for the Chapter at (915) 534-6215 Ext. 24.

Our next Chapter CEC Meeting will be Monday, November 10 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
October 2008**

When do you keep Ethics above board? Glancing at news articles published in news lines across America keeps questioning issues of ethics concerns in today's industry. One only needs to read these articles to be convinced that morale immunity is a 'risk' factor and needs to be addressed in every level of government, state and local accounting and auditing plans and programs. Your Association of Government Accountants provides the right training at the right time to keep ethics and integrity in professions throughout the nation. Our chapters are doing a great job in keeping our members and non-members informed and aware of ethic issues within the accounting and auditing professions. Your awareness on ethic issues is greater when attending chapter audio conferences and educational luncheons.

News articles as: (reprinted extracts from <http://www.acfe.com>)

[Countrywide Settles Fraud Cases for \\$8.4 Billion](#)

Countrywide Financial Corp., the mortgage lender acquired by Bank of America Corp., will settle fraud complaints in 11 states by cutting the amount borrowers owe and their interest rates at a cost of \$8.4 billion.

- Bloomberg

[What's The Difference Between An Ethics Program That Will Keep You Out Of Jail And One That Won't?](#)

But companies no longer need to be hit by a scandal to realise that ethics programmes are essential. They are certainly now high on many CFOs' agendas. Indeed, in a survey in early summer by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and the Institute of Business Ethics, nearly 60% of the 1,300 finance professionals polled globally said they contribute to their firm's ethical performance, and 73% believed that ethical performance will become a formal part of their role in the next few years.
- *USA Today*

[Medicare Expands Its Crackdown On Fraud](#)

Acting Medicare chief Kerry Weems on Monday announced new efforts to combat fraud in seven states, focusing on companies that improperly provide patients with medical equipment such as wheelchairs and oxygen supplies.
- *USA Today*

[Mortgage Probe Could Grow](#)

The United States will bring more charges as warranted in its probe of corporate fraud in the collapse of the mortgage industry, Deputy U.S. Attorney General Mark Filip said on Thursday.
- *Reuters*

[Panel Suggests Ways Auditing Firms Can Stem Fraud](#)

A Treasury Department panel issued final recommendations on Friday meant to encourage auditing firms to catch corporate fraud before it happens — and to protect them from going under when it does.
- *New York Times*

[November Community Service Activity](#)

In November our chapter will participate in the Salvation Army's "Angle Tree" Program. More information will be emailed to the chapter in November with all the details.

[October 15, 2008](#)

[Audio Conference on Results of AGA's Research on Performance-Based Management Reporting](#)

We conducted the October audio conference on one of AGA's important ongoing research projects that demonstrates the value of government financial and performance reporting. We had five members present.

We heard an overview of AGA's research project on performance-based reporting and how process-oriented accounting is the basis. The speakers shared the results of Phase I of the research and describe Phase II, recently completed. The discussion included aspects of multi-dimensional accounting and the ability to use accounting information in a forward-looking, predictive manner.

The speakers were: **Peter Chipman, MPA**, Budget Analyst, Office of Budget and Policy, Federal Transit Administration; **Kristine Lee Leiphart**, Deputy Chief Financial Officer for Budget and Policy, Federal Transit Administration; **Martin J. Rajk, MBA**, Deputy Assistant Commandant for Resources and Deputy Chief Financial Officer for the U.S. Coast Guard; **Clifton A. Williams, CGFM, CPA**, Partner, Grant Thornton LLP; and **James Brimson, MS**, founder of Activity Based Management Institute.

Learning Objectives were: Understanding how multi-dimensional accounting and the ability to use accounting information in can be applied in a forward-looking, predictive manner.

[Next Month's Training -- November 12, 2008](#)

[Understanding the Importance of Soft Internal Controls in Improving Operations](#)

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 role that Soft Internal Controls plays in an organization.

View “soft controls” in a way that goes beyond current accepted models. Hear why soft controls are a required component of effective management and what has made them so difficult to implement. Learn how certain research on employee motivation suggests using soft controls to recognize opportunities to improve organization performance. Discover why “soft controls” may be a misnomer and explore the concept of “behavioral controls” as a better way to detect and prevent the opportunity for fraud to occur.

To share their practical experiences in auditing and teaching about the role of soft internal controls is Mark B. Mitchell, MBA, CGFM, CIA, Audit Director, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, and Michael L. Piazza, MBA, Director of Program Development and Training for the Institute of Internal Controls.

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, November 12, 2008

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

Time: 2 – 3:50 p.m. Eastern Standard Time

Learning Objectives: To obtain an understanding of soft internal controls and its importance in improving operations

Prerequisite: Some familiarity with internal control concepts

Advance Prep: None required

CPE: Two credit hours

Field of Study: Accounting and Auditing

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of June 30, 2008 is \$7,344.68.

Lakshmi Krishnamurthy & Willie Hunter

Fort Worth Chapter Co-Treasurers

Chapter Recognition Points as of September 2008
--

Points earned through September 2008 are 3,975 Points

Next Chapter Recognition Report due December 31, 2008.

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	Thur. July 12 CEC Meeting held by phone	Discussed Chapter Revitalization with National & RVP several times.		July 15 Chapter Plans Due
August 2008	Thur. 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	Thur. 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	Thur. 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	Thur. 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	Thur. 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	Thur. January ? 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 4:45 p.m. Fritz G. Lanham Federal Bldg., Fifth Floor (GSA)

Chapter Meetings: See 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