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Association of Government Accountants (AGA) Chapter at Fort Worth, TX
COWTOWNER NEWSLETTER FOR CHAPTER YEAR 2011-2012

OCTOBER 2011

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Chapter President's Message



The Chapter welcomes new members Mark Ragsdale, Ashlee Hendricks, Stephani Jewell, Angela Tafoya, Christopher Vick, Amanda Combs and Maria Jobe. Welcome to the Fort Worth Chapter of AGA and we look forward to you participating in all of the activities that AGA has to offer.

So far we have seven new members who have joined and 41 members who have renewed their support for the Fort Worth AGA Chapter. We have a total of 48 members listed and we hope to continue growing our chapter.

Make plans to attend as many meeting as you possibly can and please share the whole newsletter with fellow employees, friends and future members.

Please let your friends and co-workers know about the Fort Worth Chapter of AGA. AGA is a well established organization that provides an avenue to receive CPEs.

If you are a Chapter member and wish to become more active by becoming a Chapter Officer, please contact any officer on page 7.

Minutes for our September and October Chapter and CEC meetings can be found on pages 2 and 3.

I am very excited about our upcoming Chapter Meeting on Wednesday, November 2, 2011. It will be an audio conference entitled "Major Challenges to the Public Sector Auditing profession". Please see details on page 4.

In last month's newsletter, I stated that I recently graduated from the GSA Trainee Program to a full time Analyst. Correction: I recently graduated from the Accountant Development Program to a full time Accountant.

Volunteer!! Be active!! Help us make this a very productive year!!

Best Regards,
Babette Haines,
Chapter President

Chapter Meeting September 28, 2011

Our September 28, 2011 AGA Chapter Meeting/ Training Seminar was held at the Fritz Lanham Federal Building, 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. We had a total of 15 members present. A sandwich lunch was served to all attendees.

The audio conference was on “Continuous Monitoring – A Window to Identifying and Preventing Fraud, waste and Abuse, and presented by the following speakers:

Pam Franceschi, Deputy Director, Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) - Columbus, U.S. Department of Defense; **Matt Jadacki**, Deputy Inspector General, Office of Emergency Management Oversight, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; **Jeff Steinhoff**, Executive Director, KPMG Government Institute and Managing Director, KPMG LLP.

Babette Haines, Chapter President opened the meeting by welcoming all members attending. Thanks to Sharon Richman, DCAA, for making copies of slides and Bob Kanaga for lunch. The AGA Moderator, Mr. Ray Harris conducted the seminar.

Jeff Steinhoff discussed the November 2009 Presidential Executive Order on Reducing Improper Payments and Eliminating Waste in Federal Programs. Improper payments decreased from 5.60% (2009) to 5.49% (2010), saving the government \$3.8 billion. Continuous monitoring, focusing on proactive/preventive controls and risk-based testing will help minimize fraud, waste and abuse. Ms. Pam Franceschi discussed Business Activity

Monitoring (BAM) techniques used at DFAS. BAM tool fundamentals include mapping, most time consuming but critical, and developing analytics through requirement definition and testing. As a result, DFAS-Columbus experienced a 77 % drop in improper payments in MOCAS. However, BAM should be the last line of defense. Good internal controls are most critical and cost effective. Matt Jadacki is involved in the oversight end of it. He discussed the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 and the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act of 2010 and provided examples of FEMA improper payments related to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. FEMA has taken corrective action by establishing a unit that understands oversight and fraud awareness and uses predictive analytics to test for fraud.

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.

Eric Kline, CPA, MBA
Chapter Secretary

CEC Minutes for September 28, 2011

The Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) met at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 28, 2011 at Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building, 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102. Attendees were: Babette Haines (President), Lakshmi Krishnamurthy (Treasurer), Eric Kline (Secretary), and Bob Kanaga (Newsletter and Education).

The following topics were discussed during the meeting:

- 1. Treasurer Discussion.** Financials were provided to Bob Kanaga. We need to get someone to review them. Renewal of our P.O. Box was discussed and approved. Lakshmi wrote a check out for \$95 to pay for it for one year.
- 2. Newsletter.** Eric will forward past newsletters to Babette to review sample President’s messages.
- 3. Chapter Points.** We can earn 300 points for completing a new report under the Citizen Centric Government Initiative by September 30, 2011.
- 4. Membership.** Bob will ensure that new members are added to the newsletter distribution.
- 5. President Discussion.** Babette Haines will provide newsletter President’s Message to Bob Kanaga.

6. Next Chapter Meeting. Our Regional Vice President (RVP) will be our speaker at our next chapter meeting held on October 19, 2011.

7. Chapter Recognition Program (CRP) Report. The first quarter CRP is due September 31, 2011. Bob Kanaga will assist Babette Haines in completing it.

8. Next CEC Meeting. Our next Chapter CEC Meeting will be Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at 3 p.m. at the Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building.

Our meeting ended at 3:30 p.m.

Eric Kline, CPA, MBA
Chapter Secretary

Chapter Meeting October 19, 2011.

Our October 19, 2011 AGA Chapter Meeting/Training Seminar was held at the Fritz Lanham Federal Building, 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. We had a total of 5 AGA members present. A sandwich lunch was served to all attendees.

Babette Haines welcomed everyone to the meeting, announced that our next meeting had been changed to November 2, 2011, and introduced the Texas-Oklahoma-Arkansas Regional Vice President, Riley Shaull to the group.

Riley Shaull told us about himself and his duties as RVP. He then proceeded to give three separate presentations on the following topics:

- Shared Services: How Oklahoma has centralized most Oklahoma Agencies common administrative activities to save funds.
- What is a CGFM and how to become one!
- Recovery Activity associated with the Marrow Building (Oklahoma City's Federal Bldg.) Bombing. The meeting ended at 2:50 p.m.

Bob Kanaga,
for *Eric Kline, CPA MBA*

CEC Minutes for October 19, 2011

The Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) met at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building, 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102 in Room 8A06. Attendees were: Babette Haines (President), Bob Kanaga (Education Officer) and Eugenia Brent (Historian). Lakshmi Krishnamurthy (Treasurer) and Eric Kline (Secretary) sent in Proxy statements. Special guest present was Riley Shaull, our Region's RVP Officer.

Babette Haines opened the meeting and thanked all for attending. The following topics were discussed during the meeting:

1. **Treasurer Discussion.** There was no Treasurer's report because Lakshmi was absent. I was announced by Babette that she had signed up the Chapter to receive checks from National AGA electronically from now on.
2. **Activity Plan Discussion.** Bob Kanaga suggested we change the November meeting date to November 2 because of a conflict with several CEC members not being available later in the month. It was suggested that

we swap our November 16 audio conference for the one on November 2. The change was approved.

3. **Education Plan.** Bob Kanaga said he would contact National AGA to adjust the November meeting date.
 4. **Chapter recognition Points.** Babette Haines reported we have earned 4,877 points in the First Quarter.
 5. **RVP News.** Riley Shaull, RVP, gave us information about our region and how it now includes the Western part of Arkansas.
 6. **Next CEC Meeting.** Our next CEC meeting will be held on November 2, 2011 at the Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building.
 7. **Next Chapter Meeting.** The next Chapter meeting will be held on November 2, 2011 12:30 p.m. at the Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building.
- Our meeting ended at 4:00 p.m.

Bob Kanaga,
for *Eric Kline, CPA MBA*

Chapter Recognition Points (CPR) Report

Our First Quarter Chapter Recognition Program point totaled 4,877 and the report was sent to National AGA, Section and Regional Officers.

Chapter Treasurer's Report

As of August 31, 2011 we have a total \$4,159.14.

The total is broken down as follows:

- \$ 113.64 in our Regular Share Account;
- \$1,646.14 in our Money Market Account; and
- \$2,399.36 in our Share Draft (Checking) Account.

Lakshmi Krishnamurthy,
Chapter Treasurer

Next Chapter Meeting

The Association of Government Accountants
Invites you to attend their Audio Conference Seminar

Speakers:

**David R. Hancox, CGFM, CIA, consultant, trainer and author, former director of state audits,
New York State Comptroller's Office.**

**Jeffrey S. Hart, CGFM, CFE, AGA Past National President, trainer and consultant, former
comptroller and director of fiscal management and planning, U.S. Protection Agency's Mountain
and Plains Region.**

will present a two hour seminar on

Major Challenges to the Public Sector Auditing Profession

November 2, 2011

Sign in at 12:30 p.m. for lunch
Audio Conference from 1 to 3

Conference Room 8A06 - GSA Area 8th Floor
Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building
819 Taylor Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Free for members, \$10 for non-members

Earn 2 Hours of CPE

Make Reservations with Chapter contact listed below:
Bob Kanaga, Chapter Education Officer (817) 929-8243
(Attendance is limited to first 20 persons who sign up)

AGA: "Advancing Government Accountability"

Chapter Activity Plan 2011-2012 Chapter Year

Months	CEC Meetings	Chapter Luncheons	Community Service/Social Activity	Other Events
June 2011		Wed. June 8, 2011 Audio Conference <i>Improving Controls Can Improve Performance</i> 2 CPE	AGA members attend National PDC.	Sent Basket to National Community Service Fund Raffle at PDC
July 2011	July 21 CEC Meeting	Officers Prepared Activity Plans for National AGA		July 15, 2011 Chapter Plans Due New CRP not received until June 18
Aug 2011	No AGA Activity Planned			
Sept 2011	Wed. Sept 28 CEC Meeting	Wed. Sept 28 Audio Conference <i>Management's Window on Preventing Fraud, Waste & Abuse</i> 2 CPE		September 30, 2011 First Qtr CRP Due Annual Chapter Audit Due
Oct 2011	Wed. October 19 CEC Meeting	Wed. October 19 <i>RVP Riley Shaull visited and spoke on three accounting profession topics.</i> 2 CPE		
Nov 2011	Wed. Nov. 2 CEC Meeting	Wed. November 2 Audio Conference <i>Major Challenges to the Public Sector Auditing Profession</i> 2 CPE		
Dec 2011	Wed. December 14 CEC Meeting	Wed. December 14 Audio Conference <i>Fraud</i> 2 CPE		December 31, 2011 Second Qtr CRP Due
Jan 2012	Wed. January 11 CEC Meeting	Wed. January 11, 2012 Audio Conference <i>Getting a Handle on Internal Controls</i> 2 CPE	No Community Service project for January.	
Feb 2012	Wed. February 8 CEC Meeting	Wed. February 8, 2012 Audio Conference <i>Financial Management</i> 2 CPE	Fri., Feb 18, 2012 Community Service Event: Attend the Tarrant Area Food Bank's Empty Bowls	
Mar 2012	Wed. March 7 CEC Meeting	Wed. March 7, 2012 Audio Conference <i>Data Mining</i> 2 CPE	No Community Service project for March.	March 31, 2012 Third Qtr CRP Due
April 2012	Wed. April 18 CEC Meeting	Wed. April 18, 2012 Audio Conference <i>Find Strength In Numbers- Sampling Techniques to Improve Financial Audit.</i> 2 CPE	Thurs., April 28, 2012 Community Service Event: Four hours volunteer work at Mayfest at a soda booth.	Chapter Officer Elections
May 2012	Wed. May 23 CEC Meeting	Wed. May 23, 2012 Audio Conference <i>Ethics Class</i> 2 CPE	Fri., May ?, 2012 Junk Yard Dog Golf Tournament at Riverside Golf Club, Grand Prairie, TX	May 31, 2012 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, 8th Floor (GSA), Suite 8A06

AGA National News

To support AGA's mission, the Association provides several opportunities for professional development and technical training through its annual conferences. Our conferences attract leaders from federal, state and local governments and the private sector looking to enhance their career development and gather innovative insights into government financial management now and in the future.

Join us to earn CPE hours at outstanding educational sessions; learn from nationally recognized leaders and industry professionals; share insights and best practices; discuss common challenges and explore creative solutions; see the latest technological advances in government financial management; network and connect with colleagues and friends; and increase your promotion potential.

AGA conferences ensure that you're up-to-date with the latest thinking and trends affecting government financial management. So save the dates and register today!

Future Conference Dates

For more information about any of AGA's future conferences, please contact meetings@agacgfm.org.

National Leadership Conference:

February 16–17, 2012

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
Washington, D.C.

Federal Performance Conference:

April 24–25, 2012

Washington D.C. Convention Center

Professional Development Conference & Exposition:

July 29–August 1, 2012

Navigating the Winds of Change
San Diego, CA

July 14–17, 2013

Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center

Dallas, TX

July 13–16, 2014

Orlando World Center Marriott
Orlando, FL

Internal Control Conference:

September 24–25, 2012

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
Washington, D.C.

Performance Management Conference:

Nov. 3–4, 2011

W Hotel, Seattle, WA

National Executive Committee (NEC) Meetings

December 2, 2011

Alexandria, VA

February 15, 2012

Washington, D.C.

May 23, 2012

Alexandria, VA

July 28, 2012

San Diego, CA

Sectional Leadership Meetings (SLM)*

April 12–14, 2012: Indianapolis, IN

May 17–19, 2012: Las Vegas, NV

* These meetings are by invitation only; stay tuned for further details. For more information about the SLMs, please contact SLM@agacgfm.org.

Fort Worth Chapter Officers

Chapter Officers	Name	Email	Phone
Chapter President	Babette Haines	babette.haines@gsa.gov	(817) 978-0508
President Elect			
Treasurer	Lakshmi Krishnmurthy	krishnamurthy.lakshmi@gmail.com	(817) 437-0451
Secretary	Eric Kline	eric.kline@dcaa.mil	(817) 763-4518
Membership	Eric Kline	eric.kline@dcaa.mil	(817) 763-4518
Newsletter	Robert Kanaga	rhkanaga@aol.com	(817) 929-8243
Education	Robert Kanaga	rhkanaga@aol.com	(817) 929-8243
Meetings			
Community Service	By Committee		
CGFM Officer			
Early Careers	Babette Haines	babette.haines@gsa.gov	(817) 978-0508
Chapter Historian	Eugenia Brents	eugenia.brents@dcaa.mil	(817) 570-2162
Awards Committee	By Committee		
Website Coordinator	Robert Kanaga	rhkanaga@aol.com	(817) 929-8243
Chapter Research	By Committee		