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Association of Government Accountants (AGA) Chapter at Fort Worth, TX

COWTOWNER Newsletter

For Chapter Year 2009-2010

September 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 September 2009 Edition of the Fort Worth AGA’s Newsletter the “Cowtowner”. Our September 2 audio conference was very interesting and useful for local city grant administrators. Our Chapter Meeting Minutes for the September 2 , 2009 meeting are posted on pages 1-2. Our CEC meeting was held immediately following the Chapter Meeting on September 2. The CEC Meeting Minutes are posted on page 3. On September 16 we met at the Trinity River Vision Headquarters to learn about the future plans for the Fort Worth portion of the Trinity River. Our minutes and photos of that event are posted on pages 4-5.

Our October audio conference will be held on October 7 and information about it is posted on page 4. Our October Community Service Project is to support the Tarrant County Food Bank. Please bring your non-perishable food or monetary contribution to the October 7 meeting.

On September 30, 2009 I submitted our First Quarter (June, July and August activities) Chapter Recognition Program Report. We have earned 6,817 CRP points to date. Our goal is to have earned around 12,000 or more points by April 2010.

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

September 2, 2009 Chapter Meeting Minutes

Our September 21, 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 seven members and guests present.

The audio presentation was conducted by AGA National. The Speakers were: Mr. Tom Cooley, CFO, National Science Foundation, Office of Budget, Finance and Award Administration; Mr. Joseph L. Kull, CGFM, CPA, Director with Price Waterhouse Coopers, LLP, Washington Federal Practice; and Mr. W. Scott Erwin, CGFM, CRA, Director Office of Sponsored programs, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX.

Bob Kanaga, Chapter President opened the meeting by welcoming all members and guests attending. The AGA Moderator, Mr. Ray Harris conducted the seminar. Each speaker presented a portion of the PowerPoint presentation which can be downloaded from the “Sept 2 ppt” folder found at: public.me.com/ckanaga/

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

How Government Gets Business Done. Pages 3 through 12 of handout

- Grant vs. Cooperative Agreement vs. Contracts
- Two Types of Grants
- Distribution of Federal Grants
- Grants need auditing
- Who are the Major Players
- Who Sets Grant Policy
- CFOC’s Grant Policy Committee (GPC)
- GPC Road to Streamlining

Intergovernmental Coordination. Pages 13 through 16 of handout

- Grants Management Line of Business (GMLoB)
- What is a line of business?
- GMLoB Accomplishments
- Consortia Selection

Legislative Drivers. Pages 17 through 29 of handout

- Major Legislation Affecting Grants
- Legislative Initiatives
- A-133 Requirements on Grantees
- Compliance Supplement
- Fourteen Types of Compliance Requirements
- New Compliance Issues
- Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act (PL-106-107, dated 1999)
- Spirit of PL- 106-107 Lives on.
- FFATA (2006)
- Sub-recipient Pilot Update

Recovery Act Status. Page 30 through 32 of handout

What’s Next? Pages 33 through 34 of handout.

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 AGA Officer, for arranging the use of the GSA Conference Room.

Bob Kanaga, CGFM-Retired (817) 929-8243
Chapter President

September 2, 2009 Chapter CEC Meeting Minutes

The Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) met at noon on Wednesday, September 2, 2009 at Fritz G. Lanham Federal Bldg, Fort Worth, TX 76102. Attendees were: Babette Haines (Membership & CGFM), Bob Kanaga (President), Lakshmi Krishnamurthy (Treasurer), Willie Hunter (Meetings Officer) and Bob Kanaga (Education). Debbie Currie sent in her proxy statement.

Bob Kanaga, opened the meeting and thanked Lakshmi, Babette and Willie for attending. Bob reminded officers that all Chapter Newsletter articles are due Sept 18, 2009 to for the September newsletter. The following topics were discussed during the meeting:

1. **Treasurer Discussion.** Bob Kanaga reported that he sent the Annual Summary of Financial activity to Joel Welch. Joel has volunteered to perform an audit of the 2008-2009 Chapter Year financial records. Lakshmi Krishnamurthy reported that she deposited \$20 from the audio program in our bank account on September 2, 2009. She reported that we have a total of \$5,682.27 total for all our bank accounts as of September 2, 2009. Lakshmi reported that she has paid \$72 to renew our post officer box for another year.
2. **Membership Discussion.** Membership Officer Babette Haines reported 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 monthly article for the newsletter about CGFM activities.
4. **Community Service Activities.** Lakshmi Krishnamurthy reported that she would work a total of twelve hours at the Fort Worth Presbyterian Night Shelter for Septmeber. Bob Kanaga announced that he had arranged for a visit to the Trinity River Vision (TRV) office for a educational tour and presentation of Trinity River Master Plan on September 16, 2009. We will meet at the Federal Building at 12:30 for lunch at the Cafeteria and then walk aroud the block over to the TRV Office at 1:15 p.m. The presentation will conclude about 2:00 p.m.
5. **Chapter recognition Points.** Bob Kanaga announced that the First Quarter Chapter Recognition Report is due on September 30, 2009 to the National AGA.
6. **Education Report.** Bob reported that 7 folks attended the September 2, 2009 Audio Conference training.
7. **Next Chapter Meeting.** Our next chapter meeting will be an audio conference held on October 7, 2009. The two hour seminar will be on Internal Controls for Auditors. Management and Staff: Making Government Organizations More Effective.
8. **Next CEC Meeting.** Our next Chapter CEC Meeting will be Wednesday October 7, 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

Treasurer's Report

Our September Bank Balance has been received and as of September 2, 2009 we have \$5,682.27 in total Chapter funds.

Lakshmi Krishnamurthy
Chapter Treasurer

Community Service Activity

The **Trinity River Vision Project** is a master plan for 88 miles of the Trinity River, Texas and its major tributaries in Fort Worth. On September 16, 2009, five members of the Fort Worth AGA Chapter visited the Trinity River Vision Headquarters. The river is a significant part of the history of Fort Worth, and the city's downtown was developed in 1849 as an army outpost along its banks.

More than a decade in the making, the master plan was conceived by volunteers and community leaders, and adopted by the city, county, state and federal officials. The goal of the master plan is to preserve and enhance the river and its corridors so they remain essential greenways for open space, trails, neighborhood focal points, wildlife and recreation areas.

Central City (our guide said she would like it to be named “Panther Island”) is one segment of the Trinity River Vision Master Plan. It focuses on the river as the key to help revitalize an aging area of Fort Worth's central city and open up a portion of the river that currently has limited visibility and access. Central City will provide the link from downtown to the Stockyards and the Cultural District. It will combine recreational opportunities with flood control and environmental enhancements to greatly improve public utilization of the river. This new infrastructure will offer 12 miles of active urban waterfront and a 33-acre lake just North of downtown, making the entire area attractive for private development and mixed-income housing.

Infrastructure needed for flood control and transportation will restore an aging industrial area once devoted to oil refining, scrap metal yards, electrical and chemical plants. When the bypass channel is completed around 800 acres of underutilized land between the Tarrant County Courthouse and Northside Drive will be accessible for private redevelopment opportunities, in essence doubling the size of downtown. An envisioned 10,000 housing units and three million square feet of commercial, retail and educational space will make it possible for Fort Worth residents to live, work, shop, play and learn near the river.

Neighborhood and Recreational Enhancement Plan:

The 2003 Trinity River Vision Master Plan was adopted by the Tarrant Regional Water District, Streams & Valleys, Inc., The City of Fort Worth and Tarrant County. Many projects including trail extensions, new trailheads, trail amenities, additional low water dams and pedestrian bridges and private developments oriented to the Trinity Greenbelt have been implemented in the last six years.

The Vision since 1970 has always been to advocate for this natural resource, bringing back the beauty and recreational value of the Trinity. In recent years, water and environmental quality have become an important focus of the revival of this greenbelt corridor. All of this has been accomplished while maintaining important flood control management.



The TRVA strongly believes that we as a region can no longer take our air, water and overall environmental quality for granted, it is imperative that we keep moving forward now at a faster pace to protect these wonderful greenbelt systems.

Gateway Park: Another component of the Trinity River Vision is Gateway Park. The 1,000-acre park will be filled with new recreational amenities such as soccer fields, a softball complex, a water park, disk golf course, equestrian and biking trails just to name a few. This will make Gateway one of the nation's largest urban-programmed parks. The restoration of the Riverside Oxbow will preserve beautiful, 200-year-old trees and encourage the redevelopment of bottomland hardwood forest. The project will spur economic development around the park and will connect the East and Southeast neighborhoods of Fort Worth to the Trinity River Corridor.

References: Most of the article above was written by: trinityrivervision.org



Attendees pictured are: Paul O'Connor, Lakshmi Krishnamurthy, Laura Mayberry (TRV Guide), and Bob Kanaga. Babette Haines and Neil Clark attended the presentation, but missed the photo op.

Chapter Membership News

Connect To the Profession Through Chapter Membership: Get Connected! The strength of any association lies with its membership. When you are ready to make new friends, meet colleagues who do what you do, and learn from the most creative people in the field, you can tap into AGA's vast interconnected community. Professionals join and stay with AGA because of the access that it provides to a wide range of industry experts around the country. Your colleagues are often your best source for in-depth insight and guidance.

Government financial managers and other accountability professionals rely on AGA to give them the tools and information they need to stay current on industry news, trends and best practices. Whether you are a new or seasoned professional, AGA provides professional development opportunities and helps you advance your career to the next level. All you have to do is get involved.

Engage with the financial management community through your chapter membership. To learn if there is a chapter near you, click on the Chapter Locator Map. Each of the 100 AGA chapters links with AGA National to share resources, which increases your opportunities for networking and professional development. Many members who live in areas with multiple chapters join more than one to maximize their membership opportunities. If you have not been taking advantage of the many benefits that your chapter provides, take the time to get involved now. Remember: AGA National membership does not include chapter membership. For additional information on how to utilize your member benefits [contact us](#).

Babette Haines,
babette.haines@gsa.gov
 Chapter Membership Officer

AGA PMC Early Registration Deadline Quickly Approaching

The early registration deadline for AGA's Fifth Annual Performance Management Conference (PMC) is quickly approaching.

Please be sure to register by **October 9, 2009** to receive the discounted rates.

Join us **November 5-6, 2009** in Seattle, WA and earn up to 14 CPE hours at this one-of-a-kind event. The PMC convenes performance management professionals from all levels of government and the private sector to discuss how-tos and best practices, share lessons learned, and highlight cooperative initiatives among governments. Take advantage of the opportunity to meet leaders in the field, as AGA recognizes governments that have received gold, silver and bronze awards through the Certificate of Achievement in Service Efforts and Accomplishments Reporting Program. Arrive a day early and earn an additional 3 CPE hours by participating in a free workshop showcasing AGA's *Tool Kit for Preparing a Performance Report*.

This conference has it all! If you are a practitioner of performance reporting at your government entity, or just want to learn more, there's no better place to gain the knowledge you need than at AGA's PMC. In addition to practical guidance, the PMC offers many opportunities for networking, exchanging ideas and meeting colleagues and friends.

Check out the keynote speakers for this year's conference:

- **Robin Arnold-Williams**, Director, Executive Policy, State of Washington
- **Shelley Metzenbaum**, Associate Director for Performance Management, U.S. Office of Management and Budget
- **Jonathan Walters**, Author and Correspondent, *Governing* magazine
- **P.K. Agarwal**, Chief Technology Officer, State of California
- **Bajinder Paul**, Chief Information Officer, Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury, U.S. Department of the Treasury
- **Rohit Verma**, CFO and Head of Strategy, Zurich North America
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AGA PMC Hotel Deadline: Oct. 23, 2009

Don't be sleepless in Seattle--reserve your room today! AGA has reserved a block of rooms at the W Hotel, which is centrally located in downtown Seattle. The room rate is \$158 (plus tax) until **October 23**, or until the room block sells out. We encourage you to make your hotel reservations today, for the best price and availability. Call 888.627.8552 and mention you are attending the "AGA PMC" to receive the discounted rate.

[Register Online](#)

[Download Registration Form](#)

[Visit the Website](#)

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	Presbyterian 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 <i>TRV Presentation</i> No CPE	Wed. Sept 16 Community Service Prgm	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	Tarrant Area Food Bank Drive. Turn in to GSA	
Nov 2009	Wed. Nov. 18 CEC Meeting	Wed. November 18 Audio Conference <i>Auditor's Role in Government Performance Measures</i> 2 CPE	Buy gifts for Salvation Army Angel Tree Angels	
Dec 2009	Wed. December 16 CEC Meeting	Wed. December 16 Audio Conference <i>Latest Trends in Occupational Fraud</i> 2 CPE	Tarrant County Sheriff Teddie Bear Drive	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

Fort Worth Chapter Officers

Chapter Officers

Chapter President: Robert Kanaga (7744) rhkanaga@aol.com (817) 929-8243

President-Elect:

Treasurer: Lakshmi Krishnamurthy (61480) krishnamurthy.lakshmi@gmail.com (817) 437-0451

Chapter Secretary: Robert Kanaga (7744)

Membership Officer: Babette Haines (61175) babette.haines@gsa.gov (817) 978-0432

Newsletter Officer: Robert Kanaga (7744)

Education Officer: Robert Kanaga (7744)

Meetings Officer: Willie Hunter (60580) willie.hunter@sba.gov (817) 684-5335

Community Service Officer: Robert Kanaga (7744)

CGFM Officer: Babette Haines (61175) babette.haines@gsa.gov (817) 978-0432

Early Careers Officer: Babette Haines (61175) babette.haines@gsa.gov (817) 978-0432

Chapter Historian:

Webmaster Officer: Debbie Currie (9001) agaftw@yahoo.com