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

SEPTEMBER 2011

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### Chapter President's Message



**Welcome to our 2011-2012 AGA Chapter Year. Your CEC has done it's planning for the new year. See your new Activity Plan on page 5. We have turned in our Officer List, our Education Plan, our CGFM Plan and Membership Plan.**

**Our first Chapter meeting will be an audio conference held on September 28, 2011 at the Federal Building downtown Fort Worth. See page 4 for the meeting flyer.**

**Please contact anyone of your Chapter Officers to make suggestions for activities.**

**I have graduated from a GSA Trainee to a full time Analyst which has increased my responsibilities and challenges here at GSA.**

**Please read through the newsletter to become acquainted with current happenings.**

**Again, welcome to our 2011-2012 AGA Chapter Year.**

***Babette Haines,  
Chapter President***

## Chapter Meeting June 8, 2011

Our June 8, 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 seven fantastic members present. A sandwich lunch was served to all attendees.

The audio conference was on "Improving Controls Can Improve Program Performance", and presented by the following speakers:

**Cathy Hill**, Director of Risk Management and Compliance of the Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA);

**Rory Souther**, Chief, Office of Resource Management, U.S. Coast Guard Acquisition Directorate;

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

Cathy Hill discussed FEMA financial statement audit history and how they made significant progress over the past five years to strengthen its internal controls and reduce control weaknesses. Their big accomplishment was sustaining improvement through the use of root cause analysis. Their Internal Control Board (ICB) helped them move beyond compliance by demonstrating commitment of senior leadership, providing the structure needed to improve internal controls and achieve program goals and business objectives, and establishing accountability throughout the agency. Rory Souther presented the internal control program at the Coast Guard. The most important activity of the internal control program assessment is identification of weaknesses and courses of action for improvement since you can't get better without this step.

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*

## June 8, 2011 CEC Minutes

The Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) met at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building, 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102. Attendees were: Babette Haines (President) Lakshmi Krishnamurthy (Treasurer), Eric Kline (Membership and Secretary), and Bob Kanaga (Newsletter).

The following topics were discussed during the meeting:

- 1. Treasurer Discussion.** Treasurer Lakshmi Krishnamurthy reported that she will get the last statement of the year from the bank around July 1. Our annual audit of financials will be performed in late July or August. A member of the CEC can't do the audit. We will need to file tax information and prepare a 990N. We don't have to file a return since we have less than \$20 thousand income.
- 2. Awards.** We received the First Place award for our Website for Group E. We also received Honorable Mention for our newsletter for Group E. We also earned

another Gold Chapter Award. Awards will be presented at the PDC awards breakfast next Wednesday. We should include President's picture in our future newsletters for additional points.

- 3. PDC.** Hotel scholarships are available. Helene Baker asked if we can give them to the San Antonio Chapter.
- 4. Education Report.** Activity plan needs to be prepared after we receive schedule. We will schedule a joint meeting with the Dallas Chapter next year.
- 5. President Discussion.** Chapter plans need to be turned in by the end of July. Bob Kanaga reported he and Babette Haines will attend the SLM in Kansas City, Missouri on May 14-15.
- 6. Next Chapter Meeting.** Our next chapter meeting will be an audio conference held on June 8, 2010. The two hour seminar will be on Improving Controls.
- 7. Next CEC Meeting.** Our next Chapter CEC Meeting will be Wednesday, September 28, 2011 at 3 p.m. at the Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building. The audio conference seminar will be "Fraud".

Our meeting ended at 3:30 p.m.

**Eric Kline, CPA, MBA**  
*Chapter Secretary*

## Recruit a Member, Share the Network, Win an iPad

This year's Member-Get-a-Member program "Ready, Set, Grow" offers you a chance not only to introduce your colleagues to the many benefits and opportunities of AGA membership, but also to earn exciting prizes. Current members are the ideal ambassadors to communicate the advantages of AGA to prospective members. Everyone who helps recruit new members between May 1 and **Sept. 30, 2011** will have a chance to win the new Apple iPad with Wi-Fi. Refer six or more members and earn free membership dues.

We know from experience that the best way to promote AGA is through word of mouth. Take advantage of this opportunity to introduce your colleagues to the benefits of AGA membership. They will find out for themselves how their professional status can be enhanced through the varied programs we offer in education and professional development. Introduce them to our certification program as well as conferences, publications and top quality research.

As we approach 2012, our goal is to make AGA stronger than ever. Here is your chance to be our partner in advancing AGA's position in the government accountability profession. Help AGA, help yourself and help your associates all at the same time. [Visit the recruitment page today.](#)

**There was no Chapter Meeting held in July 2011.**

### **July 21, 2011 CEC Minutes**

The Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) met at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 21, 2011 at Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building, 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102 in Room 5A27. Attendees were: Babetted Haines (President), Lakshmi Krishnamurthy (Treasurer), Bob Kanaga (Education Officer). Eugenia Brent (Historian) and Eric Kline (Secretary) sent in Proxy statements.

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

1. **Treasurer Discussion.** Treasurer Lakshmi Krishnamurthy reported there will be a \$131.90 cash deposit made for check received from AGA National for our share of the dues paid by members. Lakshmi stated she would have the Financial Report for Chapter Year 2010-11 ready for review by July 22, 2011. She left the checkbook with Bob Kanaga to order the audio conferences before August 1, 2011.
2. **Activity Plan Discussion.** The list of audio conferences was used to decide which dates to hold our Chapter meetings. We selected eight new audio conferences in which to participate. The October date was left open because the audio conference fell too close the the September date. Babette said she would corrrerdinate

with the Dallas AGA Chapter to arrange a joint evening meeting and have the RVP attend. Bob Kanaga stated he would email the revised Activity Plan to Babette on Friday, July 22, 2011.

3. **Education Plan.** Bob Kanaga said he would use the dates selected at today's CEC meeting to prepare the 2011-12 Chapter Education Plan. He said he would have it emailed to Babette Haines Friday, July 22, 2011.
4. **Chapter recognition Points.** Bob Kanaga met with Babette Haines after the CEC meeting to introduce her to the Chapter Recognition Program on the AGA National web site.
5. **Next CEC Meeting.** Our next CEC meeting will be held on August 17, 2011 at the Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building.
6. **First Chapter Meeting.** The first Chapter meeting of the 2011-12 Chapter Year will be held on September 28, 2011 12:30 p.m. at the Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building.

Our meeting ended at 4:30 p.m.

Bob Kanaga,  
for *Eric Kline, CPA MBA*

### **Chapter Recognition Points (CPR) Report**

**On September 30, 2011 we will input our First Quarter Chapter activities into the Chapter Recognition Program.**

### **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:**

**Pamela M. Franceschi, MPA, Deputy Director, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, DOD.**

**Matthew A. Jadacki, CGFM, CPA, Assistant Inspector General, Office of Emergency  
Management Oversight, U.S. DHS.**

**Jeffery C. Steinhoff, CGFM, CPA, CFE, Executive Director, KPMG Government Institute and  
KPMG's Federal Advisory Practice.**

will present a two hour seminar on

**“Continuous Monitoring:**

**Management's Window to Presenting Fraud, Waste and Abuse”**

**September 28, 2011**

**Sign in at 12:30 p.m. for lunch**

**Audio Presentation: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Room 8A06 South - 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 contacts listed below:**

**(Attendance is limited to first 20 persons who sign up)**

**Bob Kanaga Chapter Education Officer (817) 929-8243**

**AGA: “Advancing Government Accountability”**

<b>Chapter Activity Plan 2011-2012 Chapter Year</b>
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Months	CEC Meetings	Chapter Luncheons	Community Service/Social Activity	Other Events
June 2011		<b>Wed. June 8, 2011</b> 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	<b>July 21</b> CEC Meeting	Officers Prepared Activity Plans for National AGA		<b>July 15, 2011</b> Chapter Plans Due  New CRP not received until June 18
Aug 2011	No AGA Activity Planned			
Sept 2011	<b>Wed. Sept 28</b> CEC Meeting	<b>Wed. Sept 28</b> Audio Conference <i>Management's Window on Preventing Fraud, Waste &amp; Abuse</i> 2 CPE		<b>September 30, 2011</b> First Qtr CRP Due Annual Chapter Audit Due
Oct 2011	<b>Wed. October 19</b> CEC Meeting	<b>Wed. October 19</b> Joint Meeting with Dallas Chapter. & RVP visit  1 CPE		
Nov 2011	<b>Wed. Nov. 16</b> CEC Meeting	<b>Wed. November 16</b> Audio Conference <i>Financial Management</i> 2 CPE		
Dec 2011	<b>Wed. December 14</b> CEC Meeting	<b>Wed. December 14</b> Audio Conference <i>Fraud</i> 2 CPE		<b>December 31, 2011</b> Second Qtr CRP Due
Jan 2012	<b>Wed. January 11</b> CEC Meeting	<b>Wed. January 11, 2012</b> Audio Conference <i>Getting a Handle on Internal Controls</i> 2 CPE	No Community Service project for January.	
Feb 2012	<b>Wed. February 8</b> CEC Meeting	<b>Wed. February 8, 2012</b> Audio Conference <i>Financial Management</i> 2 CPE	<b>Fri., Feb 18, 2012</b> Community Service Event: Attend the Tarrant Area Food Bank's Empty Bowls	
Mar 2012	<b>Wed. March 7</b> CEC Meeting	<b>Wed. March 7, 2012</b> Audio Conference <i>Data Mining</i> 2 CPE	No Community Service project for March.	<b>March 31, 2012</b> Third Qtr CRP Due
April 2012	<b>Wed. April 18</b> CEC Meeting	<b>Wed. April 18, 2012</b> Audio Conference <i>Find Strength In Numbers-Sampling Techniques to Improve Financial Audit.</i> 2 CPE	<b>Thurs., April 28, 2012</b> Community Service Event: Four hours volunteer work at Mayfest at a soda booth.	Chapter Officer Elections
May 2012	<b>Wed. May 23</b> CEC Meeting	<b>Wed. May 23, 2012</b> Audio Conference <i>Ethics Class</i> 2 CPE	<b>Fri., May ?, 2012</b> Junk Yard Dog Golf Tournament at Riverside Golf Club, Grand Prairie, TX	<b>May 31, 2012</b> Fourth Qtr CRP Due

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**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, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor (GSA), Suite 8A06

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### 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](mailto: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 & Fraud Conference**

**September 19–20, 2011**

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

**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**

**September 21, 2011**

Washington, D.C.

**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](mailto:SLM@agacgfm.org).

<b>Fort Worth Chapter Officers</b>
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<b>Chapter Officers</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Chapter President	Babette Haines	<a href="mailto:babette.haines@gsa.gov">babette.haines@gsa.gov</a>	(817) 929-8243
President Elect			(817) 978-0508
Treasurer	Lakshmi Krishnmurthy	<a href="mailto:krishnamurthy.lakshmi@gmail.com">krishnamurthy.lakshmi@gmail.com</a>	(817) 437-0451
Secretary	Eric Kline	<a href="mailto:eric.kline@dcaa.mil">eric.kline@dcaa.mil</a>	(817) 763-4518
Membership	Eric Kline	<a href="mailto:eric.kline@dcaa.mil">eric.kline@dcaa.mil</a>	(817) 978-0508
Newsletter	Robert Kanaga	<a href="mailto:rhkanaga@aol.com">rhkanaga@aol.com</a>	(817) 929-8243
Education	Robert Kanaga	<a href="mailto:rhkanaga@aol.com">rhkanaga@aol.com</a>	(817) 929-8243
Meetings			
Community Service	By Committee		
CGFM Officer			(817) 978-7430
Early Careers	Babette Haines	<a href="mailto:babette.haines@gsa.gov">babette.haines@gsa.gov</a>	(817) 978-0508
Chapter Historian	Eugenia Brents	<a href="mailto:eugenia.brents@dcaa.mil">eugenia.brents@dcaa.mil</a>	
Awards Committee	By Committee		
Website Coordinator	Robert Kanaga	<a href="mailto:rhkanaga@aol.com">rhkanaga@aol.com</a>	
Chapter Research	By Committee		