



Association of Government Accountants
Central Kentucky Chapter

Advancing Governmental Accountability

The AGA Messenger

President's Message **Lee Ann Watters**

The Central Kentucky Chapter has gotten our new year off to a great start! Recently, the Chapter Executive Committee has been involved in strategic planning for the rest of the year. You will be hearing a lot more in the coming months about the initiatives that have resulted from these planning sessions. Chief among our plans are increased community service opportunities, increased awareness of and emphasis on the CGFM certification, timely training sessions – all with an emphasis on better serving our membership.

Additionally, we will be launching several drives throughout the year with the intent of increasing our membership. Currently, our membership roster stands at 65 “paid-up” members. Our goal is to increase our membership by enrolling 20 new members – an increase of nearly one-third. This goal is a challenging one; however, we believe it is one we can easily meet with the help of all of us working together.

Why should you recruit new members for AGA? I think the national web site says it best. We all joined AGA for a number of reasons. Some of us were looking for networking opportunities; others were looking for reasonably priced continuing professional education. Our local chapter offers a two-day training every October, additionally, we offer a ½ day training in the spring that is free to our members! We also frequently offer a free hour of CPE at our monthly membership meetings. Last but not least, many of us have had the opportunity to attend regional and national professional development conferences that showcase some of the country's

(Continued on page 6)

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September Speaker



Bill Carroll, CPA of Strothman & Company, PSC in Louisville will be the speaker for September's meeting.

Bill has over 30 years of experience in managing and participating in audit, tax and consulting engagements for numerous businesses and governmental entities in a variety of different industries. During his career, Bill has worked very closely with the owners and management of the businesses he serves, in a constructive manner. He also provides litigation support, mergers and acquisitions, forensic auditing and business valuation services.

Mr. Carroll graduated from Bel-larmine University with a B.S. in Accounting and worked for Deloitte & Touche from 1968 to 1990.

Mr. Carroll works hard outside of work, as well, volunteering his time to many professional and community activities.

Inside the Messenger

| | |
|---|---|
| Feature Article: The Certified Financial Management Program..... | 2 |
| Chapter News | 3 |
| National and Regional News | 4 |
| Meet the CEC: President Lee Ann Watters..... | 5 |
| CPE Corner | 5 |
| Community Service Opportunities | 5 |
| Treasurer's Report | 7 |
| Chapter Contact Info | 7 |

The Certified Government Financial Manager Program

By Phil Nally, Chapter Treasurer

The Certified Government Financial Manager Program (CGFM) is the first certification broad enough to cover the whole field of government financial management – federal, state, and local. It deals not with testing a person in a specific area, but with measuring the wide range of knowledge and skills a professional needs to succeed in the government financial environment, whether federal, state, or local.

Since its inception in 1994, the CGFM has become the standard by which government financial management professionals are measured. More than 13,000 individuals have received the designation. The foundation of the CGFM is the requirement for education, experience, and examination. Building on this foundation is a Code of Ethics and required Continuing Professional Education.

This designation is recognized as a professional standard. Since the 2001 federal legislation authorizing federal government agencies to use appropriated funds to pay for expenses to obtain professional credentials, three agencies including the Department of Defense and twelve of its components, have issued formal professional certification policies, with other agencies soon to follow suit. The CGFM designation is listed as one of the funded certifications.

To date, seven states have formally recognized the CGFM - Idaho, Mississippi, Missouri, Maine, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington. Also, various counties, including Contra Costa County in California, and cities, including Topeka, Kansas, have also formally recognized the CGFM. Each year more and more federal agencies and state and local governments are realizing the value of the CGFM and are formally embracing the designation.

The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Board of Regents has also recognized the CGFM. It is accepted as a waiver for Part IV of the CIA examination.

AGA offers assistance for CGFM candidates through instructor led courses, online courses, and self-study guides. There are three examinations that must be passed: Government Environment; Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting; and Governmental Financial Management and Control.

After passing the CGFM exam, 80 hours of CPE are required over a two-year cycle to maintain the designation. CGFMs must also abide by AGA's Code of Ethics.

Employees with the CGFM designation demonstrate to government officials that they can face today's challenges.

Central Kentucky Chapter News

August Chapter Meeting

The August Membership meeting of the Central Kentucky Chapter of AGA was held August 5, 2004 at 11:30 a.m. at the Office Pub and Deli.

Mary Hudson, CGFM and Public Relations Coordinator called the meeting to order and introduced the featured speaker, Mr. John Cubine. Mr. Cubine is the newly appointed Director of the Division of Financial Audit at the Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts office.

Mr. Cubine spoke of the challenges facing the auditor's office, noting that there is a specialization of information that is not easily communicated to the average taxpayer. Also, there are difficulties because of the politics of state government. Every agency wants this or that audit and the volume of work is so large that judgment calls have to be made.

Mr. Cubine noted that he has goals for the Auditor's office. He wants to see improved communication between APA divisions. This would help with the sharing of information about audits of the same agency. He also wants to improve recruitment and retention of auditors. Finally, through financial audits and the performance audit division, Mr. Cubine feels that the APA can greatly help agencies improve their efficiency in delivering services to the Commonwealth. By working with agencies to develop strong internal control systems that are effective and affordable for the agency, waste and misuse of taxpayer funds can be reduced.

Following Mr. Cubine's talk, Sydney Lawson, Program Coordinator, spoke about upcoming meetings and the possibility for CPE at meetings.

Lee Ann Watters, Chapter President, closed the meeting with reminders about the newsletter and community service opportunities.

September Chapter Executive Committee

The September CEC meeting was held on Tuesday, August 31, 2004 at Bella Pizza Restaurant in Frankfort. Eight members of CEC were in attendance.

It was decided that the monthly membership meetings would remain at the Office Pub & Deli. It was also decided that, beginning at October's meeting, members and non-members will pay \$5 for their lunches.

Amy Small updated the CEC on Community Service Activities, reminding everyone of the ongoing pop-tab drive.

Cindy Upton spoke about the upcoming Fall Professional Development Conference. Sixteen hours of CPE will be available at the Conference and fees will remain the same as last year's Conference. The possibility of a half-day training in December was also discussed.

Mary Hudson spoke about the AGA CGFM promotion and encouraged CEC members to get the word out about that.

In other discussion, it was suggested that com-
(Continued on page 4)

Upcoming Chapter Events

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|---------------|---|
| September 2 | — Chapter Membership Meeting 11:30 a.m. Office Pub and Deli |
| October 7 | — Chapter Membership Meeting 11:30 a.m. Office Pub and Deli |
| October 18-19 | — Professional Development Holiday Inn Capital Plaza |

CEC Meeting, (Continued)

committees be formed to facilitate more membership involvement and to lessen the load on CEC members.

The meeting was closed with next month's meeting being scheduled for September 28 at Frisch's restaurant in Frankfort.

CPE Corner

Government Financial Manager Training Program

October 12—14, Nashville, TN

AGA has developed a training program for accountability professionals in the government financial management field. The training program provides 48 hours of CPE. The training will be held October 12-14; October 26-28 at the Cheatham Room in the WRS TN Tower, 312, Eighth Avenue North, Nashville, TN. To attend the entire course, cost is only \$500 per person. To attend individual sessions, the cost for Part I is \$80; Part II is \$250 and Part III is \$170. For more info, contact Karen Hale, karen.b.hale@state.tn.us

AGA Central Kentucky Fall Professional Development Conference

October 18-19, Frankfort, KY

The fall PDC will be held at the Holiday Inn Capital Plaza and will be offering 16 hours of CPE! The cost of registration will remain the same as last year. For registration forms, contact Mary Hudson.

AGA Community Service Opportunities

Amy Small, Community Service Coordinator

CCU 4th Annual 5K Run/Walk/Crawl

CCU is hosting their **4th Annual 5K Run/Walk/Crawl** on September 25th to benefit the KY State Police Trooper Island and CASA. The race begins at 8AM at the CCU Main Office on High Street. Interested parties can go to CCU's website at www.ccu.ky.org/whatsnew/5kentry.htm for an entry form and race map. Early entry fee is \$15 if registering by September 10th. After September 10th, entry fee is \$20. There will be FREE breakfast served at the finish line.

If you have any questions about either event please contact Amy Small at amy.small@auditor.ky.gov.

Pop Tabs for Friends of Indian Summer

We will be collecting pop tabs to benefit the children's cancer camp, Indian Summer Camp throughout the year. Please contact Amy Small if you would be willing to take charge of a collection can for your agency.

Second Quarter Featured Opportunities

During September, October and November, we will be focusing on two community service projects. First, we will have a food bank drive to benefit local food pantries. Look for details soon about where to bring you non-perishable food items for donation. We will also be holding our Scholarship Fund raffle soon, as well.

For more information on these and other community service projects, please contact Amy Small.

Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) News

Mary Hudson, CGFM & Public Relations Coordinator

You can apply for the CGFM program and help out your local AGA chapter at the same time!

The National AGA Office is offering a \$20 discount for all CGFM applications submitted between September 1 and November 30, 2004.

The local chapter that has the most applications submitted during the promotion period, will receive \$20 times the number of applications submitted, and 50 bonus points for chapter recognition per application.

Applications must be received by the National AGA Office between September 1 and November 30, 2004 to be eligible for the discount promotion.

You do not have to be an AGA member to receive the discount.

To be eligible for the discount, applicants must include the following in their submission to the AGA National Office:

Application form with promotional phrase: "CGFM Chapter Promotion-AGA Central Kentucky Chapter" at the bottom under the source code.

\$85 application fee (\$20 check will be sent to applicant in December)

Proof of Bachelor's Degree

See the national AGA website at www.agacgfm.org for more information about the CGFM certification. Applications are available at this website, also.

If you are interested and/or have questions, please contact:

**Mary Hudson, CGFM Coordinator
AGA Central Kentucky Chapter
at Mary.Hudson@auditor.ky.gov**

(Continued from page 1)

premier government accounting and auditing experts. AGA membership entitles you to significant discounts on registration fees for conferences, workshops and courses.

AGA also offers us an opportunity to keep up-to-date on current events. I'm sure you all, like me, often find it difficult to keep up with the latest issues. AGA offers a top-notch web-site as well as two e-mail publications and [The Journal of Government Financial Management](#) to provide members with all the latest information.

AGA offers professional guidance and a nationally recognized professional certification to its members. AGA sets high standards for membership as outlined in the Code of Ethics. AGA maintains that its members, as government accounting professionals, serve the public interest in accordance with high principles.

Finally, AGA offers many opportunities to enhance your leadership skills. There are opportunities to serve as an officer or committee member on the local, regional and even national levels.

What can you do to help our Chapter meet our membership goals? We are asking each of our members to try to enroll at least one new member between now and May 2005. What does this mean you need to do? Think back to the reasons you joined AGA in the first place. Consider why you've continued to renew your membership year after year. Then, share a bit of this information with one of your coworkers. Bring that coworker to a membership meeting with you – no one likes to walk into a group of 20 or 30 people alone!

Enrolling is easy. You can print out a membership application at www.agacgfm.com. Additionally, I will always have a few applications on hand at our monthly meetings and will be glad to pass them around.

On behalf of the CEC, we're looking forward to seeing you on September 2 at the next monthly meeting!

| Chapter Executive Committee | | | |
|--|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Office | Officer | Email | Phone Number |
| President | Lee Ann Watters | LWatters@cmbcpa.com | (502) 695-1040 |
| President-Elect | Rick Waddle | Rick.Waddle@ky.gov | (502) 564-7750 |
| Past President & Historian | Roy Hunter | RHunter@cmbcpa.com | (502) 695-1040 |
| Secretary & Newsletter Editor | Lydia Reynolds | LReynolds@cmbcpa.com | (502) 695-1040 |
| Treasurer | Phil Nally | Phil.Nally@ky.gov | (502) 564-7750 |
| Program Coordinator | Sydney Lawson | SLawson@kde.state.ky.us | (502) 564-6910 |
| Early Careers Director | Sharon Parrish | SParrish@gwmail.kysu.edu | (502) 564-6910 |
| Education & Training Coordinator | Cindy Upton | Cindy.Upton3@lrc.state.ky.us | (502) 564-8100 |
| Community Service | Amy Small | ASmall@auditor.ky.gov | (502) 573-0050 |
| Attendance & Membership Coordinator | Linda Sgraves | LSgraves@auditor.ky.gov | (502) 573-0050 |
| CGFM & Public Relations Coordinator | Mary Hudson | MHudson@auditor.ky.gov | (502) 573-0050 |
| Website Development Coordinator | Dan Flaherty | Dan.Flaherty@kyagr.com | (502) 573-0282 |