

# THE CENTRAL KENTUCKY AGA MESSENGER

## NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 9, 2011  
Meeting**

**1 Hour of CPE**

### **Speaker:**

Greg Harkenrider,  
*Governor's Office for  
Economic Analysis*

### **Location:**

Crestwood Baptist  
Church Fellowship Hall

**Time:** 11:30 am-1pm

### **Price:**

**\$10 Members (\$5 CPE-  
no lunch)**

**\$15 Non-Members (\$10  
CPE-no lunch)**

***Visit the Website***

<http://www.ckyaga.com/>



### **President's Message Linda Hinton**

A big thank you to all the people who made the Spring Training Event a success! I had a great time and we received a lot of positive feedback on the speaker. If you haven't sent in the evaluation form yet, please do so. We use the forms in planning the trainings. Also, congratulations to Alice Wilson who won the free registration to the National PDC in Atlanta!

AGA's Chapter fiscal year is from June 1, 2010 to May 30, 2011. I have been entering our points into National's datasheet for the fiscal year and reflecting back. We have done a lot this year! Donations to charities, monthly newsletters, two-day Fall Conference, one-day Spring Training Event, Black Cat Run/Walk, Candy Sales at the conferences for charities, CGFM Study Group, etc. For those of you who don't know, our chapter gets points for various activities. Each chapter reaching 12,000 points is a bronze chapter, 14,501 silver, 17,001 gold, and 19,501 platinum.

**June 2011**

The different chapter levels are recognized at the National PDC. I will let you know what level we reached in the next message. The Chapter Executive Committee has done a wonderful job this year and I want to thank them for volunteering to be on the CEC. Without their help, we wouldn't have a chapter.

Now, after wrapping up our FY11, it is time to focus and plan for the next fiscal year! The Chapter Executive Members are already starting to put together Community Service and Education plans. Please let us know if there is something you want us to consider for the upcoming year.

See you at the meeting in June!

# Chapter Meeting News and Notes

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## Meeting Information

By: Laca Woodson

### We need your input....

Our December speaker is Susan Gaffield of KEAP. She will be presenting "Verbal De-Escalation Skills" (see the topic description below). Susan has requested some examples of stressful situations that AGA members might encounter in their work so that this presentation is more tailored to government accountants.

If you can think of a "stressful situation" in your line of work please e-mail it to [Laca.Woodson@auditor.ky.gov](mailto:Laca.Woodson@auditor.ky.gov) by June 15th. A list of situations will be sent to the speaker; your name will not be included.

The situation could relate to communicating with other employees, upper management, or clients.

Topic description:

- **Verbal De-Escalation Skills** with Susan Gaffield. Sometimes employees feel frustrated or nervous when a customer becomes dissatisfied and upset. This workshop will present non-physical techniques that can prevent or diffuse a hostile situation. Having skills to respond in these situations may help you feel more confident when communicating under stress.

Thank You!  
AGA Programs Committee

## Community Service

By: Linda Hinton

### Spring Training Event Fundraiser

The Candy Sale at the May 2011 Spring Training Event was matched by National AGA so the American Cancer Society received a total of \$218! Thank you so much for your contributions supporting the American Cancer Society.

The CEC and I want to extend our sincere thanks to Teri Harmon for coordinating the Candy Sale at the Spring Training Event, as well as purchasing the baskets for the Regional and National Community Service conferences. She filled in for Sam Bailey, who was travelling with work and recently took a new job (in Virginia). We would also like to send thanks and best wishes to Sam Bailey as she starts her new job!

By the way, the Franklin County Relay for Life (the annual fundraiser for the American Cancer Society) will be held Friday night, June 17<sup>th</sup> at the Franklin County High School beginning at 6PM. There are usually several events going on so stop by if you get a chance.

[http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr\\_id=28748](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr_id=28748)

## **Pop Tabs**

Time to turnover the pop tabs for the 2010 to 2011 year. We have one box full and the proceeds will go to support Friends of Indian Summer, a cancer camp for kids. If you still have pop tabs, don't worry, we will be collecting them in the FY2011-2012 program year as well.

If you have any community service ideas or activities you want the Central KY Chapter AGA to participate in let us know. We will submit our Community Service Plan to the National AGA June 30.

## **CGFM SPOTLIGHT**

**By: Catherine Hunt**

### **CGFM SPOTLIGHT ON: BEN GROW, CGFM**

*Nearly two dozen members of the Central Kentucky chapter hold the CGFM (Certified Government Financial Manager) designation. Beginning with this article, each month we'll hear from one of these special people.*

#### **What types of positions have you filled during your career?**

I started my career working for Central Bank & Trust Co. in Lexington as a teller. I advanced to become a credit analyst and sat on the Senior Loan Committee. I worked at Central Bank for nearly 3 years.

I left there to work for the Auditor of Public Accounts where I worked for over 23 years. I mainly worked on federal compliance audits and the annual audit of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. I supervised many audit teams while there and worked on the very first single audit effort in the Cabinet for Human Resources as part of the overall Statewide Single Audit.

After leaving the Auditor's Office, I worked in the Office of the Attorney General for nearly 6 years in the Financial Integrity Enforcement and the Special Investigations Divisions. During that time period, I primarily worked in the areas of Food Stamp fraud and Identity Theft investigations.

From mid-2005 through the end of 2007, I performed interim work for the Auditor's Office and for Commonwealth Credit Union here in Frankfort.

Finally, coming full circle, I re-entered the world of financial institutions and have worked as the Internal Audit Director for Commonwealth Credit Union for the last 3½ years.

#### **What's your favorite aspect of governmental financial management?**

I have spent the majority of my career performing audits and obtaining an understanding of internal control as it relates to operations, financial reporting and compliance. I enjoy recommending significant suggestions for improvements in the accounting and financial management aspects of government (and now in the financial institutions arena).

#### **What are your future goals?**

The credit union is a fantastic place to work and I plan to finish my career at the credit union doing exactly what I am doing now. The credit union staff of 3 auditors primarily performs operational audits evaluating internal controls within the credit union and determining credit

union compliance with the multitude of banking laws and regulations that exist in today's financial world.

### **When did you become a CGFM?**

I have been a CGFM since August 1, 1995.

### **How has being a CGFM helped your career?**

Being a CGFM definitely helped me to advance into this final stop on my career ladder. The CGFM counts as one of the four parts needed to achieve the Certified Internal Auditor designation. Although I am not actively pursuing the CIA designation this late in my career, the skills and knowledge obtained from the CGFM have been of great assistance in performing internal audits, even when crossing over from the government arena into the financial institutions arena.

### **What advice do you have for someone considering earning the CGFM designation?**

I encourage anyone who has decided to make government their career to pursue this designation. Although a relatively new certification, it is a meaningful certification and can have a tremendously positive impact upon your career.

The Central Kentucky Chapter sponsors a CGFM study group with study guides provided. A new study group will form in January 2012. If you are interested in participating, contact Catherine Hunt at [Catherine.Hunt@auditor.ky.gov](mailto:Catherine.Hunt@auditor.ky.gov).

## **National News**

### **Chapter Challenge—Promote Government Accountability to the People *It's Our Responsibility—Earn Bonus Chapter Recognition Credits!***

AGA still needs your help with encouraging governments to produce and publish four-page Citizen Centric Reports! The Citizen-Centric Reporting Initiative has become one of AGA's hallmark programs. The reports, designed to be visually appealing, provide understandable information to citizens about the performance and financial condition of the government as well as demographics and future challenges--that answer the question, "Are we better off today than we were last year?"

AGA's Citizen-Centric Program is steadily expanding. A sampling of entities that have produced reports include: the states of Maryland and Texas; U.S. Agency for International Development; National Science Foundation; U.S. General Services Administration; U.S. Department of the Interior; City of Columbus, Indiana; Benton County, Washington; Marion County Public Library; and the Idaho State Police.

AGA has also launched a Certificate of Excellence Awards Program to recognize outstanding work in this area.

View all of the completed reports at [www.agacqfm.org/citizen/completed.aspx](http://www.agacqfm.org/citizen/completed.aspx).

### **Tools Make It Easy**

AGA has developed a **Content Guidelines Template** outlining what information should be included on each page as well as a **Design Guidelines Template** outlining the physical layout of the report. Everything is accessible on the AGA website. Plus, why reinvent the wheel? With so many completed reports, just 'borrow' from them!

## Upcoming Conferences



### Welcome!

Mark your calendar for **July 10–13, 2011** and make plans to join us in Hotlanta for AGA's 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC)—*the* premier education and networking event for government financial managers and accountability professionals. The theme for this year's conference is "Celebrating Our Past, Embracing the Future."

The PDC is the authoritative source for the knowledge and contacts you need to succeed in today's constantly changing environment. Offering 24 CPE hours, the conference covers the latest research and information about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the constantly changing rules and standards, new management techniques, technological advances and practical tips for bringing greater efficiency to government operations. The PDC offers a comprehensive program, captivating speakers, lively discussions, top-quality education sessions, and equips you with knowledge and skills you need to be a more effective leader.

In addition to an outstanding technical program, the conference features a numerous networking events to help you make new contacts, exchange ideas and collaboratively work on solutions to common problems. Exhibitors are also available to demonstrate the newest products, tools and cutting-edge technology available to help your agency achieve its mission.

PDC 2011 will be bigger and better than ever! This event is packed with dynamic speakers, informative sessions and unparalleled opportunities to network. And now, everything you need to know about the agenda is available online. *Select the links below to view the preliminary agenda to see the list of speakers, session topics and networking events offered each day.*

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**Central Kentucky AGA  
Treasurer's Report  
Month Ended May 31, 2011**

Reconciled Cash Balance 4/30/2011		\$ 13,515.31
Receipts:		
PDC Profit Sharing	\$ 308.53	
Funds raised for ACS	110.00	
May Training Fees	8,340.00	
Total Receipts		8,758.53
Total Funds Available		22,273.84
Less: Expenses		
		(6,955.51)
Checkbook Balance 5/31/2011		\$ 15,318.33
Less: Education Fund Balance		
		(3,363.11)
General Fund Balance 5/31/2011		\$ 11,955.22

Expenses:		
May Training Speaker	2,750.00	
May Training Catering	2,997.00	
Misc. May Training Expenses	71.19	
Outgoing President's Award	84.75	
Officer Appreciation Luncheon	92.57	
National PDC Scholarship	775.00	
Contribution to ACS	110.00	
National PDC Raffle Basket	75.00	
Total Expenses	\$ 6,955.51	

**Central Kentucky AGA  
Change in General Fund Balance  
Month Ended May 31, 2011**

General Fund Balance 4/30/2011		\$ 12,674.01
PDC Profit Sharing	\$ 308.53	
Funds raised for ACS	110.00	418.53
General Expenses		(1,137.32)
Net Increase (Decrease) in General Fund Balance		(718.79)
General Fund Balance 5/31/2011		\$ 11,955.22

**Central Kentucky AGA**  
**Change in Education Fund Balance**  
**Month Ended May 31, 2011**

Education Fund Balance 4/30/2011		\$ 841.30
Education Fund Receipts	\$ 8,340.00	
Education Fund Disbursements	<u>(5,818.19)</u>	
Net Increase (Decrease) in Education Fund Balance		<u>2,521.81</u>
Education Fund Balance 5/31/2011		<u><u>\$ 3,363.11</u></u>