



OZARKS  
CHAPTER

# Ozarks Ledger

Advancing Government Accountability

Volume VIII, Issue 19

December, 2011

We're on the Web!  
OzarksAGA.org

December  
2011

**Member Appreciation  
Luncheon**

**Tuesday, Dec 13th**

**See Attachment For  
Details!**

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## Message from the President

I hope your season is filled with blessings and family. This time of year seems to just get busier and busier. If you can, make plans to spend just a little down time with your fellow AGA members on December 13th at our Member Appreciation Luncheon. This will be our December meeting. We have plans for a great time. Bring a toy to donate to Toys for Tots, a white elephant gift, and do some relaxing and networking. It seems like that turns out to be some of the most valuable time spent for me.



Rick Findley

Please take the time to tell the leadership “thank you” for the work they do, they are the reason we have the opportunities we have available to us. Speaking of opportunities, be aware that several of those leadership positions might be open for you to serve next year. You can begin to plan to be a part of that now. Our Sectional leadership meeting is in Jan. and you may want to make a decision early enough to attend that. If you have any questions about serving in a leadership position, be sure to ask a current member of the leadership team for details!

In case I don't see everyone or just fail to remember, **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and **Happy New Year**. Again thanks for everything you do. Keep up the good work.

*Rick Findley* (rickfindley@yahoo.com)

### Interested in the CGFM?

Contact Julie Vaughan, CGFM Chair, to inquire about opportunities in our area.



## Chapter Executive Committee

Advancing Government Accountability.

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## NGA, NASBO Say States Facing 'Big Squeeze' According to Latest Fiscal Survey

**November 29, 2011**

**WASHINGTON**—While the overall fiscal condition of states has improved from the depths of the recession, the [Fall 2011 Fiscal Survey of States](#), released today by the National Governors Association (NGA) and the National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO), shows that states are facing a 'big squeeze' from both local and federal governments. The combination of the effects of the economic downturn, tepid economic growth and the expiration of Recovery Act and other federal funds has severely impeded the growth of state resources. Additionally, spending on Medicaid is expected to consume an increasing share of state budgets and grow much more rapidly than state revenue growth, resulting in slow or no growth in education, transportation or public safety.

Overall, state 2012 enacted budgets include nearly \$667 billion in general fund expenditures, a 2.9 percent increase compared to \$648 billion in general fund spending in 2011. Despite the second year with an increase, total enacted general fund spending in 2012 is still \$21 billion less than the pre-recession high of \$687 billion in 2008.

At the same time, local government revenues have been severely impacted by the decline in housing values. Many local governments, including school districts, rely heavily on property taxes to support their activities. These jurisdictions have been pressing states for more local assistance.

"State governments are feeling the squeeze from the demands for spending from both local and federal governments," said **NGA Executive Director Dan Crippen**. "Revenues are up slightly, but they do not yet meet 2008 levels, and the reduction of federal funds compounds the fiscal challenges for states."

Although state general fund revenues increased in both 2011 and 2012, the dramatic declines in revenue collections experienced in 2009 and 2010 leaves total general fund revenues in 2012 \$21 billion below their 2008 level. Specifically, revenue collections in 2012 reflect a 5.2 percent increase in personal income tax revenue and a 0.1 percent decrease in corporate income tax revenue and, in addition, a 0.3 percent decrease in sales tax revenue (in part because of the end of temporary sales increases in a few states). This growth will likely not be enough to even overcome the reductions in federal funds provided through the Recovery Act that began in 2011.

"This report shows that state budgets are certainly improving, however growth is weak and there is not enough money for all of the bills coming in," said **NASBO Executive Director Scott Pattison**. "State officials will still be cutting some programs and increases in funding for any program except for health care will be rare."

The downward revision last week in the estimates for economic growth, the continued fiscal exigencies of the federal government, weakness in housing and the inexorable growth in Medicaid spending all mean there is little relief in sight for state budgets.

For full article, click [here](#).

Check out career  
opportunities on page 7!



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## CGFM

University of Auburn—Montgomery is offering online courses to prepare for the CGFM. Earn college credit as you study for the CGFM! For more information visit the [website!](#)



### Zero-Base Budgeting: Modern Experiences and Current Perspectives

#### ABSTRACT

Zero-base budgeting (ZBB) is a budgeting process that asks managers to build a budget from the ground up, starting from zero. However, ZBB has been the subject of a fair amount of controversy over the years, owing primarily to questions about the value derived from ZBB analysis versus the cost required to put ZBB into practice.

The goal of this paper is to define what ZBB means in current practice, describe the uses of ZBB, and to help public officials facilitate a conversation in their organizations about the value of ZBB. GFOA's research found that "textbook" ZBB or ZBB systems that conform the theoretical ideal are almost unheard of in present day financial management. However, an increasing number of governments that exhibit leadership in budgeting practices (albeit still a minority) are considering elements of ZBB and incorporating them into their budget processes. Major conclusions the paper reaches about ZBB include:

- Practical uses of ZBB streamline ZBB theory to focus on either detailed examination of expenditures or selecting between different levels of service.
- ZBB isn't for everyone. ZBB, or concepts inspired by ZBB theory, may be useful in certain situations. Ultimately, public officials must decide if the benefits of ZBB outweigh the disadvantages.
- Alternatives to ZBB exist. These alternatives can answer many of the same cut-back budgeting questions as ZBB, while sidestepping some of its disadvantages.

For full paper, follow [this](#) link.

### CGFM Chapter Incentive—\$20 Rebate for Applicants

**Need an extra incentive to encourage you to apply for the CGFM Program?**

Here it is: from **Sept. 1 until Dec. 31, 2011** AGA National will give a rebate of \$20 for CGFM applications received with the assistance of AGA chapters. Participating chapters also receive special benefits. Visit the AGA website for additional information.

**AGA Ozarks Chapter will also give members an additional \$100 to offset application and test fees!**

### Regional Training Opportunities

American Society of Women Accountants

11/08/2011

\$30, Non Members

James Hallam, CRPC, from Merrill Lynch will be giving a presentation entitled "Customized Retirement Plan Design and Strategies for Cost-efficient Benefits".

Click [here](#) for more information!

Government Finance Officers Association

**How to Achieve a Sustainable Pension Plan Desktop Training**

**CPE Credits: 2 Price: \$85**

Active/Associate Member • \$160 Nonmember

**Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Eastern)**

Click [here](#) for more information!

**Boost Efficiency, Accuracy, Transparency, Fraud Detection and Cost Savings by Preventing Inappropriate Payments**

**December 14, 2011, 2-3:50 EST**

**2 CPE Hours Available!**

For more information visit the AGA website, [here](#).

## Future Ozarks Chapter Professional Development

Month	Date	Topic/Speaker	Location
December	13th	Member Appreciation Luncheon	Jimm's Steakhouse
January	10th	Joint Meeting with IMA/ASWA	TBD
February	14th	TBD	TBD
March	15th	8 Hour Membership Seminar	910 Ballroom
April	TBD	TBD	TBD

### Ozarks Chapter needs your participation!

Are you curious about what how the chapter operates? Maybe you've thought about serving but it sounds intimidating and you don't know what would be expected? Well there is an opportunity to learn about how AGA operates and how easy and exciting it is to participate. Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> there is a Regional AGA meeting to discuss just this opportunity. We will have current chapter officers; along with potential chapter officers attend the regional meeting in Kansas City. It's a terrific opportunity to meet people already serving AGA leadership positions from around the area and a chance to discuss what you could do to keep the Ozarks Chapter active next year. For more information contact Bob Wells at [rwells496@spsmail.org](mailto:rwells496@spsmail.org) or Teresa Allen at [tallen@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:tallen@springfieldmo.gov).

## Advancing Government Accountability.

<b>OZARKS CHAPTER OF AGA</b>		
<b>2011-2012 Statement of Operations</b>		
<b>10/31/2011</b>		
	<b>Projected Revenue</b>	<b>FYTD Actual Revenue</b>
<b>Revenues:</b>		
Chapter Dues	\$ 600.00	604.65
Monthly meetings	1,000.00	270.00
Seminars:		
Fall Seminar	2,000.00	1,420.00
Spring Membership Seminar	9,000.00	-
Other Revenues:		
Recruiting stipend from National AGA	150.00	150.00
Charity Fundraiser	500.00	-
Misc Revenue	50.00	-
Interest income	100.00	31.19
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 13,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,475.84</b>
	<b>Projected Expenses</b>	<b>FYTD Actual Expense</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Monthly Meeting Expenses:	\$ 1,200.00	192.63
Seminar Expenses:		
Fall Seminar	500.00	132.43
Spring Membership Seminar-Expenses	1,600.00	513.50
Spring Membership Seminar-Dues	5,300.00	-
Community Service Expense	600.00	-
Scholarships:		
Educational (Post Secondary Ed) Scholarships	2,000.00	-
CGFM (Member) scholarships	400.00	-
PDC Travel Stipend	1,000.00	-
Membership Drive Expense	200.00	-
Replenish speaker gifts	300.00	317.87
Misc Expense	300.00	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 13,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,156.43</b>
Fund Balance:		
Beginning		8,077.87
Revenue		\$ 2,475.84
Expended		\$ (1,156.43)
Ending		9,397.28

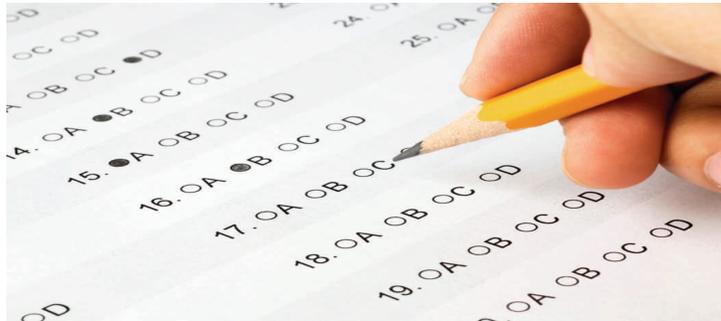
**AGA - Your Best Connection for Quality, Affordable Continuing Education**

## Earn Your CGFM in February, Examinations are Free!

Don't miss the opportunity to take the CGFM Examinations and earn your CGFM at the next Intensive Review Course event in February. AGA is offering a two-day Intensive Review Course on **Monday, Feb. 27, 2012** and **Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012** and an opportunity to take CGFM Examinations on **Feb. 29–March 2, 2012**. The cost of the course is only \$279 for qualified participants, and it offers 18 CPE hours. **Special Bonus:** The CGFM Examinations are offered at no cost to course attendees.

This course is designed as a supplement to previous preparation for the CGFM Examinations, so this is a perfect opportunity for those individuals who have already attended GFM training courses or have been preparing by using the CGFM Study Guides. Enrollment is limited and participants must first apply and be accepted into the CGFM Program, so don't delay.

Click [here](#) for more information!



## Ozarks Chapter AGA—Community Service Project

We are still taking donations for the Family Violence Center in Springfield and guess what, it won't cost you a thing (unless of course you want to make a monetary donation)!!! You know when you go on vacation or a business trip and you snag the hotel shampoo, conditioner and soap before leaving...come on, we all have that stuff in a travel bag somewhere. Well, the Family Violence Center would LOVE to have them. Many of their clients come to them, having left everything behind but the clothes on their back! Well, the Ozarks Chapter of AGA will be taking your unused hotel samples at the November, December and January meetings and dropping them off at the Family Violence Center (don't worry we will be reminding you every month in case you forget)! Pitch in, clean out that travel bag and help someone in need. For more information contact Community Service Director, Nancy Weems.



Scholarship time has arrived!! Applications and instructions are on the website at [www.ozarksaga.org](http://www.ozarksaga.org). Scholarship funds are available for members and non-members, high school seniors and those seeking under graduate and graduate degrees. Don't delay, the deadline is February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012!

