

# AGA NEWSLETTER

IDAHO  
CENTENNIAL  
CHAPTER



**Camel's Back Park!**

Spring is here! It's time to start the yardwork, gardening, and spring cleaning. Our March luncheon hosted guest speaker **Cathy Holland-Smith**, the Division Manager of the Budget & Policy Analysis division for the Legislative Services Office. See page 3 for a summary of her informative comparison on the FY15 & 16 general fund budget. We honored our CGFM Graduates at the March luncheon and enjoyed a great turnout. As a reminder, next month we are not having our regular third Thursday luncheon, but will be hosting the Spring PDC on **April 21-22**. Our Professional Development co-chairs **Lori Hendon &**

**Marsi Woody** have put together an exciting agenda packed full of great speakers! Hope to see you there—See page 2 for more info. We are looking for nominations for the AGA Local Chapter Awards, which has a fast approaching deadline of **April 16, 2015**. Please see page 5 for more information & we will announce winners at the Spring PDC. Get to know our new Education & Young Professionals chair, Brian Smith, on page 4—Get to Know a Board Member. We look forward to his talent & contributions!

See you at the Spring PDC on **April 21-22, 2015!**

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UPCOMING EVENTS—see page 2 for details...

**Spring PDC:**  
**Sponsored by**  
**Idaho AGA Chapter**

April 21-22, 2015  
Riverside Hotel  
in Boise  
16 CPE Credits

**Audio**  
**Conference:**  
**Ethics**

May 13, 2015  
12:00PM—1:50PM  
Two CPE Credits

**Luncheon:**  
**LT Gov Brad Little**  
**Leadership**

May 21, 2015  
11:50AM-1:00PM  
SCO 4th Floor  
Training Room



## IDAHO CENTENNIAL CHAPTER

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

# Save the Date!

## April 21-22, 2015

In Boise, Idaho for the annual  
Professional Development Conference

Sponsored by the

**Idaho Centennial Chapter of the Association of  
Government Accountants**

**April 21-22, 2015**

# RegOnline®

Starting this year **RegOnline** will be used to register for the AGA Spring Professional Development Conference (PDC) on April 21-22. As in prior years, registrants can still pay for the PDC via State Warrant or by mailing a check to the Idaho Centennial Chapter AGA (P.O. Box 623, Boise, ID 83701-0623). Starting this year, registrants now also have the option of paying for the PDC with a credit card through RegOnline. All major credit cards are accepted.

For any payment questions, please contact **Matt McBride** at **332-8805** or **[mmcbride@sco.idaho.gov](mailto:mmcbride@sco.idaho.gov)**.

The **2015 Professional Development Conference** of the Idaho Centennial Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants will be held at The Riverside Hotel in Boise on April 21-22. We have an outstanding program lined up for you including Bill Miller, the National AGA President; Brian Kane from the Idaho Attorney General's Office; Bob Maynard from PERSI; Josh Sears from Freestone Corporate Law; Lee Miller from Eide Bailly; Edith Pacillo from the Idaho Attorney General's Office; Jim Stephens from Sandler Training; and Brandon Woolf, Idaho State Controller.

The conference offers 16 hours of continuing professional education.

Some of the topics to be covered include:

- **Public Information Requests**
- **Contracts**
- **Ethics**
- **Omni Circular**
- **Working with Different Personality Types**

The registration fee for government sector members is \$330 and \$390 for private sector members.

**For Questions:**

**Lori Hendon**

**[lhendon@lso.idaho.gov](mailto:lhendon@lso.idaho.gov)**

**Marsi Woody**

**[Marsi.woody@isp.idaho.gov](mailto:Marsi.woody@isp.idaho.gov)**

# APRIL

## Luncheon Recap!



**Speaker: Cathy Holland-Smith**

Our March luncheon honored all CGFM graduates with free lunch in honor of their achievement this month. We started the meeting with a CCR presentation by **Michael Pearson**, our Accountability chair who encourages everyone to submit a CCR to provide transparency to the public. Michael also shared that the Transportation Dept's CCR was the best that AGA National had ever seen. Congratulations to them!!

Our March luncheon hosted guest speaker, **Cathy Holland-Smith** who serves as the Division Manager for the Budget & Policy Analysis division for Legislative Services Office. She gave us a broad overview and comparison of the General Fund for FY15 and FY16's current picture.

Cathy emphasized that we heavily rely on forecasting when determining our future revenues and how much

money we can spend. She gave us an informative breakdown of each section of the General Fund budget & explained what changes had occurred between both fiscal years.

Cathy also refreshed us that appropriations are not ongoing and those requesting funds should get a more steady revenue stream like a transfer from a tax source. She pointed out the ongoing concern that government was expanding rapidly again, since the economy was recovering from the recession. She shared with us appropriation numbers were very similar to FY2009 & reassured that things were still conservatively budgeted. Cathy ended the presentation by answering questions asked by AGA Members about various concerns with the current legislature session & budget. Her feedback was very insightful and educational!



**President Judy Shock & Speaker Cathy Holland-Smith**



# Get to Know a Board Member!



**Featured AGA Board Member:**  
**Brian Smith**, Education/Young  
Professional Chair

**Who do you work for and what do you do?** Accounting Manager at the College of Western Idaho

**Tell us a little about your family.**

My wife's name is Beth Smith and we have a one and a half year old daughter named Charlotte that we call Charli. She is the center of our lives.

**What are your hobbies and interests?**

I love the outdoors. I grew up in Idaho and spent the summers camping. No matter how many times I go it never gets old.

**Why did you join AGA?** I joined AGA because the knowledge and networking you gain from being a

member is priceless. In addition, I see it as a great way for me to give back to our community by encouraging younger generations the importance of continuing their education in order to fully develop as a business professional.

**What are your goals? (Professional, AGA, hobbies)** My goal is to never stop learning. Lack of knowledge is the only thing that can keep us from moving forward. As long as you keep learning then the sky is the limit.

**Random or interesting fact about you?**

I can blow bubbles off my tongue. It's not the best super power but it does fight boredom.

**What do you love about Idaho?** That I get to call it home.



## Local Chapter Awards:

**Deadline:** 4/16/2015

**Presented:** Spring PDC

**Awards:** Chapter Financial Manager of the Year Chapter Service Awards

Nomination material not drafted yet?

See attached: [2015 Chapter Awards](#)

We are requesting nominations for the Chapter Financial Manager of the Year Award and the Chapter Service Award! Do you have someone in your agency or a colleague that deserves recognition for their hard work?

**Submit completed nominations to**

**Steve Bellomy, [bellomys@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:bellomys@dhw.idaho.gov)**

**450 W. State Street, Boise ID, 83702**

**(208) 334 - 0609**

## Judy's DC Trip!



**February 11-12, 2015 was National Leadership Training in Washington, DC!** I would highly recommend all AGA members to attend this training – every year, if you can!!

Most of us, who work with numbers on a daily basis, get to a point that all that matters in our life and job is making sure that each number is always right. That's very important!! But, what about teambuilding, motivation, passion, perseverance, performance, commitment and personal growth?

Some of the valuable reminders I learned from Chris Warner, the keynote speaker:

**High Performance Teams are:**

Motivated by the mission  
United by the values  
Proud of the reputation

**Attributes that distinguish members of High Performance Teams**

Passion – put the mission ahead of personal desires

Vision – communicate dynamic (not static) visions

Partnership – create an environment of trust and caring

Perseverance – practice and reflect so you are prepared to act in the face of the greatest challenge

It is how we behave that makes us so successful!

*"Actions become Habits. Habits become Character. Character becomes your Destiny"* – Gary Mack

Here's my challenge to you ... **Raise Up a Standard of Excellence** in your life – your family – your job. Make your organization a great place to work by building connections through communication, investing in employees, and developing the best YOU can be!!

- Chapter President, Judy Shock

# Treasurer's Report



IDAHO CENTENNIAL CHAPTER

## CHAPTER FINANCIAL REPORT ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS IDAHO CENTENNIAL CHAPTER

**As of February 28, 2015**

**Beginning Cash Balance, July 1, 2014** \$ 21,811.70

**Beginning Monthly Balance - February 1, 2015** \$ 17,967.76

Deposits	Year to Date	Current Month	
Scholarships	249.00		
Luncheon Meals	1,338.88	300.00	
AGA National Dues	-		
Charitable Donations	-		
Web Conferences	2,064.00		
Other	-		
Training Registrations	-		
Spring 2015 PDC	0.33	0.33	
<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$ 3,652.21</b>		<b>\$ 300.33</b>

**Beginning Monthly Balance + Total Deposits** \$ 18,268.09

Withdrawals	Year to Date	Current Month	
Scholarships	-		
Luncheon Meals	(2,364.69)	(478.44)	
AGA National Dues	-		
Charitable Donations	(359.71)	(201.39)	
Web Conferences	(2,580.00)		
Other (Misc Exp)	(449.59)		
Training Registrations	-		
Spring 2015 PDC	-		
ACFE Fraud Conf	-		
Community Service	(17.02)		
Officer Conferences	(1,507.00)		
Board Meeting Expense	(223.19)		
Membership Chair	(100.00)		
CGFM	(274.45)		
<b>Total Withdrawals</b>	<b>\$ (7,875.65)</b>		<b>\$ (679.83)</b>

**Ending Cash Balance, February 28, 2015** \$ 17,588.26





## Feb 19, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes

### Meeting called to order at 11:00 a.m. by President, Judy Shock.

Meeting called to order at 10:45 a.m. by President, Judy Shock.

**Attendees:** Brian Smith, Carol Bearce, Chris Stratton, Donna Holbrook, Judy Shock, Katie Curran, Kean Miller, Lori Hendon, Marion Demer, Marsi Woody, Matt McBride, Matt Orem, Michael Pearson, Sandra Healy, Steve Bellomy, Tiffini LeJeune.

**Minutes from previous meeting:** Carol Bearce moved and Matt Orem seconded the motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes with minor typo corrections. The motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chris Stratton moved and Katie Curran seconded the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed. Minor expenses were discussed.

**President's Update:** Judy Shock attended the National Leadership Training (NLT) in Washington DC and reported that it was excellent. At the NLT, Chris Warner, Adventurer and Leadership Expert, gave a great presentation on teambuilding. Other attendees gave compliments to Idaho Transportation Department's CCR. Chris Stratton and one other Chapter leader will attend the SLM in May. National would prefer that attendees be members who have not previously attended. Two hotel scholarships are available for the PDT being held in Nashville. Steve Bellomy will be attending. The Chapter would prefer that the other scholarship go to a member who has not previously attended. Each year there is a Community Service fundraiser at the PDT. We discussed various options for a donation. Carol Bearce moved and Marsi Woody seconded a motion to purchase and donate a Samsung 8-inch tablet (currently on sale at Costco). The motion passed.

**President-Elect's Update:** Chris Stratton reported that he is working on his board for next year and has openings for Secretary, Awards Chair, Web Master, and Communications Chair. He encouraged anyone who is interested or knows of someone who is interested to contact him.

**Education Report:** Matt Orem and Kean Miller reported that they are still working on a May speaker. Representative Maxine Bell and Senator Dean Cameron will be the speakers today. Cathy Holland-Smith is set for March. They requested ideas for next program year.

**Newsletter/Historian:** Katie Curran reported that Chris Stratton will be the featured Board Member for the March edition.

**Membership:** Sandra Healy reported that the membership campaign has ended with a gain of one new member. The remaining gift cards will be awarded in a drawing at the Spring PDC. New members joining at the PDC will be in that drawing. The member survey ends next week on February 27. To date, there have been 42 responses.

**Awards:** National award information will be on the registration table at the luncheon. Most deadlines are in mid-March. Chapter award information will also be available and have an April 16 deadline. Chapter awards will be presented at the Spring PDC.

**CGFM:** Tiffini LeJeune announced that there are no new CGFMs this month. Five new frames were purchased for future CGFM presentations.

**Spring PDC:** Lori Hendon and Marsi Woody reported that the agenda is complete. The announcement and the enrollment/registration form are ready. The registration deadline is March 27.

**Community Service:** Greenbelt Cleanup is Saturday and more volunteers are needed.

**Early Careers:** We met Shannon Chapman's replacement, Brian Smith.

Carol Bearce moved to adjourn the meeting. Michael Pearson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.**

**Minutes prepared and submitted by Marion Demer**

# Feb 21, 2015 Luncheon Minutes



**Meeting called to order at 12:00 noon.**

**Announcements:** The Greenbelt Cleanup Community Service signup sheet is being passed around.

**Speakers: Representative Maxine Bell and Senator Dean Cameron**

**Topic: Legislative Processes and Issues**

Representative Bell explained that in the budget setting processes the phrase 'beyond there may be dragons' is very appropriate. JFAC works with the best information available and then flies by the seat of their pants in setting the budgets. Revenues exceeded projections by \$20 million in December and by \$1 million in January. Setting the budgets is a balancing act but schools and people must come first. Idaho is still not back to where we should be in those areas. There is low unemployment but still lots of food stamp recipients. Corporate taxes were stable over the winter. Sales tax receipts were wobbly. JFAC is fiscally conservative but not mean. JFAC is consistently hearing that agencies are behind on infrastructure maintenance and good talent has been lost in the last few years.

Senator Cameron thanked the luncheon attendees for all of our work. The economy is coming back but is sluggish. Sales tax and personal income taxes are down. Health insurance increases for State of Idaho employees will be covered. A 3% increase in employee compensation (CEC) will be in agency appropriation bills for FY16. Budget setting starts on Tuesday, February 24. More students are enrolling in K through 12 and will need to be funded. Agencies may not get all replacement items that are requested.

Streamlined income tax reform is being considered and may include a flat tax. Removing sales tax from groceries was previously recommended.

Highways need attention. Bridges are designed to last 50 years and more are that old. Unfortunately, many may have to last 150 years.

Most budget complications are on the revenue side. Education must be funded, but there are so many tax breaks that all the pieces of the funding do not fit together. Phasing in of some policies could create possible collisions in the future. The discussion of funding highways from the general fund could result in a \$20,000,000 hit to the general fund.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. Submitted by: Marion Demer**





# 2014-2015 AGA Board Members



## **Chapter Officers**

**Judy Shock, President**

Office: (208) 334-3311

[judy.shock@efib.idaho.gov](mailto:judy.shock@efib.idaho.gov)

**Chris Stratton, CGFM**

*President-Elect*

Office: (208) 332-8794

[cstratton@sco.idaho.gov](mailto:cstratton@sco.idaho.gov)

**Marion Demer, CPA**

*Secretary*

Office: (208) 332-8807

[mdemer@sco.idaho.gov](mailto:mdemer@sco.idaho.gov)

**Matt McBride, CGFM**

*Treasurer*

Office: (208) 332-8805

[mmcbride@sco.idaho.gov](mailto:mmcbride@sco.idaho.gov)

**Michael Pearson, CPA**

*Accountability Chair*

Office: (208) 287-2800

[Michael.pearson@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:Michael.pearson@idfg.idaho.gov)

**Steve Bellomy, CGFM**

*Awards Chair*

Office: (208) 334-0609

[bellomys@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:bellomys@dhw.idaho.gov)

**Carol Bearce, CGFM**

*Communications, News, Ads*

Office: (208) 334-3150

[cbearce@sco.idaho.gov](mailto:cbearce@sco.idaho.gov)

**Joey Sanchez, CGFM**

*Communications, Webmaster*

Office: (208) 287-6444

[joey.sanchez@vr.idaho.gov](mailto:joey.sanchez@vr.idaho.gov)

**Debbie Spence**

*Community Service Chair*

Office: (208) 577-2315

[debbiespence@veterans.idaho.gov](mailto:debbiespence@veterans.idaho.gov)

**Brian D. Smith**

*Early Careers/Young Professionals  
Chair*

Office: 208-562-3168

[briansmith2@cwidaho.cc](mailto:briansmith2@cwidaho.cc)

**Kean Miller, CGFM**

*Education, Co-Chair*

Office: (208) 334-6083

[Kean.miller@iic.idaho.gov](mailto:Kean.miller@iic.idaho.gov)

**Matt Orem**

*Education, Co-Chair*

Office: (208) 854-3063

[Matt.orem@dfm.idaho.gov](mailto:Matt.orem@dfm.idaho.gov)

**Katie Curran**

*Historian/Photographer, Co-Chair  
& Newsletter Editor*

Office: (208) 334-3150

[kcurran@sco.idaho.gov](mailto:kcurran@sco.idaho.gov)

**Donna Holbrook**

*Historian/Photographer, Co-Chair*

Office: (208) 332-8818

[dholbrook@sco.idaho.gov](mailto:dholbrook@sco.idaho.gov)

**Sandra Healy, CGFM**

*Membership Chair*

Office: (208) 334-8831

[Sandra.healy@itd.idaho.gov](mailto:Sandra.healy@itd.idaho.gov)

**Tiffini LeJeune, CGFM**

*Professional Certification Chair*

Office: (208) 332-8800

[tjeune@sco.idaho.gov](mailto:tjeune@sco.idaho.gov)

**Lori Hendon**

*Professional Development Co-Chair*

Office: (208) 334-4868

[lhendon@lso.idaho.gov](mailto:lhendon@lso.idaho.gov)

**Marsi Woody, CGFM**

*Professional Development Co-Chair*

Office: (208) 884-7210

[Marsi.woody@isp.idaho.gov](mailto:Marsi.woody@isp.idaho.gov)

**Chris Floyd, CPA**

*Programs/Technical Meetings*

Office: (208) 334-3150

[cfloyd@sco.idaho.gov](mailto:cfloyd@sco.idaho.gov)

**Regional Coordinators**

**Brandon Purcell, CGFM**

*Regional Vice President*

Office: (208) 334-3150

[bpurcell@sco.idaho.gov](mailto:bpurcell@sco.idaho.gov)

**Letty Debenham**

*Regional Vice President-Elect*

**Tiffini LeJeune**

*Regional Coordinator – CGFM*

**Dena Darpli**

*Regional Coordinator – Education*

**Vanessa Davis**

*Regional Coordinator - Membership*

# 2015 CHAPTER AWARDS



Each year our chapter recognizes a Financial Manager of the Year and the Chapter Service Award. Please take a moment to nominate someone in each of these categories.

## Financial Manager of the Year (Name/Contact Info)

### Criteria:

1. Accomplishments: include education, certifications and memberships
2. Volunteer activity: work related, community focused, etc.
3. Special projects and offices:
  - \* Task force, committee or work team membership, include role in the group or organization and focus.
  - \* Contributions to the advancement of financial management principles and standards.
4. Enhancement and/or advancement of governmental accounting:
  - \* Include improvement in government reporting, streamlining processes, reducing costs.
  - \* Activities that promote the interchange of ideas among financial managers in government service
  - \* Contributions to continuing education and professional development.
  - \* Utilization of financial management methods and techniques to improve management control and accountability to the public.
5. Contact information for nominee and nominators.
6. Nominator (Name/Contact Info)

## Chapter Service Award (Name/Contact Info)

### Criteria:

1. Nominee must be an active AGA member.
2. Accomplishments: include education, certifications and memberships
3. Volunteer activity: work related, community focused, etc.
4. Service activity to the Idaho Centennial Chapter and AGA. This may be a one-time event, multiple less conspicuous events or several years of service.
5. Contact information for nominee and nominators
6. Nominator (Name/Contact Info)

## Instructions

1. Submit a nomination in a word document or email including all of the information identified for each nomination above.
2. Send the nomination to Steve Bellomy, [Bellomys@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:Bellomys@dhw.idaho.gov).
3. Submit the nomination by **April, 16, 2015**