

September 2013

Issue 09



CENTRAL ARKANSAS CHAPTER

Articles:

- A Message From the President (p1)
- Shutdown And Debt Ceiling Debate Prove U.S. Not Worthy Of AAA Credit Rating: S&P (p6)

Inside Highlights:

Monthly Meetings

Upcoming Events

Minutes

Financial Statement

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By DeeVee Pearson

Happy New Year!

A new chapter year that is! I am very excited to have the opportunity to serve as chapter president this year. We have a great executive committee who has already been hard at work to make sure our members receive quality educational opportunities, and to ensure that we make a positive impact on our community. Here is a sample of what we have to look forward to:

- Membership meetings where we can earn quality CPE at no charge to members.
- Audio CPE conferences for more in-depth discussions of selected topics at no charge to members.
- Spring and Fall conferences where professional speakers present additional CPE opportunities.
- Community Service projects such as Race For the Cure and the Angel Tree.
- Scholarships to students at various colleges in Arkansas who are interested in governmental accounting.
- CGFM support.

If you have ideas for speakers or topics you are interested in, please contact Tyler Cain, Tyler.C.Cain@arkansas.gov or Joshua Walker, Joshua.J.Walker@arkansas.gov.

Chapter meetings are usually held on the third Monday of each month, with exceptions for Monday holidays and for December. The location is #2 Capitol Mall, Little Rock in the conference room. Additional details can be found in this newsletter or on our website.

Remember, an organization is only as great as its members. Your ideas and input are important.

I am looking forward to an outstanding chapter year, and hope you are too. See you at the next meeting!



UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings will be held the third Monday of each month at 12:00 noon at the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services 5th floor Conference Room (#2 Capitol Mall). Please join us each month and earn one hour of CPE, while learning about a government-related topic and networking with fellow AGA members.

INFORMATION/UPCOMING EVENTS

Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure

The Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure will be held Saturday, October 19, 2013, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Our Central Arkansas AGA chapter has established a Race for the Cure team. This will be a fun-filled morning and is for a GREAT cause. And, guess what!!!! Men can participate in the race this year as well. You don't have to just stand on the sidelines and cheer us on; you can walk with us!!! If you'd like to participate in the race, please join the Central Arkansas AGA team at <http://www.komenarkansas.org/>. If you are unable to participate but would like to make a donation, please do so at http://arkansas.info-komen.org/site/TR/RacefortheCure/LIT_ArkansasAffiliate?team_id=275235&pg=team&fr_id=3485.

Fall Seminar

The 2013 Fall Seminar will be held Friday, November 15, 2013, at the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension. Please watch your e-mail for information regarding registration and topics.

Holiday Party

The 2013 Central Arkansas AGA Holiday Party will be held Monday, December 9, 2013, at the Little Rock Club. This will be a wonderful evening of food, fellowship, and networking. Please watch your e-mail for additional information.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: August 5, 2013
 Meeting Time: 11:00 a.m.
 Meeting Location: AR Department of Workforce Services, 5th floor conference room

Members Present:

Richard Drilling	Gerald Plafcan
Kaki Roberts	Chandria Willis
May Neal	Florence Price
DeeVee Pearson	Joshua Walker
Will Cottrell	Lateisha Moore

DeeVee Pearson called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Chandria Willis e-mailed the minutes from the prior meeting to all board members prior to the meeting. Kaki Roberts made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Will Cottrell seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Financial Report

Steven Petersen e-mailed the June 2013 and July 2013 financials to all board members prior to the meeting. Gerald Plafcan noted that he will use the unaudited June figures for the Citizen Centric Report (CCR). May Neal stated that there is nothing noted in the financials or check register regarding the scholarship payments. She will follow up with Shannon Todd to determine if the scholarship checks were actually prepared and sent to the recipients. Richard Drilling made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. May Neal seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Budget

Steven Petersen prepared a preliminary budget; however, additional decisions must be made regarding a few line items prior to its acceptance. The following are specific items that were noted during the discussion of the budget:

- Per Kaki Roberts, the Holiday Party and Awards Banquet should be budgeted at expected cost, regardless of whether or not we expect to receive sponsorship. Any sponsorship received should be netted against income.
- Per Kaki Roberts, the chapter has paid for the President and President-Elect to attend the PDC in the past.
- The cost of the basket that we donate for National's community service event at the PDC each year should be included in the community service budget.
- DeeVee Pearson asked that we e-mail all other recommendations, so that Steven can update the budget for review at the next meeting.

Education

Per Joshua Walker, the monthly meetings will have the same format this year. The topics will be in similar categories as last year's meeting topics.

The seminars will be one day, rather than two days. The Fall

Seminar will be held November 15th at the UALR Cooperative Extension.

Accountability

Gerald Plafcan stated that he will attempt to recruit a few UCA students to assist with the CCR this year. Will Cottrell noted that the state of Texas has a very good report that we should review. It is located on National's website.

Community Service

Lateisha Moore stated that she still has all of the canned goods collected during last year's canned food drive. She asked about locations to donate the food. She would like to find a location that will pick the cans up; however, Kaki Roberts and DeeVee Pearson stated that they are willing to assist Lateisha in taking them to one of the local food banks or shelters if needed.

DeeVee Pearson suggested that our chapter sponsor a team for this year's Komen Race for the Cure. The individuals who decide to participate will pay their own registration fee, so there will be no additional charge for the chapter. We can order shirts or hats, if we decide to do so.

Audit

DeeVee Pearson stated that we need to get our audit started soon, so that we can have our audit report submitted to National by September 30th. Kaki Roberts suggested attempting to find a less expensive CPA firm. Discussion was held. Kaki Roberts made a motion that Steven Petersen contract with a CPA firm to conduct our chapter's annual audit, not to exceed \$1200 in cost. Will Cottrell seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Website

The new invoice for the website maintenance was received from Robin Beard. The total due for FY 2014 is \$187.95. Will Cottrell made a motion that we accept and pay the invoice received from Robin Beard for our chapter's website maintenance. May Neal seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Discussion was held regarding the low cost of the website maintenance. May Neal suggested that we invite Ms. Beard to our Holiday Party, to show our appreciation. Everyone was in agreement. It was also agreed to invite our seminar speakers. May Neal made a motion that we invite Robin Beard and our fall seminar speakers to attend our 2013 Holiday Party and pay the cost of their meals. Kaki Roberts seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed. After further discussion, May Neal amended the motion to include Robin Beard's husband. Kaki Roberts seconded the amended motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Per DeeVee, the National website contains outdated information regarding our chapter. Florence will ensure that the information is updated. DeeVee asked that everyone review our chapter website and give Florence any information that needs to be updated.

Holiday Party

Per Kaki Roberts, BKD, LLP has agreed to sponsor our Holiday Party again this year.

Bank Changes

Steven Petersen looked into changing banks; however, he recommended that we remain with Regions for now. Everyone was in agreement.

Newsletter

Chandria Willis stated that the next newsletter will be the September issue. Chandria will e-mail everyone to request information at that time.

Historian

Richard Drilling provided an update on the Historian's report. He needs additional information, such as the names of anyone who passed the CGFM exam last year, the number of audio conferences provided, the SLM attendees, the PDC attendees, etc. Some of the information was provided during the discussion. May Neal noted that she spoke at an event that UAPB held in the fall. No other speaking engagements were attended. Richard asked that we e-mail him if we have additional information that needs to be included in the report.

Chapter Recognition Points

We received the Gold award this year. DeeVee has requested a report from National that details the number of points received for each category.

DeeVee requested that Will find out how we can maximize our points this year. She also suggested creating a membership video that can be shown to prospective members and at monthly meetings, perhaps using the pictures that Richard has taken.

Bylaws

Will Cottrell suggested updating our chapter bylaws. A few areas that need to be addressed are:

- The bylaws state that Directors are limited to two consecutive terms. Will recommended that we change the bylaws and amend that sentence so that Directors can remain on the board if we are unable to fill the position with someone new.
- The bylaws state that we have nine Directors, but we actually have eleven Director positions.
- The bylaws refer to a policy and procedures manual, but no one has ever seen such a manual.

Changing the bylaws will require a vote from the full chapter. Two-thirds of the voting members must vote affirmatively in order for the changes to take effect. Will Cottrell agreed to chair a Bylaws Committee and will note all changes that need to be made.

Other

Kaki Roberts noted that chapters rarely submit nominations for the National awards. She suggested that we begin making nomination in the future. Will Cottrell noted that Mike Hyde would be a good candidate for a future nominee.

Will Cottrell noted that the SLM is a much more focused meeting than the PDC and that a lot of good information is provided.

Kaki Roberts noted that Lands End offers free logos/free shipping periodically. She suggested that we have AGA shirts made the next time the promotion is offered. Individual members can purchase their own shirts if they desire.

Richard Drilling noted that we are a 501(c)6 organization, not a 501(c)3 organization, because we are under the umbrella of the National chapter.

DeeVee Pearson stated that one of our members recently had a CPE audit performed, and we had difficulty finding some of the sign-in sheets. We need to develop policies and procedures to address this in the future. Per Will, the State Board requires a certificate, so if a member loses a certificate we need to re-issue it. We can stamp it "duplicate." We must maintain our CPE records for five years. Discussion was held regarding archiving our CPE documents on our website. Will suggested that we save them to a flash drive instead. May suggested that we keep two flash drives if we decide to use that option, in case one is misplaced, and that we keep them in a bank safe deposit box. We will look into these options in the near future.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.



**Association of Government Accountants
Central Arkansas Chapter
FY 13 Statement of Activities
August 31, 2013**

Revenue	Unrestricted
Education Seminars	-
Banquets	-
Dues	113
AGA National	-
Interest Income	4
Miscellaneous Income	-
Total Revenues	117
Expenses	
Program Expenses	
Fall Seminar	-
Spring Seminar	-
Audioconference Expenses	-
PDC Expense	-
Holiday Party	-
Awards Banquet	-
Awards	-
Speaker Expense	-
Scholarships/Memorials	500
Community Service	25
Promotional Supplies	-
Recruitment	-
Website	188
Total Program Expenses	713
Management and Administrative Expenses	
Professional Fees	-
Post Office Box Rent	-
Executive Committee meeting expense	-
Banking Fees	-
Miscellaneous	-
Total Management and Administrative Expenses	-
Total Expenses	713
Change in Net Assets	(596)
Net Assets - Beginning of the Year	26,354
Net Assets - End of Year	25,758

Shutdown And Debt Ceiling Debate Prove U.S. Not Worthy Of AAA Credit Rating: S&P

With the U.S. government on the verge of a shutdown, credit rating agency Standard & Poor's made it clear this level of brinksmanship in Washington is precisely why the U.S. isn't triple-A rated anymore. While S&P's ratings services team indicated they don't expect to downgrade the U.S.' sovereign credit rating this time around, they warned that failing to reach an agreement by mid-October would most probably lead to the Treasury missing debt payments, and therefore the first-ever U.S. debt default.

"The current impasse over the continuing resolution and the debt ceiling creates an atmosphere of uncertainty that could affect confidence, investment, and hiring in the U.S.," explained S&P's research team, indicating it expects a short-lived shutdown that won't result in a new downgrade. "This sort of political brinksmanship is the dominant reason the rating is no longer 'AAA,'" they added.

With Speaker Boehner facing off with President Obama and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, it is becoming increasingly probable that the government will be forced to shut down at midnight. The economic impact of a shut down isn't particularly damaging, analysts at Nomura explain, yet the psychological impact could have a stronger effect. Indeed, stocks sold off hard on Monday, with the Dow plunging 129 points, and companies tied to government contracts like Boeing BA -2.05% and Lockheed Martin LMT -1.49% taking a tumble. After an initial rally that lost steam, gold made marginal gains late in the evening, while the yield on 10-year Treasuries ticked down to 2.62%.

The real issue would be a failure to raise the debt limit by October 17, when stop-gap measures are expected to be exhausted and the debt limit becomes binding. This would almost guarantee

that the U.S., which manages the global reserve currency, will enter into "selective default," failing to pay its debts for the first time in history. While it is difficult to assess the exact impact of a default, both S&P and Nomura agree, it would rattle global financial markets, which rely on both U.S. Treasuries as one of the major sources of funding, and the U.S. dollar to conduct global transactions.

One problem the shutdown would cause is disrupt the flow of data from federal agencies. The all-important jobs report, scheduled for Friday, wouldn't be released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Nomura's team says, and further data collection would also be affected.

The political fight in Washington comes amid a strengthening U.S. economy and the prospects of higher interest rates if the Fed begins to taper quantitative easing, as it suggested it would a few months ago. Yet the Fed, led by Chairman Ben Bernanke, listed the ensuing political debate as one of the reasons for delaying any removal of monetary stimulus. The FOMC is scheduled to meet on October 29 and 30, and Nomura's research team doesn't expect them to taper this time around either.

There is not doubt that a government shut down will affect confidence in the U.S., as investors question whether Obama and the GOP can cooperate and find a longer-term solution to their differences. Volatility would increase and confidence, which is crucial both in financial markets and for the functioning of an economy, would erode. Yet, a shut down isn't that dangerous, it's more of a warning as to what could come in a few weeks if Democrats and Republicans remain as ideologically entrenched as they currently demonstrate.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/afontevicchia/2013/09/30/shutdown-and-debt-ceiling-debate-prove-u-s-doesnt-deserve-aaa-credit-rating-sp/>

Note: Source: AGA National Website, AGA & Industry News section <http://www.agacqfm.org/homepage.aspx>

Central Arkansas AGA 2014 Board Members

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Accountability Chair	Gerald Plafcan: DFA CAFR Unit gerald.plafcan@dfa.arkansas.gov 683-4632
CGFM Chair	Brenda Jackson: Department of Human Services brenda.jackson@arkansas.gov 682-6250
Community Service Chair	Lateisha Moore (co-chair): Department of Workforce Services lateisha.moore@arkansas.gov 682-3750 Elouise Evans (co-chair): Department of Human Services Elouise.evans@arkansas.gov 683-1560
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