

# AGA Topeka Chapter

## *The News Flash!*

Issue 2017-06

[www.agacgfm.org/topeka](http://www.agacgfm.org/topeka)

June 30, 2017

### 2016-2017

#### OFFICERS

**President**  
Walter Darling, CPM  
Walt\_Darling@hotmail.com

**Treasurer**  
Nicole Malott, CGFM  
nmalott@topeka.org

**Secretary**  
Amy Bloom  
abloom@topeka.org

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In my farewell statement, I want to congratulate our volunteers for their efforts this past year. Our chapter has earned three national awards this year, including PLATINUM Status for our Chapter, 1ST PLACE for our new website, and, 1ST PLACE for our monthly newsletters. It is the first time I can recall our Chapter getting three national awards in the same year. It couldn't have been done without a coordinated effort.



We are now preparing our transition to a new list of officers. I look forward to Nicole Malott taking the reins as our new President. She has done an excellent job as our Treasurer the past two years and has coordinated on all the activities we have completed this year. Amy Bloom will be taking over as Treasurer, retaining duties as Secretary, and will be assisting in our other activities. We have a great year ahead of us.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Table of Contents

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| President's Message  | (Page 1)        |
| 2017 AGA National PDT & Internal Controls / Fraud Training | (Page 2)        |
| Loose Change Contributions Serve RABC                      | (Page 3)        |
| Why Choose Virtual Training?                               | (Page 3)        |
| May 17 CEC Minutes   | (Page 4)        |
| Past Events—2007 / 2008                                    | (Page 5)        |
| Upcoming FREE Webinars for Members                         | (Page 6)        |
| Learn About The CGFM                                       | (Page 7)        |
| New Officers for 2017_2018                                 | (Pages 9/10/11) |



# 2017 Upcoming Training Events

Note that many events are available either in-person or via your computer system. For more information visit [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org).

*Join us in Boston!*

## Professional Development Training

July 9–12 | Boston, MA or virtual | 24 CPEs

In-person training registration includes the opportunity to earn up to 24 CPE hours, entrance to the Exhibit Hall, all education sessions and official training event activities, three breakfasts, five refreshment breaks, three luncheons, three receptions and a registration tote bag.

**More info on PDT Registration:** <https://www.agacgfm.org/PDT-2016/Registration.aspx#onsiteregistration>



For more information, click here: <https://www.agacgfm.org/fraud-2017.aspx>

# Race Against Breast Cancer

## Topeka, Kansas

Our community service efforts for the first quarter of the new year will be focused on assistance to the Race Against Breast Cancer. This includes both loose change donations and hours contributed by members in support of or participation in the walk.

The Race Against Breast Cancer, Inc. (RABC) began in 1991 as a community coalition whose mission is to confront the challenge of breast cancer in Shawnee County. The organization has grown into an independent registered 501C (3) not-for-profit corporation and to date has funded over 8,000 screening and diagnostic mammograms to those in need of financial assistance in over ten counties in northeast Kansas. A volunteer board of directors consisting of community representatives, medical providers and hospital representatives oversees the corporation. Our mission is “Improving health through education, access, early detection, screening, and breast health awareness.”

The RABC program funds screening/diagnostic mammograms for over 600 individuals in northeast Kansas each year and reaches hundreds more through community awareness and fundraising efforts. Breast cancer impacts not only women, but also their families, friends, workplace, and community. Breast cancer does not discriminate based on gender and that is why the RABC program also pays for mammograms for men who have a medical and financial need for one.

AGA offers virtual attendance for many of its national events. Virtual attendance allows those with limited travel budgets to participate and earn CPE.

### Why Choose the Virtual Attendee Option?

- **No travel required** — Watch key educational sessions in the comfort and convenience of your home or office.
- **Participate despite busy schedule or budget restraints** — virtual attendance offers a full-scale online educational experience.
- **Earn CPEs** — General sessions and selected popular breakout sessions are available via live-stream.
- **On-demand recordings** — Virtual attendees have access to on-demand session recordings for up to one year after the event at no additional cost. No need to alter your



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Topeka Chapter  
May 17, 2017

Members Present: Walt Darling, CPM; Nicole Malott, CGFM  
Meeting Location: Norsemen Brewery; North Kansas Avenue; 5:15 PM

- ij Discussed minutes of the April 25, 2017 meeting. Meeting minutes will be completed by Amy and sent via email for corrections or approval.
- ij Nicole and Amy attended the Senior Leadership Meeting (SLM) in Kansas City. Nicole noted that while some items brought up by National were the same as at other meetings, a couple items were new. These included
  - o Consideration of a name change for the organization.
  - o The websites provided by National will soon have a registration option that Chapters can use for members to register for upcoming events.
- ij Upcoming Chapter events: June 14<sup>th</sup>; This date is proposed for a five CPE event, which would include Russell Shipley presenting his 2 CPE presentation on Fraud and the use of Internal Controls; an HR professional advising on how to have difficult conversations with staff; and a 2 CPE webinar on Fraud, provided by National AGA. The event would include a break for lunch, included in the registration fee. The event will be held at the Tuttle Creek Room at the Topeka Water Treatment Plant at 1-70 and McVicker.
- ij Nicole presented the Board with the May Monthly Financial report. No expenses have been noted to date and none are expected as no activities are planned for the month.
- ij Discussed information available on free webinars (usually 4 to 6 per year). National AGA advance notice ~ need to watch for notices.
- ij Walt noted that the Chapter website had been updated to include the April newsletter.
- ij Chapter Announcements ~ Walt noted that with the coming year we need to announce our new officers. This requires a write-up for the local newspaper, which is needed soon.
- ij Chapter Recognition ~ Will need to verify with Regional Officers and may need to hold a separate meeting to develop our final points for the year.
- ij Loose Change Jar Donations for June will be Doorstep.
- ij Walt and Nicole noted Amy's absence due to sickness and wish her well.
- ij The next meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2017 and will be held at Norsemen Brewing at approximately 5:15pm.
- ij The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.



## Remember These Events?



## Heart Walk—2008



## CGFM Proclamation; City of Topeka — 2007



## Race Against Breast Cancer — 2008

# Upcoming FREE Member Webinars

*Mark Your Calendars Now!*

## Best Practices: Planning Meetings & Events

**Aug. 22 | 2–3 p.m. ET**

Hear tips and hints from AGA's professional meetings staff on how to negotiate contracts, how to keep yourself organized through the planning process, and what pitfalls to avoid.

### **Speakers:**

- **Jerome Bruce, CMP, CEM, CAE**, Director, Meetings & Expositions, AGA
- **Kia Lor, PMP, CMP**, Meetings & CEAR Program Manager

**Moderator:** Louise Burnette, MPA, Chapter Services Manager

**Program Level:** Overview

**Prerequisite:** None

**Advance Preparation:** None required

•

## Be a Noisebreaker, Not a Noisemaker

**Sept. 14, 2017 | 2–3 p.m. ET | FREE for Members | CPE = 1**



# What is CGFM?



Certified Government Financial Manager® (CGFM®) is a professional certification awarded by AGA, demonstrating competency in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal

## What are the initial requirements?

To earn the CGFM, individuals must apply for the CGFM program and meet the following requirements:

[Ethics](#) — read and agree to abide by AGA's *Code of Ethics*

[Education](#) — have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university

[Examinations](#) — pass three comprehensive CGFM examinations

[Experience](#) — have at least two years of professional-level experience in government financial management

## Maintaining CGFM Certification

To retain the CGFM certification, all CGFM's must adhere to the AGA's [Code of Ethics](#). In addition, to continue using the CGFM designation after their name, CGFM's must be in an active status.

### Active Status

To maintain the CGFM certification in an active status, CGFM's are required to:

- Pay the CGFM renewal fee by the due date every year.
- Complete at least 80 hours of Continuing Professional Education (CPE) every two years in government financial management topics or related technical subjects (within the designated two-year cycle).
- Maintain and, if requested by AGA, provide detailed information on CPE hours completed.

By submitting their annual renewal payment, CGFM's affirm that they have and will continue to abide by AGA's [Code of Ethics](#) and that they have fulfilled the [minimum CPE Requirements](#).



Association of Government Accountants  
Professional Lecture Series



Wednesday, June 14, 2017

Spring Seminar- 5 CPE

Fraud & Using Internal Controls to Deter It

HR Perspectives: 'Why is this Person Still Working Here? \_  
Digital Evolution of the CFO ~ Data Analytics & Fraud



PROFESSIONAL LECTURE SPEAKERS:

Russell Shipley, CPA, CFE, CGFM, CGMA.  
Kristina Dietrick, President, *Creative  
Business Solutions*  
AGA National Webinar

This five-hour Seminar provides two different focuses on Fraud ~ how to identify it and how to deter it. Between these presentations, Kristina Dietrick will provide a Human Resource perspective on working with employees that may be challenging.



We were very pleased that our speakers could be here and spent so much time with our members. We want to thank them for taking the time to make this event possible. We also want to thank our attendees. We understand it is difficult to take time away from your jobs but are pleased you have such a dedication to your profession that you are willing to spend time to keep improving.

Russell Shipley has expanded on a topic he has spoken on before. His many years in auditing, especially in criminal investigations, has given him a unique perspective on fraud, how to be vigilant, and how to take advantage of internal controls to help avoid making it easy to commit fraud, and even to encourage persons to commit fraud.

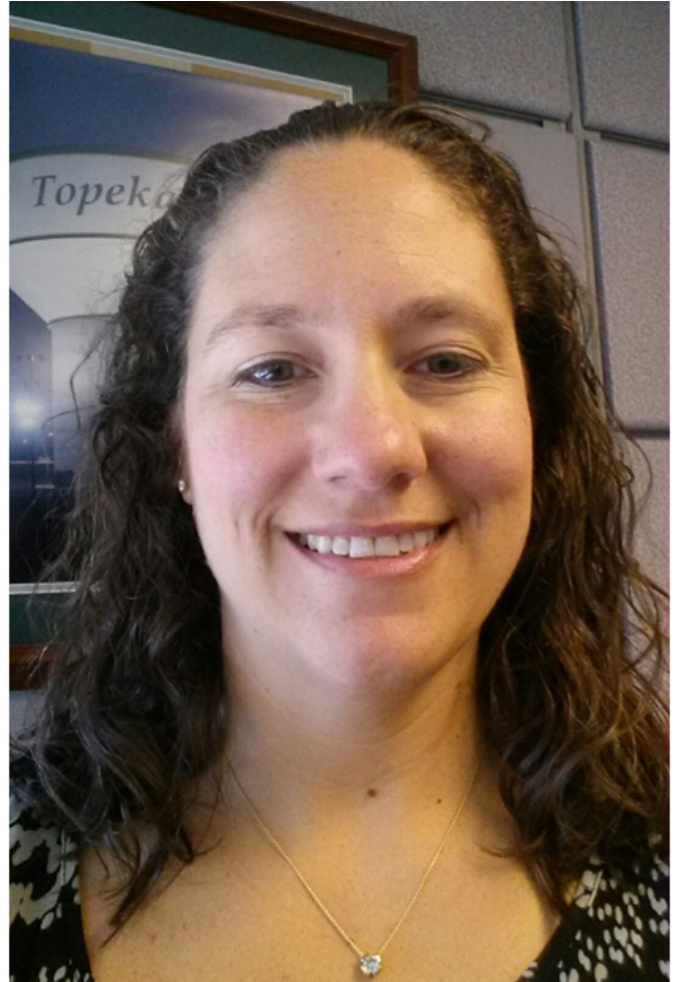
As finance professionals we can often overlook some basic elements of our job and Kristina Dietrick helped significantly by pointing out those elements in the workplace that can create conflict and proposed some methods for how, as a supervisor, you can take the initiative to break down some of the barriers or communication deficits that can create a difficult work environment if not addressed.

# New Officers for 2017\_2018 Program Year.

## NICOLE MALOTT — PRESIDENT

Nicole Malott, General Manager of Business and Customer Services for the City of Topeka Utilities, has taken on the role of President of the Topeka Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) after spending the last two years serving as the treasurer.

AGA is a member organization for government financial management professionals that is committed to increasing government accountability and transparency and has been instrumental in assisting with the development of accounting and auditing standards and in generating new concepts for the effective organization and administration of government financial management.



Nicole graduated from Washburn University with a Bachelors of Business Administration in Accounting and Economics in 2002 and received her Certified Government Financial Manager designation in 2014. She has worked for the City of Topeka for the last ten years, after originally being hired as the Business Services Manager for Water Pollution Control in 2007.



# New Officers for 2017\_2018 Program Year.

## **AMY BLOOM – TREASURER**

Amy is a 25-year City of Topeka employee. She says she is passionate about learning and proved it by gaining her Master's Degree from Friend's University in 2010.

She was recently introduced to AGA by her supervisor and found the subject matter and approach of AGA to finance/auditing interesting and wanted to learn more.

As Administrative Officer for Utilities, Amy is involved with a variety of specialized administrative support work which focuses on assisting Division Administrators in planning, organizing and implementing programs or functions. Such tasks include, determining Storm Water (STW) residential rates for new services and auditing STW accounts to ensure accuracy. She also administers the City of Topeka's Grease Trap and Septic Hauler Programs, and, is involved with a mix of related duties such as contract compliance, management of support staff for the Administrative Division, and assistance to new employees with uniform procurement needs. It is a diverse role that is challenging each day while having the pleasure of working with some of the best of the best of the City of Topeka's employees.



For the 2017\_2018 Program Year, Amy will take on the role of Treasurer for the Topeka Chapter while maintaining her role as Secretary. The Chapter welcomes Amy in her new role and looks forward to working with her as our Treasurer.

# New Officers for 2017\_2018 Program Year.

## **WALT DARLING – IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

Walt has had significant experience in government finance with much of that focused on Public Safety issues. Walt retired as the Chief Finance Officer for the Kansas Highway Patrol where he spent 10 years working on behalf of the agency. He worked 12 years for the Kansas Governor's Budget Division where he worked closely with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Kansas National Guard, Fire Marshal, and represented the Division before the Senate Ways and Means Committee. In Indiana, Walt worked for the Indiana Department of Public Safety and in South Dakota worked for the South Dakota Department of Public Safety. Today, Walt owns and operates All Grain Brewing Specialists LLC, a home brew supply store selling supplies to make beer and wine.



After serving in the United States Navy, Walt earned undergraduate degrees in Public Administration and Psychology from the University of South Dakota, his Master's Degree in Public Administration from Indiana University, his Certification in Public Management from the University of Kansas, and took post-graduate work at Duke University.

Walt has been active in community activities, obtaining certification as a soccer coach and referee, serving as President of Sunflower Soccer and initiating the Governor's Cup Invitational Soccer Tournament.

Walt is a strong supporter of continuing education and has spent more than 12 years on the board of the Topeka Chapter of AGA. He looks forward to stepping back and supporting the capable volunteers that will now lead the Chapter forward.