



January, 2016 Newsletter

IDAHO CENTENNIAL CHAPTER

Chapter President's Letter:

Happy New Year, Everyone! I hope everyone enjoyed a little time off (or maybe a lot) during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. It's always good to take a little time to get away from the normal rigors of work and other "busy-ness" to spend time with family and friends.

January, traditionally, is the time of year when we make (or remake) resolutions and commitments to improve areas of our lives where we may feel a little deficient. I would encourage you to look at your professional life for ways to improve, particularly with regards to leadership and skills improvement. Often, we go day to day just trying to do our best to get the next job done and do not take any time for personal development. Take a little time each day to learn a new skill or to read from a book on leadership. It doesn't have to be a lot of time spent, but a little each day will work dividends in your life. We owe it to those we serve to do our best and continually improve ourselves.

We have a great line up of luncheon speakers, webinars, and our annual Professional Development Training seminar that will take us through May. At this month's luncheon, we will be privileged to hear from Dean Cameron, current head of the Idaho Department of Insurance, former co-chairperson of the State's Joint Finance Appropriations Committee. His topic will be "Influencing State Policy".

Thank you for your service. Thank you for your professionalism. Thank you for your great examples.

I'll see you around.

Chris Stratton, CGFM

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About Our Chapter

The Idaho Centennial Chapter has a diverse membership base including: local, state, and federal government professionals; private sector employees; academics; and retired professionals. Many chapter members hold professional certifications including Certified Government Financial Managers (CGFM).

Our Mission

The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) serves professionals in the government financial management community by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

Goals and Objectives

- Accountability
- Certification
- Education and Research
- Service

Chapter News

It's Never Too Late for Certification – Learning is a Lifelong Journey

By: Jeffrey C. Steinhoff, CGFM, CPA, CFE

Jeffrey C. Steinhoff, CGFM, CPA, CFE, a member of AGA's Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. Chapters, retired earlier this year after 40 years of government service. His most recent position was managing director, Financial Management and Assurance, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). He is an AGA Past National President and is known in the Association as the "father" of the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Program.

For a financial management professional, learning is truly a lifelong journey. You have to always challenge yourself and never think that you have learned it all. You must always be looking to expand your horizons and learn new things. If you view your career as a job, it will always be a job. If you view it as a profession, it will be much more rewarding. But to get those rewards, you have to keep developing professionally. You have to keep learning. No one exemplified this more than the late Raymond Einhorn, AGA's 11th National President and one of its founding members. Ray was active professionally and always learning until his passing at the age of almost 92. A month did not go by without me getting a call from Ray asking a professional question and wanting to get a copy of a GAO publication. To quote Ray, from AGA's 2002-2003 Annual Report, "the hallmarks of professionalism and progress are continuing professional education and constant research."

When AGA made the decision to move forward with the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Program, there was a strong belief that the special and unique skills of government financial managers needed to be recognized. The program is doing great thanks to the hard work of the National Office staff and the strong commitment of AGA members throughout our 94 chapters. Ray Einhorn was one of the first wave of members who became a CGFM at the young age of 80 as did the late T. Jack Gary, AGA's third National President, who was 83 when he became a CGFM. Both Ray and Jack truly viewed their career as a lifelong profession.

For a new financial management professional, it is really a no brainer. You should seek the CGFM designation early in your career. It is something that you will have for the rest of your life. Being a CPA for 35 of my 40-year federal career was very important to my career advancement and one of my proudest accomplishments is holding CGFM certificate No. 1 from AGA. Now some will say they are at a stage in their career where one more certification does not really matter. They may already have another certification, or they may be looking to a retirement date in the not too distant future. Well, I would submit that it is never too late to become a CGFM. Try it, and you will enjoy it

Why do I so fervently believe this? Well, last year I studied for and successfully completed the examination to become a Certified Fraud Examiner. This was just eight months before I retired from government and more than 39 years into my career. Being a CFE was certainly not going to do anything for my career. My job at GAO was very demanding. With long work days and horrible traffic in the Washington, D.C. area, the norm was leaving my home at 6:30 a.m. and getting home at 7:30 p.m. or later. All of my studies were on weekends, and there is a lot of material to cover. Early on in the process, there were a few second thoughts. What had I gotten myself into since to complete the study course, which was a prerequisite to taking the CFE exam, you had to correctly answer 1,600 questions? Trust me, 1,600 are a lot of questions.

Article reprinted from May, 2008 Newsletter.

So, it is never too late for certification. Learning is a lifelong journey.

2016 Chapter Awards information coming soon!

Each year our chapter accepts nominations for the Financial Manager of the Year and the Chapter Service Awards.

Instructions for submitting your nomination for each award will be provided in the February Newsletter.

Complimentary Member-Only Webinars: 1 CPE each

- Feb. 3, 2016 –
Managing in a
Multi-Generational
Workplace
- May 25, 2016 –
Green Book*
- Summer 2016 –
CAROI Update*

*Subject to change

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)



Prepare taxes free of charge - become a volunteer with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). You will receive training to provide free basic income tax help for low-to-moderate income families who need assistance preparing their tax returns. Training is offered both online and in the classroom.

- As a Tax Volunteer, you'll be assigned to work with a sponsoring organization. First to receive training and then to begin volunteering at a location in your community.
- Tax sites are generally open nights and weekends and the hours are flexible.
- Interested? Access irs.gov and in the search engine type IRS tax volunteers, this will lead you to the link that allows you to complete the form 14310 and email it to taxvolunteer@irs.gov.

Featured AGA Member: *LaBerta Turner*



Tell us a little about your family.

I have four beautiful children, three girls and one boy. As you can imagine they keep me very busy and involved with the many sports they all participate in. There is a time where I have 6 practices a week and 6 games to attend in one Saturday!

Who do you work for and what do you do? I currently work for Ada County Indigent Services as a Senior Accountant. I have been with the county for a little over 6 months. I am the lead for the finance side of our department. I analyze client's financial situation to determine any necessary changes to their ordered reimbursements and present special finance case to the Board of Ada County Commissioners. I also work directly with the State CAT Program, for medical indigent cases. Prior to this position I worked for the State of Idaho, Department of Insurance in their fiscal section, tracking payments, assets, and travel expenses. I graduated in December of 2014 from Boise State University, GO BRONCOS, with a BBA in Accountancy.

When did you join AGA? I joined the AGA when I started my position at the county. I joined for networking, education and experience reasons. Besides it allowed me to visit my old friends at the Department of Insurance.

What are your goals? My current goals are to complete my CGFM certification, and to advance in my career serving the citizens of Idaho.

What are your hobbies and interests? I am an amateur photographer who loves to take pictures of people in the outdoors. I also love to scrapbook, which I am very behind! I am an active bow hunter and fisherman, and love to camp and pan gold with my family.

What has been your favorite place to visit? I love Oregon, and the mountains of Idaho and Colorado.

Random or interesting fact about you? Interesting fact about me, well, although I have an accounting degree my passion is the IT side of accounting. I'm inspired when I participate in creation and modifications of accounting system. So I'm a tech geek behind a ten-key.

Upcoming Events for Program Year 2015-16

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Estimated CPE</u>
9/2/15	Audio Conference: Cyber Security	2
9/17/15	Luncheon: Jim Stephens, Sandler Training	1
9/23/15	Audio Conference: Human Capital	2
10/7/15	Audio Conference: Innovations Lab	2
10/15/15	Luncheon: Nathan Clayville, DFM Economist	1
10/20/15	CGFM Course 1	8
10/21/15	Audio Conference: Fraud Prevention	2
11/4/15	Audio Conference: OMB Omni-Circular	2
11/19/15	Luncheon: Kevin Kempf, Director, Dept. of Correction	1
12/2/15	Audio Conference: Ethics	2
12/17/15	Luncheon: Connie Miller, ICON Credit Union	1
1/13/16	Audio Conference: Evidence Based Policy Making	2
1/21/16	Luncheon: Dean Cameron, Director, Dept. of Insurance	1
1/27/16	Audio Conference: GASB 68	2
2/17/16	Audio Conference: Fraud Prevention	2
2/18/16	Luncheon: Maxine Bell & Shawn Keough, JFAC Co-Chairs	1
3/9/16	Audio Conference: Grants	2
3/17/16	Luncheon: Steve Bartlett, Ada County Sheriff	1
3/23/16	Audio Conference: Internal Controls	2
4/19-20/16	Conference: PDT	16
5/11/16	Audio Conference: Ethics	2
5/19/16	Luncheon: To Be Determined	1

If you would like more information about our AGA chapter, please visit our website at idahoaga.org. You may contact one of the board officers by email, phone, or mail if you have any questions.

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Board Officer's Contact Information:

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Our Finances

CHAPTER FINANCIAL REPORT ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS IDAHO CENTENNIAL CHAPTER

As of November 30, 2015

Beginning Cash Balance, July 1, 2015 **\$ 25,101.71**

Beginning Monthly Balance - November 1, 2015 **\$ 16,599.77**

Deposits	Year to Date	Current Month	
Scholarships	-		
Luncheon Meals	660.00	220.00	
AGA National Dues	-		
Charitable Donations	-		
AGA Webinars	1,545.00	513.00	
Spring 2016 PDT	-		
CGFM	750.00		
Other	90.00		
Total Deposits	\$ 3,045.00		\$ 733.00

Beginning Monthly Balance + Total Deposits **\$ 17,332.77**

Withdrawals	Year to Date		
Scholarships	-		
Luncheon Meals	(1,020.79)	(490.79)	
AGA National Dues	-		
Charitable Donations	-		
AGA Webinars	(2,580.00)		
Spring 2016 PDT	-		
Community Service	(81.87)	(35.09)	
Officer Conferences	(1,832.84)		
Chapter Board Meetings	(206.58)		
Membership	-		
Thrive Web Designs	(1,800.00)		
CGFM	(3,644.28)	(39.28)	
Other	(338.74)	(126.00)	
Total Withdrawals	\$ (11,505.10)		\$ (691.16)

Ending Cash Balance, November 30, 2015 **\$ 16,641.61**

Meeting Minutes & Agenda



Board Meeting Minutes

November 19th, 2015
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 11:06 a.m. by President Elect, Steve Bellomy.

Attendees:

Amy Dunaway, Steve Bellomy, Judy Shock, Chelsea Avery, Lori Hendon, Marsi Woody, Debbie Spence, Matt McBride

October Minutes: Unanimous consent

Treasurer's Report: Unanimous consent

PDT: Save the dates will be sent out.

CGFM: Extra voucher will be agenda item at the next meeting

Community Service:

VITA slides to be added to PowerPoint for December luncheon.

There will be a canned food fundraiser at December luncheon: 5 cans or \$10 for lunch, bring an extra can(s) to be entered to win a free CGFM exam voucher and study materials.

Additional business:

Each board member to review the chapter recognition and determine what sections full under their area of responsibility.

Any job postings the State or other agencies would like published to AGA members should be sent to Chris Floyd for distribution.

Website feedback should be sent to Amy Dunaway

Meeting adjourned at 11:46

Minutes prepared and submitted by Chelsea Avery.

Addendums:

None.

Board Meeting Agenda JRW Building, Conference Room A

December 17, 2015
11:00 – 11:30 a.m.

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approval of minutes from last meeting
4. Treasurer's Report (Matt McBride)
5. 2016 PDT (Marsi Woody/Lori Hendon)
6. Historian (Donna Holbrook)
7. CGFM (Tiffini LeJeune)
8. Community Service (Debbie Spence)
 - a. Renew Greenbelt adoption?
9. Education (Matt Orem)
10. Membership (Sandra Healy)
11. Early Careers (Brian Smith)
12. President-Elect (Steve Bellomy)
 - a. Chapter recognition category assignments
13. President's Update (Chris Stratton)