



OZARKS CHAPTER

# Ozarks Ledger

Advancing Government Accountability



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OzarksAGA.org

Volume VIII, Issue 12

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## President's Message

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Seems like spring is finally here, after a long winter I'm ready! Join us Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at Noon at the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center for a little fresh air and CPE. Located at 2400 S Scenic (across from Horton Smith Golf Course). We will hear from Ted Hillmer, Superintendent of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. He will be discussing their role as a federal agency. After the meeting; if you would like a quick orientation of the gardens for you to explore on your own, a Botanical Garden staff member will be available. Registration information is on the next page.



Teresa Allen, CGFM

We will vote on the 2011-12 board at the April meeting AND present our scholarship award winners, you won't want to miss it. We will also have homemade treats at the meeting as a fundraiser for the Relay for Life team. This is our only membership meeting before the race so your donations will be much appreciated!

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> for our final meeting before summer. Randy Mayes, executive coach, consultant and professional development trainer will present "Life Management in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". Who doesn't need to brush up on their time management skills when we all have to do more with fewer resources. We will do a can food collection at the May meeting for Ozarks Food Harvest so please bring any canned food item to the meeting.

Teresa

**Teresa Allen, CGFM**

# Community Service



Your **AGA Adds Up Team** is getting ready to walk May 20<sup>th</sup> at Hillcrest High School track. Only one thing is missing...**you**. We would love to have you join us for this fun event. It is a chance to get to know your fellow AGA members better in a relaxed, fun setting and all for a good cause.

If you cannot join us there are other ways **you can help**:

**Bake sale at the April 21<sup>st</sup>** meeting you can bring and/or buy goodies.

**Go online and donate @WWW.RELAYFORLIFE.COM/SPRINGFIELDMO** hit **DONATE to a Team** look for **AGA Adds Up**.

**Come to Relay and bid on our AGA Baskets.** We have two baskets for the **Silent Auction**. One is a gardener's bucket with tool apron filled with tools, gloves, seeds and all the needs of a gardener. The other is a serving tray with matching paper plates and candles and lotions.

You can have an **event at your place of work** or **get others to donate** with you.

We are happy to report we have raised \$745 so far. We are excited about the match from the local chapter that will add \$500 and the National AGA will match too. So we are learning to leverage our funds. Thanks so much for your support again this year. It makes a difference in the search for tests, treatments, and a cure.

### *Your Team*

*Teresa Allen, Linda Charles, Julie Vaughn, Deb Gillenwaters, Glenda Hudson, Nancy Weems*

To register for the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting: Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members, including lunch for 1 hour of CPE. Please register with Justin Hill at [jrhill@greencountymo.org](mailto:jrhill@greencountymo.org) by Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 5PM. We will have Panara cater the lunch this time, please let Justin know which box lunch you would like:

**Sierra Turkey , Roast Beef or Greek Salad**

The sandwich lunch includes, chips and an apple; the salad includes a baguette and an apple.

Treats will be available at the meeting to benefit the Relay team , this will be our last member meeting before the event so please give for a great cause!!

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We still need ONE more volunteer to fill for next year's CEC board and that is Community Service Chair. This position is so rewarding and can really be whatever the chairperson wants it to be! We've done Relay for Life the past couple of years, can food drives, Toys for Tots; in the past we've collected school supplies, raised money for the Underprivileged School Children's Fund, served at The Kitchen, etc. The needs and opportunities are endless.

**AGA ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS ARE ABOUT TO BE AWARDED**

Attend the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting and meet the new Scholarship winners. We have had an excellent response this year for the scholarships. We have applicants from our own AGA membership; Hillcrest High School; Evangel University; SBU; and Drury. The applications are being reviewed by the award committee and will be announced at the next chapter meeting.

The recipients and their sponsoring professor will be asked to attend the meeting April 21<sup>st</sup>. Please make a point to meet them and encourage them to become AGA members as a part of their career progress. This year the chapter is also awarding a student membership to them along with their cash award.

## In the News

### CPA Receives \$4.5M IRS Whistleblower Award

BLUE BELL, PA. (APRIL 8, 2011)

BY MICHAEL COHN, ACCOUNTING TODAY

The Internal Revenue Service has paid an unidentified CPA \$4.5 million as the first award under its newly expanded whistleblower program.

The CPA's law firm, Egan Young, announced the whistleblower award on Friday. The law firm declined to identify the CPA, but said he was an in-house corporate accountant at one of the largest financial services firms in the U.S., a Fortune 500 company. The CPA discovered a tax liability of more than \$20 million at the firm that had been previously underreported. Under the newly expanded IRS whistleblower program, he stands to collect up to 22 percent of the proceeds of whatever the IRS collects from his employer.

The IRS recently expanded its whistleblower program, expanding the maximum reward to 30 percent of the proceeds collected. The CPA was given the third highest category of IRS whistleblower reward under the new law, 22 percent, according to the whistleblower's attorney, Egan Young managing partner Eric L. Young.

"Because this is the first-ever reward being paid out of the IRS whistleblower office, there is nothing to judge the percentage against," said Young. "That being said, in my experience in having done *qui tam* cases under the False Claims Act over the last eight years, a 22 percent reward is substantial and is indicative of the quality of information that our client presented to the IRS in enabling it to recover the \$20 million. In most *qui tam* cases under the FCA, whistleblowers get between 15 percent and 20 percent. "

Last month, another law firm announced that one of its clients had won a \$1.1 million whistleblower award from the IRS in a case involving Enron and Bankers Trust, but that was under the older program (see [Enron Whistleblower Scores \\$1.1M Award from IRS](#)). The CPA who won the new \$4.5 million award is the first to collect under the new whistleblower program, according to Young.

"This groundbreaking IRS \$4.5 million reward originated like many of our government fraud whistleblower cases in health care, defense contracting, pharmaceutical sales and marketing, and other sectors," Young said. "Our client discovered that the financial services firm was failing to pay taxes but after speaking up was simply ignored. As such, the right thing was done in deciding to report this employer's tax misconduct to the IRS."

For tax and *qui tam* whistleblowers, the case underscores the importance of working with an experienced whistleblower lawyer, Young noted. His client originally had filed an IRS Form 211 with the new Whistleblower Office without the assistance of counsel, known legally as "*pro se*." When more than two years had expired since the original filing and no IRS response had been received after numerous client inquiries, the client reached out to Young, an experienced whistleblower attorney in state and federal courts.

*Continued on next page...*

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After assessing the client's case and concluding that it indeed appeared to be in limbo, Young immediately contacted the IRS Whistleblower Office. He determined that his client had never received a "claims number" after the original Form 211 filing. Assigning this number is only the first step in IRS whistleblower procedure.

"In our subsequent contacts with the Whistleblower Office we provided the original case documents and information that fully exposed the financial services firm's tax misconduct," said Young. "We also clearly and convincingly demonstrated to the IRS Whistleblower office how effective our client's efforts were in advancing this case. As a result, we believe our efforts enabled our client to earn this enhanced, 22 percent reward in America's first IRS Whistleblower case under the new program."

In fiscal years 2007 through 2009, when rewards under Section 7623 were mandated, the IRS Whistleblower Office reported receiving more than 12,000 new cases. Earlier this year the Whistleblower Office modified its award criteria to allow whistleblower rewards based not just on taxes and penalties received but when improper refunds or credits have helped to offset taxpayer liability.

The Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 required the IRS to set up a Whistleblower Office by December 2006 and then pay rewards to tax whistleblowers. Prior to this legislation, now Section 7623 of the Tax Code, the IRS had the option to pay rewards to individuals it previously referred to as "informants."

"The IRS and its Whistleblower Office have restrictive confidentiality standards, and our client welcomes this cloak of anonymity," said Brandon J. Lauria, an Egan Young attorney who also represented the whistleblower. Young and Lauria said the client continues to work as an in-house CPA and never wants to be known as the source of detailed information that cost the employer more than \$20 million, nor will the law firm disclose the taxpayer's identity.

Throughout the years-long investigation of the whistleblower's allegations, the IRS Large Case Examination office never officially revealed to the taxpayer that a whistleblower had provided the tax liability information, nor did the company officially learn the client's name, Young noted.

Young credited Stephen Whitlock, director of the IRS Whistleblower Office, office analysts, and other professional staff for their help in working with him and Lauria to bring this first-ever IRS tax whistleblower case under the new program to settlement.

"I don't envy the daunting challenges Mr. Whitlock faced in starting the IRS Whistleblower Office from scratch, then being inundated with 12,000 Forms 211 filings," Young said. "The IRS whistleblower floodgates have opened a tiny bit with our groundbreaking case. Egan Young looks forward to more tax whistleblower rewards for our clients, as are whistleblower attorneys across the U.S."

The firm has developed a reference microsite for the historic case. Potential whistleblowers and their attorneys can visit <http://www.First-Tax-Fraud-Reward.com> to learn more about the case.

# Take it Easy

Everyone deals with stress in a different way. This is a segment providing different ways to deal with the stress we all face.

**\*Play a Board Game**

Remember these? Maybe there are a dozen stashed in your closet, waiting to be dusted off. Monopoly probably should be saved until you have a few hours to spare but quick kids' games like Candy Land, Chutes & Ladders, Connect Four or even Twister are always good for a smile.

[http://www.sparkpeople.com/resource/wellness\\_articles.asp?id=185&page=2](http://www.sparkpeople.com/resource/wellness_articles.asp?id=185&page=2)

## Future Ozarks Chapter Professional Development

Date	Topic	Speaker	Location
4/21/2011	Wilson's Creek National Battlefield-A Federal Government Agency	Ted Hillmer, Superintendent	Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center
5/25/2011	Life Management in the 21st Century	Randy Mayes, Executive Coach, Consultant, and Personal Development Trainer	Midtown Library

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**CHAPTER RECOGNITION POINTS**  
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Our current standing as of **March 31, 2011**, is as follows:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Chapter Leadership Participation	2,800	3,000	93%
Education and Professional Development	3,450	4,000	86%
Certification	1,575	4,000	39%
Communications	3,455	3,000	115%
Membership	450	3,000	15%
Early Careers and Student Members	1,075	2,000	54%
Community Service	1,000	2,000	50%
Chapter Awards Program	200	1,000	20%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>14,005</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>64%</b>

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### Want to Get Your CGFM Certification?

To learn more about the workings of government entities, think about studying for the CGFM. For details go to the AGA website and look at the CGFM section.

Linda Charles  
CGFM Chair



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*Caitlyn Greene, Editor*

*Deadline for articles: Two weeks prior to meeting date.*

*Send articles to: [cgreene@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:cgreene@springfieldmo.gov)*

*CEC Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month.*

*“Never work just for money or for power. They won’t save your soul or help you sleep at night.”*

**—Marian Wright Edelman**