

Volume 14-09 May 2015

President's Message

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Time on Task.....

What a wonderful Emerald Award event! It was just amazing to celebrate together - the food was great, the view was great.... but it was the presentation that I have to tell you about.

Most of you know Pat Bohan - because she has served our chapter in many roles. She has worn several "hats", notably as Treasurer, Education Chair, and Meeting Coordinator. She also literally loves to wear hats on her head.... so many of us brought a hat to wear in honor of Pat. Her talk was full of great insights - and she had

more to say when the time was done.

But the most funny/poignant part of the event was Pat gently pestering me to get the meeting started on time. She knows the rules about CPE and made sure that every minute counted. This is the essence of Pat - and so many others dedicated to accountability - even in the midst of a social celebration, the required tasks needed to be done right and done timely.

On a personal note - I probably would not be in this AGA Chapter if it weren't for Pat. She reached out to me many times and in many

Continued Page 6

Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome to the Seattle Chapter:

Mr. Amanuel K. Kahssai - King County Public Health and

Mrs. Hiedi S. Popochock - Snohomish County

Upcoming Events

National Professional Development Training, Nashville, TN, July 12-15 2015
See AGA Website for details (agacgfm.org).

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July Training Event

Professional Development Training 2015

July 12-15 | Nashville, TN | 24 CPE Hours Available

Offering up to 24 CPE hours, PDT brings together the top officials in federal, state and local government, as well as from academia and the private sector, for three-and-a-half days of valuable training and networking.

3 Reasons Why You Should Attend:

1. **Earn up to 24 CPE Hours.**
2. **Stay On The Cutting Edge.** Includes top-notch speakers from federal, state, local, academia and private sector bringing you key findings and educational experiences to augment your job knowledge and skills.
3. **Network and Connect.** AGA's PDT is the place to connect with a variety of government financial experts and industry colleagues from around the nation facing the same or similar issues that you could exchange ideas and moments with to bring back to your organization.

Attention Feds:

PDT meets Office of Personnel Management (OPM) criteria for training - OPM is encouraging agencies to continue to consider professional organizations such as AGA as a source of training for their employees.

Most agencies are operating under tight budget restrictions which means you will need to strongly convey the value and benefits of attending the PDT. Here are some things to consider:

- ⇒ **Be Specific.** Focus on what you will bring back to your agency or organization as a return on investment.
- ⇒ **Spread the Word.** Offer to prepare and deliver a short presentation and Q&A to your colleagues when you return. That way others will get the benefits of your attendance too.
- ⇒ **Share** the training agenda and speaker handouts with your colleagues. As an attendee, you have unlimited access to materials posted by speakers.
- ⇒ **Stress the time and money savings.** If you are working to obtain or maintain your Certified Government Financial Management (CGFM) designation, remind your supervisor that you can earn up to 24 CPE hours in one place. Attending the PDT is less expensive than registering for separate conferences, and it means less time away from the office.
- ⇒ **Be prepared.** Show your supervisor a plan that indicates who will cover for you while you are away.
- ⇒ **Check for lower rates.** Be sure to check the registration page (<http://www.agacgfm.org/PDT2015/Registration.aspx>) to see if you qualify for any discounts.

May 18th Luncheon and Emerald Award Presentation

Pat Bohan, CPA CGFM CGMA, spoke on GAO methodologies over her 29 year career with the Government Accountability Office. Pat's talk focused on her personal experiences with the GAO and the legislative and administrative changes that brought about the GAO as we see it today.

While Ms. Bohan's remarks were timely as well as well researched and delivered, that was just one of two reason Pat commanded the podium. The other reason was to award her our Chapter's Annual EMERALD AWARD to acknowledge her long and fruitful career as a driving force within the GAO, (which is sadly scheduled to end next spring when Pat begins using her Certified Public Accountant license in private practice) and as a consistent leader and innovator in our profession, particularly as an active committee member of the Washington State Society of CPAs and an AGA board member.

While Pat gave those in attendance a riveting discussion of GAO procedures and practices, the AGA reciprocated by providing Pat with the EMERALD AWARD certificate and a case of specially labeled green Jones Soda with to mark the occasion.

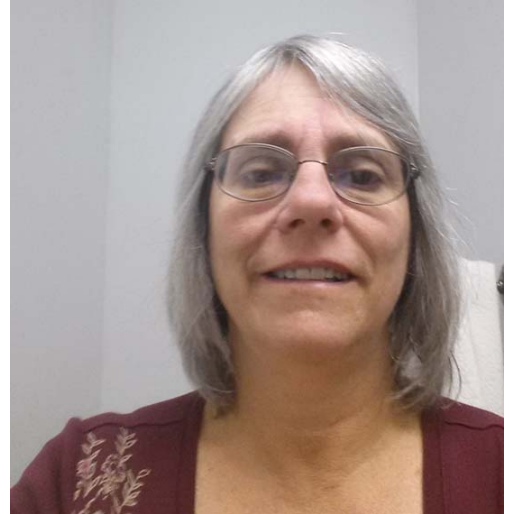


Far Left: Diane MaKaeli , Mary Ann Hardy, Sam Lord, Sandra Starnes (see better picture, pg. 4), Karyn Angulo, John Kurpierz, Gabrielle Sivage, Tim Dobler, Dr. Pat Bohan, Dr. Ken Smith, and Jones EMERALD AWARD Soda (Far Right)

Meet Your Board Members

Sandra J Starnes CPA, CGFM, CICA

Sandra began her accounting career in public accounting at a local CPA firm where she specialized in the audit of non-profit corporations and working with small businesses in the development of their accounting systems. When the Internal Revenue Service first started looking at electronic filing of individual tax returns Sandra was asked to participate on a joint task force to assist the IRS in implementing this, at the time, ground breaking technology.



Over the years her interest in Governmental Accounting led to a career change and in 2002 she took a position as the Children & Family Services Financial Manager for the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe in Kingston WA. Her responsibilities include overseeing several federal, state, and local grants as well as the preparation of the Tribe's Behavioral Health Clinic's financial statements.

Working closely with her federal partners Sandra has been able to assist the Tribe in becoming the first Tribal Nation in history to operate a complete social service department including TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), foster care, child support, Elders, and youth assistance programs. She has had the privilege of serving on the Tax Exempt & Government Entities Division of the IRS representing Tribes throughout the country and has been the local coordinator for a free income tax assistance site established for the benefit of the community over the past seven years.

Looking for a reason to join the AGA?

All AGA events meet the OPM requirements to qualify as training events.




The Director

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Washington, DC 20415

MAY - 1 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF HUMAN CAPITAL OFFICERS

FROM: KATHERINE ARCHULETA
DIRECTOR 

Subject: OPM's Discontinuation of Issuing Memoranda regarding Whether Conferences Qualify as a Training Activity under 5 CFR 410.404

Effective immediately, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is discontinuing its practice of issuing memoranda regarding whether conferences qualify as a training activity in accordance with 5 CFR 410.404. OPM is discontinuing this practice to make clear that agencies are responsible for their employees' training and development as provided by the statute and regulations, 5 U.S.C. chapter 41 and 5 CFR Part 410. To determine whether an agency may sponsor an employee's attendance at a conference, the applicable regulation, 5 CFR 410.404, requires agencies to make the following determination:

Determining if a Conference is a Training Activity. Agencies may sponsor an employee's attendance at a conference as a developmental assignment under section 4110 of title 5, United States Code, when—

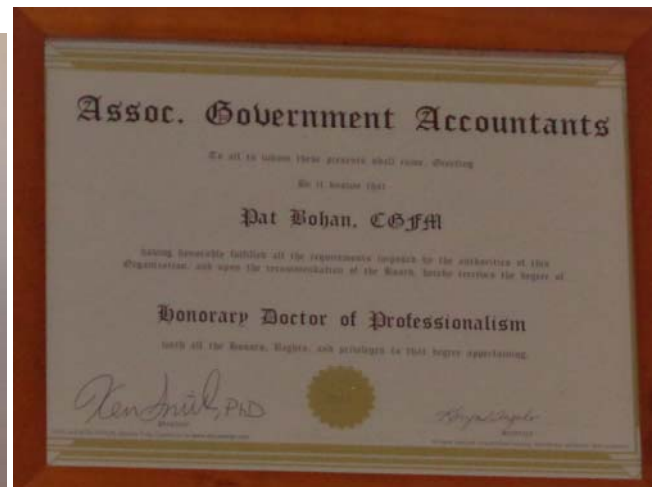
- (a) The announced purpose of the conference is educational or instructional;*
- (b) More than half of the time is scheduled for a planned, organized exchange of information between presenters and audience which meets the definition of training in section 4101 of title 5, United States Code;*
- (c) The content of the conference is germane to improving individual and/or organizational performance, and*
- (d) Development benefits will be derived through the employee's attendance.*

When making this determination, agencies should review the conference's agenda, session descriptions and additional information, as appropriate. We encourage agencies to continue to consider professional training organizations and affinity groups as a source of training. If you have questions regarding training, you should consult with your Chief Learning Officer or Training Officer for guidance.

cc: Human Resources Directors, Equal Employment Opportunity Directors, Chief Learning Officers, and Headquarters and Field Training Officers

President's Message continued from Page 1

ways. And she lovingly teased me every time she introduced me as DOCTOR Ken Smith. (I'm an accounting professor and getting a PhD is something that was good/necessary - yet I don't like to make a big deal about it.) Well, it is graduation season and many institutions grant an Honorary degree to some distinguished alum (or a big donor...sorry for the skeptical accountant side comment, but Pat would want me to say that....) So I printed up an HONORARY DOCTORATE of



PROFESSIONALISM and gave it to Pat as I was introducing her to speak. She was "time on task" and she is and forever will be known to me as our esteemed DOCTOR Pat Bohan.

New Member & CGFM Promotion Opportunity

Do you know someone who wants to earn their CGFM?

AGA is offering ANY member their first CGFM exam at no charge through May 31, 2015

Consider reaching out to colleagues who are not members but may be interested in certification.

This may be a good opportunity to re-engage members with a CGFM study group!

Details on the program are available here: www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/springpromo2015

Questions about CGFM? Contact: agacgfm@agacgfm.org

Renew/Recruit Student Members with Academic Scholarships

This is an opportunity to encourage renewals from students - but the deadline is coming soon: April 17 - and they need to be renewed members to apply

Scholarships are also open to AGA members or a family member pursuing degrees in finance, accounting, business, etc.

Awards available:

Rising College Freshman: One full-time (\$3,000) and one part-time (\$1,500)

Current Undergraduates: Three full-time (\$3,000) and two part-time (\$1,500)

Graduate Students: Two full-time (\$3,000) and one part-time (\$1,500)

Community Service: AGA can award two \$1,500 scholarship for community service amongst the three collegiate categories noted above

Details and applications online here: <https://www.agacqfm.org/Membership/Awards-Recognition.aspx>

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PHOTOS WANTED

We like to decorate the first page of The Sounder with a local photo each month. If you have a picture to contribute, please send it to Tim Dobler at DOBLER5@MSN.COM. When we use your photo, we will acknowledge you in our credits section.

AGA Seattle Chapter Annual Election Results

We are pleased to announce the results of the elections for the 2015-2016 Officers and Board Members to the AGA Seattle Chapter:

President: Diane MaKaeli (voted President-Elect during last year's election)

President-Elect: Dr. Ken Smith, PhD

Treasurer: Sam Lord

Secretary: Sandra Starnes

BOARD MEMBERS 2015-2017 (2-Yr. Term):

Mary Ann Hardy, Gabrielle Sivage, Karyn Angulo, and Ryan Guthrie

(For Information Only - Board Members 2014-2016 (2-Yr. Term))

Tim Dobler, John Kurpierz, Elizabeth Naftchi, and Pat Bohan

Meet Your Board Members

Ms. Sandra J Starnes CPA, CGFM, CICA

Continued from Page 4

Sandra graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration & Accounting and is always looking to improve her knowledge. She is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) and a Certified Internal Control Auditor (CICA).

Sandra has been a member of the Association of Governmental Accountants since 2007 and of the National Grants Management Association since 2014. She is currently serving on the AGA's "Red Phone" committee looking at Data definitions under the DATA Act and looks forward to serving as the Seattle Chapters Board of Directors Secretary.

AGA Seattle Chapter Recognition Program Points

| Chapter Recognition Program categories | Points to Date |
|--|----------------|
| Section I - Chapter Leadership, Planning, & Participation | 3,000 |
| Section II - Education & Professional Development | 4,000 |
| Section III - Certification | 4,000 |
| Section IV - Communications | 3,000 |
| Section V - Membership with a Focus on Early Career and Student Members | 4,000 |
| Section VI - Accountability | 0 |
| Section VII - Community Service | 1,300 |
| Section VIII - Awards | 600 |
| Total | 19,900 |

Recognition Levels:

A **Bronze Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 10,000 and 14,500 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Bronze status.

A **Silver Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 14,501 and 17,000 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Silver status.

A **Gold Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 17,001 and 19,500 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Gold status.

The **Platinum Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 19,501 and 22,000 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Platinum status.

Financial Condition as of April 30, 2015

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Checking | \$ 5,297.53 |
| Savings | \$ 2,635.66 |
| 12 Month Certificate of Deposit | <u>\$ 4,627.43</u> |
| Total Assets | \$12,560.62 |
| | |
| Liabilities | \$ 0.00 |
| Members' Equity | <u>\$ 12,560.62</u> |
| Liabilities & Members' Equity | \$12,560.62 |

Cash Flow Report, as of April 30, 2015

| | | |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Cash Balances | | <u>\$12,788.57</u> |
| Other Awards & Presentations | (45.99) | |
| Gov't Acctg & Auditing Conf Scholarship | (395.00) | |
| Subtotal Cash Expended | <u>(\$440.99)</u> | <u>(\$440.99)</u> |
| Cash Deposits | | |
| AGA Dues Received | \$191.00 | |
| Lunch Revenue | \$20.00 | |
| Interest Income | \$2.04 | |
| Subtotal Cash Deposits | <u>\$213.04</u> | <u>\$201.04</u> |
| Net Cash Change | | <u>(\$227.95)</u> |
| Ending Cash Balance | | <u>\$12,560.62</u> |



WE'RE ON THE WEB:

WWW.AGASEATTLE.ORG

AGA serves government accountability professionals by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

The purpose of the Association and the Chapter is to be an international, professional organization dedicated to the advancement of government financial management. The Association shall serve its members by providing or sponsoring appropriate educational programs, encouraging professional development, influencing governmental financial management policies and practices, and serving as an advocate for the profession. The Association shall serve government officials and the public by sponsoring efforts to ensure full and fair accountability for all public monies, and by providing a variety of pro bono services throughout the United States and its territories that support that end.

AGA Seattle Chapter 2015-2016 Board Members

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This newsletter was produced by board member Tim Dobler with the assistance of Karyn Angulo. Thanks to board members who contributed articles and photos for this issue and to our webmaster, Gabrielle Sivage, for maintaining our chapter website. Masthead Photo "Downtown Seattle & the Space Needle" by Karyn Angulo.

Previous editions of the SOUNDER are on our website WWW.AGASEATTLE.ORG