



THE AGA LEDGER

A Publication of the Association of Government Accountants
Ozarks Chapter, Springfield, Missouri
www.ozarksaga.org

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Message From The President

I should be riding high when you see me Tuesday, April 11th, one day after joining the Cardinals on opening day in the New Busch Stadium. You know my passion in supporting the Cardinals. Hope to see you this year at either Busch Stadium or Hammons Field. It's all about the Redbirds.

We have an exciting month coming up in April. First we have Evelyn Honea doing a presentation on the City Police and Fire Pension Fund. Second, we have the AGA Regional Vice-President, Frank Faughn attending. Third, we have our scholarship recipients joining us. I've also heard that Dr. Penny Clayton will be among us for this special meeting. Is that ever a reason to attend AGA? Come out and join us and bring a friend.

See you in April!

Ozarks Chapter March Meeting Event

Tuesday, April 11, 2006

12:00 Noon

At the

Tower Club

Cost of Luncheon and CPE \$18.00

Speaker: Evelyn Honea, CPA
Assistant City Manager, Springfield, Missouri

Topic: "Police and Fire Pension Fund"

Evelyn Honea, CPA, was appointed as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Springfield in February, 2005. Prior to this appointment, she served the City as Director of Information Systems for five years. From 1982 to 1999 she served as the Assistant Director of Finance, responsible for budget coordination with the City Manager's office and coordination of the City's annual financial audit. Her degrees include a Master of Public Administration from Missouri State University and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from the University of North Texas. She holds a Certified Public Accountant's license.

RSVP:

Cindy Stein 829-6201

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by Monday, April 10 at 3:00 PM

Recommended CPE: 1 hour

Seminars and Conferences

AGA

Keeping pace with change in government financial management has never been more challenging. Effective training is essential for accountability professionals facing an array of new regulations, accelerated deadlines and heightened expectations at every level of government.

The training you need can be found at the 55th Annual 2006 Professional Development Conference & Exposition. **June 18-21**, at the San Diego Marriott Hotel. Overflow hotel: Omni San Diego. Don't forget to register!

Two hotel scholarships available to each chapter.

[Register Online](#)

[Reserve Room Online](#)

First National Internal Control & Fraud Conference

September 25-26, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel in Atlanta, GA
The theme is: "Fraud Prevention and Detection: The Newest Tools and Techniques"

[Register online.](#)

[Print registration form to send by fax/mai](#)l (Adobe PDF).

GFOA

May 7-10 Annual Conference in Montreal, Quebec

Registration Brochure:

[\(PDF 6.06 MB\)](#); [\(Flash Paper 3.07 MB\)](#)

[Register Online](#)

MSCPA

June 1-3, 2006 Annual Members Convention at The Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO

[Register now!](#)

www.4seasonsresort.com

MINUTES



Ozarks Chapter of AGA

March 14, 2006 Meeting

Cindy opened the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Cindy made an inquiry for changes to minutes as published in the newsletter. The minutes were accepted as published.

Kathryn gave the Treasurer's report.

Kathryn read an article written by a former student honoring Dr. Nichols.

Cindy announced conference information.

Deb Fraley announced that copies of our newsletter would be submitted this year in the Newsletter Contest. The deadline for submissions is April 10, 2006.

Linda Charles announced her role as a judge of web-sites for PVC Awards.

Jerry reminded everyone about our Community Service event at Ravenwood nursing home on Saturday, March 18.

Jerry also discussed optional locations for monthly meetings in the future.

Cindy closed the business portion of meeting. Lunch was served.

Deb Fraley introduced our speaker, John Twitty, General Manager of City Utilities.

John Twitty discussed Power Supply...

- Demand for electricity

- Age of existing equipment

- Reliability issues

- Affordability

- Environmental concerns

- Solution

- Q&A

Deb thanked Mr. Twitty for speaking, and on behalf of all members bestowed the sacred writing utensil bearing the coveted AGA logo.

Cindy also thanked the speaker.

Deb G. discussed the planned events of the next meeting.

Cindy adjourned the meeting.

CGFM Profile: Marlene K. Dorenkamp

When Marlene K. Dorenkamp became president of AGA's Des Moines Chapter, she wanted to set an example for her fellow chapter members, give herself an injection of confidence and show that attaining the CGFM credential was "doable."

"I thought that it would be good incentive for others if I went ahead and took it and let them know if it was achievable," Dorenkamp said. That she did, by passing the three examinations and becoming the first chapter member to become a CGFM through the exam process.

It took Dorenkamp one year to study and pass the exams, finishing up in November 2005. When she achieved her goal, the chapter did not overlook it. The current chapter president, Michelle Wendel, and other members recognized her at last November's Chapter Executive Committee meeting with a certificate and cupcakes. The next month, the chapter presented her with a scholarship, to defray some of her costs, and a cake in her honor.

Dorenkamp, who is also a CPA, used AGA's three study guides to prepare. She also organized a study group with two other members. Once a week, they would set aside an hour to study, helping them stay focused. Some of the material was very familiar. At the time, she was working in the school finance arena with the state Department of Education, and needed a strong understanding of the financial reporting requirements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board's (GASB) Statement 34. Her success on the exams did, in fact, give her a boost. "It really did help," she said. "It gave me confidence that I knew the answers to some of the questions. I knew more than I thought I did."

She encourages anyone going into governmental accounting to consider the CGFM. "I think it's an excellent way to get that background. When I went through

school, they had one governmental accounting course and that was it."

Dorenkamp had success using the study guides, while other CGFM candidates like to take the three preparatory courses and use the study guides to complement what they learned. She said the study guides have a lot of good information, reviews at the end of each chapter, and an appendix with reference materials to learn more.

Her advice for CGFM candidates is to make a goal and schedule the exams. Don't procrastinate and lose momentum. That way, the exams are on the calendar and it's easier to stay on track. "I made a goal when I first started that I would have it done by a certain time, and that kept me motivated and kept me going."

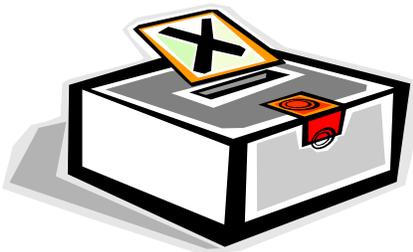
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GASB

According to a white paper released today by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), individuals and organizations who are interested in the financial performance of state and local governments have substantially different information needs than those who follow the financial performance of for-profit entities. The white paper cites several other crucial differences that generate user demand for unique information. It also states that revenue collected by state and local governments totaled \$1.8 trillion, or 20 percent of the 2002 U.S. gross domestic product, while state and local governments account for 12 percent of total U.S. employment.

[Download the white paper.](#)



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE APRIL 4 !!

The following are just a few of the issues to be presented on Tuesday's ballot. Elections for the boards of education in several school districts and races for mayors and city council members or boards of aldermen will also be on area ballots. Voters in the Springfield Public School district will decide whether to approve a bond issue to finance air conditioning and other improvements to the district's schools. Nixa and Ozark will also ask voters to approve bond issues. For a more complete list of Greene County issues, click on the link below.

SPRINGFIELD R-12 SCHOOL DISTRICT

Three Directors Board of Education, three-year term, vote for three.

Kristen T. Callen
Bruce Renner
Gerry Lee
Roy W. Holand
Andy Hosmer

Proposition B

Shall the School District of Springfield R-12, Springfield, Missouri, issue its general obligation bonds in the amount of \$96,500,000 for the purpose of (1) air conditioning certain existing school buildings, (2) making improvement to school facilities, to include constructing new buildings and improving, repairing and renovating existing buildings, (3) furnishing and equipping school buildings, and (4) purchasing land for future school sites?

NIXA R-2 SCHOOL DISTRICT

Two Directors Board of Education, three-year terms, vote for two.

Peggy Taylor
James V. Shuls
Greg Barnhart

Shall Nixa Reorganized School District No. R-2 of Christian County, Missouri, incur indebtedness and issue its general obligation bonds in the amount of \$11,400,000 for the purpose of building a new elementary school, including site preparations, and a career opportunity center at the high school, renovating, repairing and improving existing school buildings and facilities and furnishing and equipping the same?

OZARKS TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Two members Board of Trustees, six-year term, vote for two. The two candidates receiving the largest number of votes will serve a term of six years each.

Larry Snyder
Sterling Huff, Jr.
Lewis Miller
Don E. Clinkenbeard
Wayne E. Groner

Greene County Candidates and Issues

JOKE CORNER

An accountant is walking along the beach when he finds an old lamp. He picks it up and rubs it and suddenly a genie appears. The genie says, "I am the most powerful genie that ever existed. I have done wonderful things in my time and I can grant you your dearest wish. But only one wish."

The accountant is a deeply caring person. He pulls out a map of the Mediterranean and says, "My dearest wish is that you solve the Middle East problem".

The genie strokes his beard and looks worried. "Oh dear, that's a difficult situation. Those people have been fighting each other for centuries. Everybody has tried to solve that problem without success. I'm not sure I can do any better. Do you have another wish?"

"All right," says the accountant. "IRS has asked me to redesign the Alternative Minimum Tax form so that everyone can understand it. Can you help me with that?"

There is a long silence. Finally the genie says, "Let's have a look at that map again."

**OZARKS CHAPTER OF AGA
CASH REPORT
MARCH, 2006**

Beginning Balance July 1, 2005 \$ 3,137.92

Income:

Chapter Dues	\$ 138.35
Meetings	1,802.00
Merchandise Sales	0.00
Seminar	<u>2,095.00</u>

Total Income \$ 4,035.35

Expenses:

Board Meetings	0.00
Check Printing	0.00
Gifts	66.40
Meetings	1,790.66
Membership Drive	0.00
Newsletter	0.00
Scholarship Awards	1,500.00
Seminar	848.37
Website	<u>0.00</u>

Total Expenses \$ 4,205.43

Ending Balance January 31, 2006 \$ 2,967.84 **

SUMMARY:

Beginning Balance	\$ 3,137.92
Ending Balance	<u>2,967.84</u>
Net Increase (Decrease)	\$ (170.08)

SEMINAR:

Receipts	\$ 2,095.00 *
Disbursements	<u>848.37</u>
Net Income	\$ 1,246.63

MEETINGS:

Receipts	\$ 1,802.00
Disbursements	<u>1,790.66</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 11.34

** This balance does not reflect the \$25.00 in our savings.

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In 2006, More People Are Choosing IRS e-File

Issue Number: IR-2006-050

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service announced today that taxpayers are continuing to e-file in greater numbers than ever before. As of March 24, 2006, the IRS had received more than 50 million tax returns through e-file, an increase of almost 3 percent compared to the same period last year.

So far this tax filing season, 68 percent of all returns have been e-filed, compared to 66 percent for the same period last year.

More than 14 million returns have been filed this tax season by people e-filing from the comfort of their own homes, up from just over 12 million for the same period last year. As of last Friday, 28 percent of e-filed returns were filed by people using their home computers, up from 25 percent of e-filed returns for the same period last year.

More people are choosing to have their tax refunds directly deposited than ever before. So far this year, the IRS has directly deposited more than 42 million refunds, or 69 percent of all refunds issued this tax filing season, up from 65 percent of the total for the same period last year.

	2005	2006	Percent Change
Total Receipts	73,762,000	73,438,000	-0.4
Total Processed	69,605,000	69,196,000	-0.6
E-filing Receipts			
TOTAL	49,021,000	50,296,000	2.6
Tax Professionals	34,369,000	36,269,000	5.5
Self-prepared	12,011,000	14,027,000	16.8
Telefile	2,641,000	NA	NA
Web Usage			
Visits to IRS.gov	83,898,013	89,864,558	7.1
Total Refunds			
Number	61,290,000	61,660,000	0.6
Amount	\$138,587 billion	\$144.513 billion	4.3
Average	\$2,261	\$2,344	3.6
Direct Deposit Refunds			
Number	40,118,000	42,252,000	5.3

Provided by: IRS Newswire, an IRS e-mail service



Stiffer mileage requirements issued for SUVs, light trucks

By KEN THOMAS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Posted on Thursday, March 30, 2006

BALTIMORE - The government set tighter gas-mileage rules Wednesday for pickups and sport-utility vehicles, including bulky SUVs such as the Hummer H2 and Chevrolet Suburban, responding to rising concern about the supply and cost of energy from abroad.

The new fuel-economy rules, covering 2008 through 2011, would save 10.7 billion gallons of fuel over the lifetime of the vehicles sold during that period. The rules take a more aggressive stance than an administration proposal issued last summer, officials said. "The new standards represent the most ambitious fuel-economy goals for light trucks ever developed in the program's 27-year history," said Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta.

The rule would include SUVs weighing 8,500 to 10,000 pounds for the first time starting in 2011, but would not include large pickups in the weight class. Vehicles likely to be affected include Hummer H2, Chevrolet Suburban, GMC Yukon XL, and Ford Expedition EL, scheduled to be released this summer. DOT officials said they would require manufacturers to install fuel-saving technology on all passenger trucks.

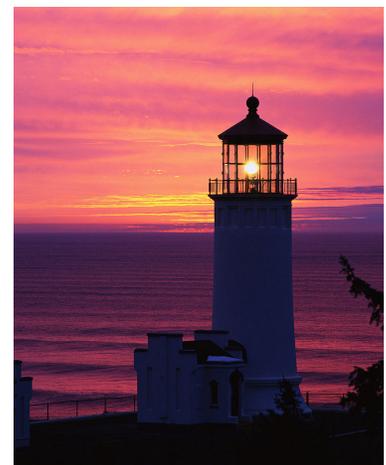
Old and new: Under the CAFE system, automakers now must meet an average of 21.6 mpg for their 2006 model year light trucks. That average will rise to 22.2 mpg for 2007 vehicles.

Under the new rules, the fleetwide average would reach 24 mpg by 2011, when the largest SUVs will be included in the calculation. The program will be phased in through 2010, with automakers having the option of complying under the old system or using new system. All manufacturers would need to use the new system in 2011.

Dave and I are off to visit a couple more lighthouses in not-so-sunny California. The ten-day forecast shows highs in the 50s at the coast.

Enjoy the springtime weather here in the Ozarks. Spring should be in full swing by the time we get back.

I hate to miss this month's meeting since we have another timely and interesting topic. Someone take notes for me!
See you next month. - Deb



Advancing Government Accountability
Ozarks Chapter of The Association of Government Accountants
Deb Fraley, CPA, Editor
Deadline for articles: Friday-eleven days prior to meeting date
Send articles to: dfraley@ci.springfield.mo.us