

December 2011

Issue 02



## CENTRAL ARKANSAS CHAPTER

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*By Jeff Mascagni*

Dear Fellow Chapter Members:

We have accomplished a lot in the first few months of the 2011-2012 program year.

We held three monthly meetings with guest speakers offering 1 CPE each. We also held two audio conferences offering 2 CPEs each. The monthly meeting and audio conference CPE are free to members. Thank you to the Arkansas Natural Resource Commission for allowing us to continue to use the Arkansas River Room for these monthly meetings and audio conferences. In addition, we offered a two-day fall seminar providing up to 16 CPE hours. The fall

conference was extremely successful with a total of 65 people in attendance. Thank you to the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service for allowing us to use the facilities for the seminar.

We continued our support of local universities and accepted an invitation to speak to the University of Arkansas - Little Rock (UALR) governmental accounting class. We also welcomed four UALR students to our Annual Holiday Party. The Annual Holiday Party was a success including an excellent meal and "Minute to Win It" games. Donald Bellcock, Department of Career Education, lead his team to victory in the

games. Way to go Donald!!

Our community service efforts included: a Food Drive and a Baby Food Drive for the Arkansas Food Bank and Sponsorship of two children in the Department of Human Services Gingerbread Tree Event.

We have five more outstanding speakers planned for the program year and we will provide three more audio conferences - January, February, and March. We are also beginning to work on putting together a Spring Seminar during the last week of May.

I again want to thank all of you who continue to volunteer and support our chapter. Let's continue the great work into 2012!!





## WHY EARN YOUR CGFM?

Recent research has shown that employers attribute their recruiting difficulties to a shortage of qualified professionals. Give yourself a competitive advantage by showing your commitment to lifelong learning. You need a credential that shows you are qualified and have the skills to lead. The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) does this like no other credential.

The CGFM is the first certification broad enough to cover the whole field of government financial management—federal, state and local. It measures a wide range of knowledge and skills that a professional needs to succeed in the federal government financial environment, or to meet the unique challenges faced by state and local government financial managers.

***"In today's complex and changing world, a professional certification provides prospective employers with a degree of confidence that candidates are prepared for the real world." —John Radford, CGFM, State Controller, State of Oregon***

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CGFM is a Certified Government Financial Manager. Ask your chapter president or one of our chapter's many CGFM's to learn more.

## HOW TO APPLY

If you have already earned a college degree (bachelor's or higher) with 24 credit hours of courses in financial management or related topics (see Education Requirement below), apply for the CGFM Program now!

1. Read the AGA's [Code of Ethics](#)
2. Fill out and submit the [CGFM Application Form](#), including a nonrefundable application fee of \$85.
3. Fax (703.562.0361) or mail to AGA (2208 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301) the required degree documentation (see Education Requirement below). Note: this documentation must be submitted within six months of submitting the application form.



Once your CGFM application and degree documentation are received and processed, the Office of Professional Certification will mail you an eligibility letter with instructions on how to purchase your examinations. You'll have three years from the date your application is processed to pass the three CGFM Examinations.

***Good luck!!!***

## UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

*Meetings are held at the Natural Resource Commission – River Room*

- Ron White, ADWS: Labor Market Information—January 17, 2012
- Dan Clanton: Communication – February 21, 2012
- Gloria Johnson, ADWS: Equal Opportunity Employment – March 19, 2012
- Artee Williams, ADWS: Leadership Development Institute – April 16, 2012
- Bob Sterling, DFA: Data Networking/Security – May 21, 2012

## UPCOMING AUDIO CONFERENCES

**January 17, 2012**

*Mortgage Fraud and Beyond – Looking Toward the Future.*

Immediately following the regular monthly meeting (1:00 – 2:50 p.m.)

101 East Capitol, River Room (3<sup>rd</sup> floor), Little Rock, Arkansas.

Members Free Non-Members \$15 . 2 Credit Hours.

**February 21, 2012**

*Boost Efficiency, Accuracy, Transparency, Fraud Detection and Cost Savings by Preventing Inappropriate Payments*

Immediately following the regular monthly meeting (1:00 – 2:50 p.m.)

101 East Capitol, River Room (3<sup>rd</sup> floor), Little Rock, Arkansas.

Members Free Non-Members \$15 . 2 Credit Hours.

**March 19, 2012**

*Continuous Monitoring—Management's Window to Preventing Fraud, Waste and Abuse*

Immediately following the regular monthly meeting (1:00 – 2:50 p.m.)

101 East Capitol, River Room (3<sup>rd</sup> floor), Little Rock, Arkansas.

Members Free Non-Members \$15 . 2 Credit Hours.

## UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

**Spring Seminar**

The tentative dates for the Central Arkansas AGA Spring Seminar are May 27-28, 2012. Mark the dates on your calendar!!! Details will be available soon.

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: December 5, 2011  
 Meeting Time: 12:00 noon  
 Meeting Location: Central Arkansas Water, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Jeff Mascagni, DeeVee Pearson, Renee Ikard, Donald Bellcock, Shannon Todd, & Chandria Jones

The meeting was opened by Jeff Mascagni, immediately following lunch.

### Meeting Minutes

Chandria Jones e-mailed the minutes for the November 2011 board meeting to each board member prior to the meeting. A quorum was not present at this board minutes, so an e-mail vote was conducted after the meeting. Richard Drilling made a motion to accept the minutes, and Shannon Todd seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted with no corrections.

### SLM and 2012 Board

Jeff Mascagni will not be able to attend the 2012 SLM due to personal reasons. He would like to form next year's executive committee early, so that we can determine who will be attending the SLM. The nominating committee is headed by the past president. Per Richard Drilling, the Secretary and Treasurer positions must rotate every 2 or 3 years, but the other positions do not have a limit.

Per Jeff Mascagni, there is a new position available—Accountability Chair. The main responsibility is preparing the Citizen Centric Review (CCR) for the chapter. Jeff will work on a template to be used for next year's report. The Accountability Chair not only prepares the report, but he or she submits it for review, presents it to others, assists government agencies in preparing their reports, etc. Don Bellcock suggested Kyleen Whitehead for the position. DeeVee Pearson was also asked to consider taking the position. This position will attend all conferences.

### Points

Shannon Todd stated that she will e-mail everyone an update on points. She thinks that we are at the Bronze level at this time.

### Meetings

Per Don Bellcock, we have already presented two audio conferences and have one more available to present. We need to purchase two more. We will decide which two to purchase at the beginning of the year.

### Holiday Party

Per Jeff Mascagni, there are currently 24 people signed up to attend. Jeff called the restaurant Friday and gave them a preliminary count. Per Don Bellcock, Martha Bennett wants to invite an individual from her job under the recruitment effort. Jeff stated that we only have four college students signed up, so that will be fine.

Jeff suggested that we play "Minute to Win It" at the party. We could have two UALR students against two AGA members. The winners would get a prize, such as a gift card to a local restaurant. Everyone thought the game was a good idea.

### Membership

Per DeeVee Pearson, she and Kaki Roberts spoke with Dr. Taylor's Government Accounting class at UALR this morning.

### Community Service

Renee Ikard stated that we collected approximately 30 pounds of food and \$50 cash. She will provide an update when she delivers the food and money.

### Angel Tree

We received the information for a four year girl named Kizzie, for whom we purchased various toys and pajamas. We also received information for a nine year old boy named Jermaine, for whom we purchased a bicycle, football, and pajamas. We spent approximately \$160 on the children. The items will be delivered tomorrow.

### Newsletter

Everyone is asked to begin submitting information to Jeff Welch for the next newsletter.

### Awards Banquet

Per Don Bellcock, the Arkansas Arts Center charges \$500-600 for room rental and \$30-\$35 per person for food; therefore, Don suggested that we find a less-expensive venue to use. Everyone was in agreement.

Don noted that we were supposed to honor Lucian Shockey again, more formally, at one of our meetings but we have yet to do so.

### Historian

Richard Drilling stated that he has been keeping track of the speakers, meeting information, etc. as we go so that he will have all of the information together when he needs it. He asked that everyone keep him notified of events

and CGFM information so that he can keep track of that as well.

### Other

Richard Drilling asked if we need to begin requiring non-refundable payment for events, since so many people sign up and don't attend. Jeff Mascagni stated that we will be able to do this if we get the information about the events out earlier.

Don Bellcock noted that he recently attended a conference in Las Vegas. He suggested that we bring Rich Raza (OIG) in to speak about an Education-related topic. That would pull in schools and individuals in the education field to our conferences. Jeff asked him to get more information so that we can pursue it. Don noted that Arkansas will receive an ARRA review from the OIG next year, so perhaps we can get Mr. Raza to speak during that time. We could possibly hold a conference to target that group. Those present thought it was a good idea and asked Don to pursue it.

Jeff suggested that we only send Shannon to the PDC this year, in order to cut down on expenses. DeeVee stated that her agency usually sends her, so she will represent both AGA and her agency.

Jeff stated that we made between \$1000 and \$2000 in the fall conference. Angela Morehead with BKD requested that we pay her travel. It wasn't in our original estimate, but everyone agreed that we need to reimburse her.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:15 p.m.

**Association of Government Accountants  
Central Arkansas Chapter  
Statement of Financial Position  
As of December 31, 2011**

<b>Assets</b>	
Cash	11,448.05
CDs	15,620.48
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>27,068.53</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	
Unrestricted	27,068.53
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>27,068.53</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>27,068.53</b>

**Association of Governmnet Accountants  
Central Arkansas Chapter  
Statement of Activities  
As of December 31, 2011**

<b>Income</b>	
Dues	2,302.40
Fall Conference	6,321.50
Interest income	70.82
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>8,694.72</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
AGA Scholarship	500.00
Audit	1,100.00
Holiday Banquet	632.61
Executive committee expenses	490.00
Post Office Box	70.00
Professional development expenses	2,836.73
Miscellaneous	20.80
Website Hosting	150.00
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>5,800.14</b>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>2,894.58</b>
Net Assets - Beginning of year	24,173.95
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>27,068.53</b>

## EARLY CAREER



*Featured (left to right): DeeVee Pearson, Kaki Roberts, Rebecca McEachern (UALR student)*

In keeping with our Chapter Early Career Plan, Kaki Roberts and DeeVee Pearson accepted an invitation to speak to Dr. Cynthia Taylor's Governmental and Non-Profit Accounting class at UALR. Topics included types of careers in governmental accounting, some real-life examples of work experiences, and of course the many benefits of membership in the Central Arkansas Chapter of AGA. The slides provided by AGA were especially helpful. The students were very receptive.

Thanks, Dr. Taylor, for inviting us!



## AGA Fraud Prevention Toolkit

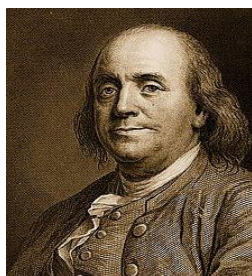
AGA's Fraud Prevention ToolKit provides current, state-of-the-art tools for federal, state, local and tribal government financial managers to use in preventing and detecting fraud. It furthers AGA's mission of "Advancing Government Accountability."

The ToolKit is organized in a manner that promotes education. It contains a comprehensive array of tools, posters, educational materials, PowerPoint Presentations and videos. Users can find tools by looking under business process such as accounts receivable, program areas like the Office of Management and Budget's high-risk programs, or by fraud type such as bid rigging.

### ToolKit Features:

- Quick summaries of types of fraud likely to be encountered by governments.
- Tools you can use today, without delay, to help in your fight against governmental fraud.
- Links to a wide array of fraud-fighting resources including procedures, protocols, posters and papers on identifying and preventing fraud.
- Information organized so that you, in whatever role you play in government operations, can find what you need to fight fraud effectively.

The ToolKit addresses fraud risks, red flags, and controls to help your department implement an action plan.



**"There is no kind of dishonesty into which otherwise good people more easily and more frequently fall than that of defrauding the government."**

**- Ben Franklin**

For more information or to utilize the toolkit, visit: <http://www.agacqfm.org/tools/fraudprevention/>

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