

President's Message



*Chapter President
Jerry Mitchell, CPA, CGFM*

It has certainly been a busy fall for our group. Special thanks go out to everyone who attended last week's Fall Seminar. I received very encouraging remarks from our Executive Director, Van Daniker and our Regional VP, Walt Darling. I want to especially thank those officers that worked so hard on this event to secure speakers and work the event; you are much appreciated.

At our November meeting we are honored to have Drury professor, Janis Prewitt-Auner to speak to us on Employment Law in

Missouri. This presentation may go longer than most so I will try to make the business portion of the meeting very brief so our speaker has sufficient time.

In December, we look forward to having the dynamic duo of Jeff Roberts and Angela Morelock from BKD doing a presentation on recent fraud and forensic cases they have worked on and how the fraud could have been prevented.

November 15 in my office at 1:00, Teresa Allen and Renee Evans will be hosting a "Fraud Webinar" at no charge. The event will be broadcast over the web on my computer and there are a limited number of spots available. Please contact Teresa should you wish to at-

tend. I am proposing that we have an officer's meeting that day at Parks at Noon to discuss future events and speakers. Please bring your lunch that day.

I want to give special recognition to Justin Hill, Deputy Auditor for Greene County for his hard work on Monday in building the outdoor classroom project at Weller School. Justin did a great job as always and the School Administrators and students were very appreciative of his efforts.

Look forward to seeing everyone Nov 13. Please ask others to attend; I have heard Ms. Prewitt's presentations are very good.

Jerry

Ozarks Chapter November Educational Event



**Tuesday,
November 13, 2007
12:00 Noon
The Tower Club
22nd floor (top floor)**

**Janis Prewitt-Auner, JD
"Employment Law in MO"**

RSVP: Cindy Stein 868-4120
cstein@greencountymo.org
by Tuesday, Nov. 13, 9:00 AM

Inside this issue:

AGA Welcomes new Field Representative	2
Dashboards for Performance Management	2
Weller School Community Service Report	3
October Cash Report	4
2008 PDC at the Atlanta Marriott	5
Accounting & Finance Salaries on the Rise	5
Upcoming Monthly Speakers	6

Special points of interest:

- *Fall Seminar a Success*
- *Performance Reporting with Dashboards*
- *2008 PDC in Atlanta*
- *Angela Morelock, CPA, CFE, to speak in December*



AGA Welcomes Bobby Derrick to its Staff as Field Representative



Bobby Derrick, CGFM

The National Office welcomes old friend **Bobby Derrick, CGFM**, AGA's 2004-2005 National President, to the staff as a field representative.

Bobby is based at his home in Indianapolis, but will be traveling frequently to help AGA chapters around the country and discuss AGA programs, in-

cluding the CGFM credential, audio conferences, educational offerings and more.

"I want the chapters to know that they can start calling me and inviting me to their meetings and/or training events to speak, to meet with their employing agencies/firms, and to know that my purpose is to help them where needed," Derrick said. "The bottom line is that I want to help our chapters increase their membership, establish new chapters and revitalize existing chapters."

Derrick said, "The good news is

that I will be available any time by coming out to the chapters and being 'on the ground.' I am looking forward to working with our National staff, regional structure and our volunteer leaders."

Bobby can be reached at bderick@lightbound.com, bderick@agacgfm.org or 317.826.7850 (office) or 317.514.3332 (cell).



Dashboards Simplify Performance Reporting

First in a series of articles on Performance Management written by Stevan Gorcester and Rhonda Reinke.

Stevan Gorcester was a speaker at the national conference in Phoenix.

Successful performance management requires that meaningful, current, and easily interpreted data are put in the hands of decision makers. If you then take that data and consider it, debate it, and heed it in making decisions, you are managing with data. If that happens in most decision making, your organization is well on its way to being a performance-managed agency.

Successful performance management demands effective performance reporting. Fortunately, technology has simplified the effort of communicating quality data to leaders and managers. Software dashboards in particular offer elegant simplicity to the otherwise difficult task of reporting performance for quick interpretation by both the numbers people and the ideas people. The use of dashboards to display decision-

critical data has grown rapidly in the private sector and is catching on with public agencies.

Public sector data efforts are being driven in part by performance mandates from elected officials and administrators. Washington Governor Christine Gregoire adopted the government management, accountability, and performance (GMAP) directive for all state executive branch agencies soon after her election in 2004. GMAP follows the model of Baltimore's Citistat Program and tackles the difficult task of applying common performance principles across the vast organization that makes up state government. In other words, Washington state agencies must not merely report data, they must use the performance feedback provided by the data to direct improvements.

The Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) im-

plemented its performance dashboard in 2003 and followed the GMAP directive in earnest after its adoption in 2004. Performance management became a key tool in driving the board's grant programs after years of over-programming.



An internal performance dashboard was a natural extension of that focus because dashboards facilitate easy access to and in-

terpretation of data and provide instantly updated information for management decision making. The TIB's dashboard delivered the high-level performance reporting that successful performance managers need.

Next month in Part II: A Dashboard Implementation.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Jerry Mitchell, CPA, CGFM
jmitchell@ci.springfield.mo.us
 864-1325
 864-2065 (fax)

President Elect & Education Director

Deb Gillenwaters, CGFM
dgillenwaters@ci.springfield.mo.us
 864-1896
 864-1099 (fax)

Secretary

Teresa Allen, CGFM
tallen@ci.springfield.mo.us
 864-1337

Treasurer

Vicki Franke, CGFM
Vicki.franke@cityutilities.net
 831-8636

Webmaster

Linda Charles
lcharles@ci.springfield.mo.us
 864-1864
 864-1880 (fax)

Newsletter Editor

Deb Fraley, CPA
dfraley@ci.springfield.mo.us
 864-1903
 864-1929 (fax)

Director of Membership

Justin Hill
jrhill@greenecountymo.org
 829-6202

Director of Professional Certification & Chapter Recognition Officer

Deb Gillenwaters, CGFM
dgillenwaters@ci.springfield.mo.us
 864-1896
 864-1099 (fax)

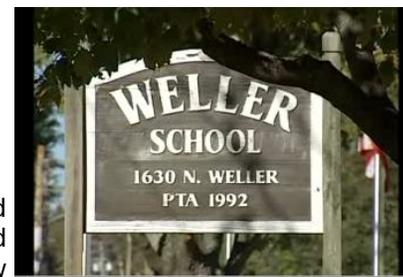
Past President

Cindy Stein, CPA
cstein@greenecountymo.org
 868-4120

Community Service Special Event AGA & Weller Elementary School

October, 2007

When the Springfield School District closed Shady Dell Elementary school in 2006, all of those students were transferred to Weller Elementary School. That put the school at capacity and caused a few problems.



On Thursday, November 1, 2007 Weller Elementary opened a new addition. Weller Elementary is one of 25 district schools being renovated through a \$96.5 million bond initiative approved by voters in April last year.

In addition to construction, a lot of preparation was necessary before the ribbon-cutting event last Thursday. Justin Hill, our chapter Membership Director, describes AGA's landscaping project for Weller Elementary:

"Jerry and I had a blast working with two classes from Weller Elementary. We went there thinking that we were just going to put the stuff in ourselves. However, we were overwhelmed with help from the students! It was a tremendous learning experience for them; now they can say "we did this!" The children planted approximately 15 plants, put up a bird bath, and two poles on which to hang bird feeders and houses (the students will be making those in future class projects). Even the principal came out and "did a little digging."

The children got experience planting, watering, feeding, mulching, pruning, and landscaping. They even got to use my power drill and glue gun. I was scared a few times when the children would swing my large pick axe so closely to a class mate. Amazingly, no children were harmed during the whole event. It was a wonderful experience.

All of the supplies for the project were purchased by AGA. I also donated a worm factory (a vermicomposting bin). Worms can turn fruit and vegetable scraps into rich organic compost in a matter of days. My children loved our "pet worms." I am excited for the students to have the opportunity to use it.



I attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the entire school on November 1st. They are all proud of their new place, and excited about the future. Thanks to Jerry for cultivating that relationship, and giving AGA the opportunity to create a special experience for the children."

Ozarks Chapter Fall Seminar—Another Success Story



The Ozarks Chapter presented its second half-day seminar on October 25. It was a four hour afternoon session which transitioned to a two hour hospitality suite hosted by two very special guests from AGA. We had the honor of meeting both the AGA National Director, Relmond Van Daniker, and our Re-

gional Vice President, Walt Darling. The following day some of the board members joined Walt for lunch at a downtown restaurant. He gave us some helpful advice before he left.

Thank you to all of our speakers who took time from their busy schedules to enrich our knowledge.



Thanks to all the chapter board members and the folks from the national office who worked hard to



make the seminar & the hospitality suite a success. A special thanks for all the folks at Cooper Tennis Complex who gave so generously of their time. They made us feel welcome.

2008 PDC Hotel Now Accepting Reservations

It's time to look ahead to the 2008 PDC in Atlanta! Next year's conference will take place July 27 – 30 at the [Marriott Atlanta Marquis](#). Everyone attending the conference will be housed in this hotel; AGA's room block is now open. Be sure to mention that you are attending the AGA PDC when making your reservation.

Once again, we will be offering two hotel scholarships to each AGA chapter. However, please note that the reservation process will be different this year. Members chosen by their chapter to participate in the hotel scholarship will make their

own hotel reservations (don't forget to include any extra vacation days) by calling the hotel directly and mentioning that they are attending AGA's conference. Then, for those participating in the hotel scholarship, we will ask for your confirmation number shortly before the PDC to set you up under the scholarship.

- [Register Online](#)
- [Download Registration Form](#)

Mr. Excel Returns

Thanks to the Greater Ozarks Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA), Bill Jelen will be bringing his Excel Tips & Tricks seminar to Springfield, MO on Wednesday, November 14, 2007.

Location: Oasis Hotel and Convention Center, 2550 N. Glenstone
Springfield, Missouri

Registration & Continental Breakfast: 7:30 - 8:00
Session: 8:10 to 11:55—4 CPE

Attendees of the April, 2007 Mr. Excel seminar may attend a free Excel 2007 preview on Nov. 13 at 6:00 PM at Glass Hall Rm 101. Email:

terryj@custom-metalcraft.com

Accounting, Finance Salaries on the Rise

Starting salaries for accounting and finance professionals are expected to increase an average of 4.3 percent in 2008, according to the annual salary guide by Robert Half International. The pay increases stem from business expansion and growing workloads--direct results of

compliance requirements mandated by Sarbanes-Oxley--combined with staffing shortages. Not surprisingly, experienced candidates have greater leverage in negotiating compensation, and salaries for the most in-demand specialties are rising faster than the national aver-

age. Public accountants, financial analysts and internal auditors are projected to see the largest gains, according to the survey.

Read more at:

<http://accounting.smartpros.com/x59558.xml>



Ozarks Chapter of AGA

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS, OZARKS CHAPTER

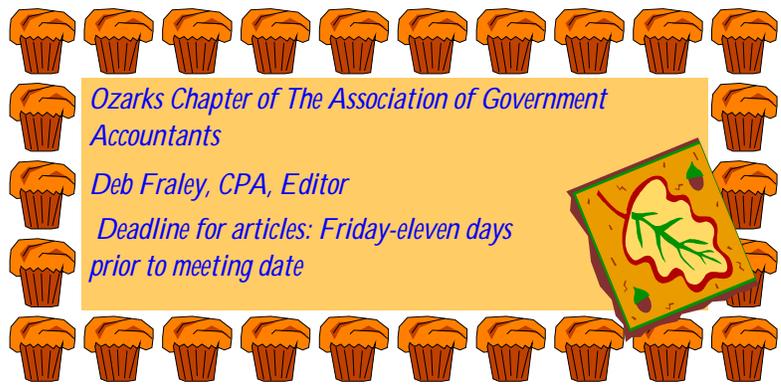
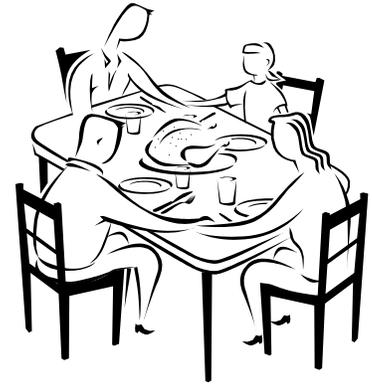
C/O Greene County Auditor's Office
940 Boonville Ave., Rm 210
Springfield, MO 65802

Phone: 417-868-4120
E-mail: cstein@greenecountymo.org

Advancing Government
Accountability

We're on the Web at
www.ozarksaga.org

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving



Ozarks Chapter of The Association of Government Accountants

Deb Fraley, CPA, Editor

Deadline for articles: Friday-eleven days prior to meeting date



Future Speakers

December 11, 2007



Angela Morelock, CPA, CFE, ABV



Angela Morelock and Jeff Roberts from Baird, Kurtz & Dobson will join us for a **two-hour** presentation on the topic of fraud prevention.

No business is immune from the risks associated with fraud, and education is the key to prevention. Angela and Jeff will share their insights into the world of internal embezzlement based on their experience investigating white-collar crime. No one strategy is foolproof, but the more fraud prevention elements you introduce into your company, the better your chances are of stopping fraud before it starts.

January 8, 2008

Davis, Lynn & Moots, P.C.

Tony is a graduate of Southwest Missouri State University. His expertise spans twenty years. Tony oversees the firm's health care practice and is responsible for the firm's accounting and management advisory services.



Anthony Lynn, CPA

Tony is a member of AICPA, MSCPA and the Missouri Health Care Association. He is chairman of the AICPA Peer Review Board, past chair of the MSCPA Peer Review Executive Committee and has served on several AICPA and MSCPA committees and task forces.

In addition, Tony was featured in an article for "Best Practices for Audit Efficiency" in the September 2000 issue of the Journal of Accountancy.

Notes & Reminders

Changes to Minimum Wage Law Effective January 1, 2008

Effective January 1, 2008, and as required by last year's ballot initiative, Missourians will see an increase to the minimum wage. Beginning the first of the year, the state's minimum hourly wage will increase by 15 cents from \$6.50 to \$6.65 per hour.

<http://www.dolir.mo.gov>

•A Profit Statement for the Seminar will be provided at the Nov. 13 meeting.

•While searching on the web I came across links to two of our recent newsletters on the Accountant Directory website. We're *really* on the Web!!



Birthday Greetings to all who are celebrating in November.