

THE SEVENTIES

For some reason, in September 1970 at least one meeting was held in the famous old Lucas B&B eatery on Oaklawn when John M Thompson, a senior planning analyst for the DFW Airport, spoke about the economic impact of the new airport. The Lucas B&B is long gone but the sign is preserved as a historical monument in front of Papdeaux's. The meetings then reverted to the Melrose Hotel until September of 1973 or May of 1974.

In the mid-Seventies, Dallas began to hold meetings at cafeterias in the North Dallas area. The chapter ran it's own bar at the cafeterias in those days with Joe Quicksall and Billy Bowles from GAO pouring the drinks and collecting the money. In those days, as now, the last meeting in May was a "social" and included the presentation of the chapter awards.

Competition and awards from AGA National were a strong point for Dallas from the early years. One of the high points of the Chapter's history occurred in June 1974 when Dallas/Fort Worth was proud to host nearly 700 paid registrants for the 23rd National Symposium for FGAA.

By August of 1975, there were over 200 members from fifteen Federal agencies with DCAA, GAO and the Postal Service being the organizations with the largest number of members. In keeping with changes to the National Organization in 1975 when the FGAA became the Association of Government Accountants, the Dallas Chapter began efforts to draw membership from financial managers in State and local government, as well as the private sector - efforts which continue to this day.

In the area of education, Bob Willis and others provided workshops on "Time-Shared Computers" in Dallas, Houston, Fort Worth and Oklahoma City in 1968-1970. Sometime during this period, the Chapter began participation in making the Federal Tax Handbook available at low cost to the membership. Beginning in 1973 (and continuing to the late 1970's) Dallas participated in the Department of Commerce's Office of Minority Business Enterprise programs by providing training in accounting to small and disadvantaged businesses. Dallas Chapter volunteers taught some 80 students basic accounting courses.

In 1976, the Chapter began an awards program which has continued since then. Robert F. Langlinais chaired the group, which developed the guidelines for an Accountant/Auditor of the Year to recognize contributions to the profession and a Member of the Year for service to the Chapter. Mr. Claude A. Ryan received the first Financial Manager of the Year award. In some years, awards were also been given for "Best Technical Article" in the Chapter Newsletter and "Best Research Project".

1977 was a hallmark year in chapter administration. A new set of bylaws was adopted as well as rules for the conduct of meetings. Texas Articles of incorporation for the Association of Government Accountants of Dallas were drafted. On March 30, 1977, the Texas Secretary of State issued a certificate of incorporation and Charter Number 401973 as a Texas Nonprofit Corporation. On June 26, 1977, the IRS granted the chapter a 501(c) (6) letter and the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts granted a franchise tax exemption on August 29 that year. Those Articles of Incorporation stated our purpose to be:

To unite professional financial managers in government service for constructive endeavors, by encouraging and providing a means for free interchange of ideas among financial managers in government services; and to foster improvements in financial management in government.

We don't have complete membership totals for all years but in 1978-79 the chapter probably hit the highest number. Under John L. Hood's leadership we reached 247 members that year.