

AGA Southern Arizona Chapter Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2014
Pima Community College
Tucson, Arizona
11:30 – 1:00 pm

Speaker: Amanda L. Perkins, CPA, Senior Auditor, University of Arizona

Topic: Audit Techniques for Accountants

Attendees: 41 total

Before the presentation, Jackie Assini, **CGFM Chair** spoke to attendees about the benefits and importance of the CGFM certification. On the national CGFM website, one can find information about the registration fee (\$20) and more information about the three different parts of the exam

The meeting was opened by Carol Beltran, FY 2015 Chapter President, with some announcements. She introduced some members of the board: Jose Martens, Shelly Kais and Kathy Moroz.

Carol informed nonmembers that she had applications available at every meeting and explained the value of becoming a member of the AGA Southern Arizona Chapter.

Carol also encouraged attendees to learn more about the CGFM exam and to ask the speaker questions throughout the presentation.

Carol Beltran introduced our guest speaker Amanda L. Perkins, CPA who is a senior auditor at the University of Arizona. She has been at the UA for six years and works with study abroad financials, other fees and grants. Prior to working at the UA, Amanda was a financial auditor.

Amanda began her presentation introducing Springfield, Illinois as a fraud hub due to its smaller population resulting in the same employees taking on several roles in an organization. She introduced three different recent cases of fraud in Springfield.

1. Chatham Fire Protection District: employee stole more than \$50,000 from the district by writing checks to herself.
2. Southeast High School: bookkeeper stole more than \$100,000 from the school's activities fund.
3. St. John's Children Hospital: employee stole from donations fund.

Amanda then went on to explain three main areas of audit that needed the most attention and provided solutions that could help offset these problem areas:

1. Procedures: being able to identify the part of a procedure where it would be easy for an individual to breach the system.
 - a. Might identify a more efficient way to do something or a stronger control that could be implemented
2. Using data: continuous auditing/monitoring needs to be taking place here, as well as knowing who has access to data and what exceptions the data search tool (Access, Excel) has.

3. Outside sources: regularly checking the legitimacy of vendors and browsing peer websites for policies and procedures.

The meeting participants were then asked to see if they could have prevented or detected the fraud that occurred in the cases that Amanda initially introduced. These were some propositions:

1. Chatham Fire Protection:
 - a. Second signature on checks
 - b. Segregate duties through cross-training
 - c. Source documents presented to board
2. Southeast High School:
 - a. Training to student clubs on how to keep track of checks and documents
 - b. Present source documents
 - c. Peer websites
3. Children's Hospital
 - a. Separation of duties

For details of Amanda Preston's presentation please email her at alperkin@email.arizona.edu.

Carol Beltran thanked Amanda for her wonderful and inspired speech. Our next meeting will be in November 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm

Barb Michalik
AGA Southern Arizona Chapter Secretary