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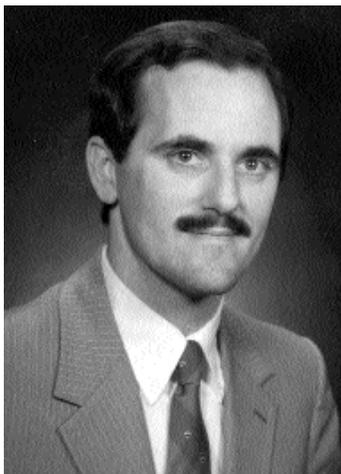
## Meet Thomas J. Sadowski, CGFM, CPA, AGA's Next National President

Ask Tom Sadowski what aspect of his AGA membership has been most useful to him and he answers easily and quickly—other members. AGA's next National President believes in making contacts, asking the right questions and learning something new whenever possible.

Anyone who has ever had a conversation with Sadowski can attest that he is a truly gifted listener. Unlike many people who are thinking about their next question, Sadowski hunkers down, really listens and processes the information. As a result, he possesses a wealth of knowledge about AGA and its members. "Our members are fun, clever, interesting people," he said. "The benefit—the real learning—is the one-on-one in small groups."

As President-Elect, Sadowski, 46, has worked closely with the Regional Vice Presidents and has encouraged a new level of communication and cooperation in each region.

A member of the Mid-Missouri Chapter since 1976, Sadowski will join a growing list of National Presidents who have seen their role redefined. As the Association's National Office capabilities have increased, the need for hands-on management by the National President has lessened. The result is a leader who is free to market the Association to potential members and to spread the word about the important role AGA plays in the quest for government accountability.



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By: Marie Sullivan Force

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"Because of our Long-Range Strategic Plan, AGA is focusing on the right issues. We know what issues are critical to AGA and we have set priorities for addressing them," he said, reflecting on his plans for his year as President. He will rely on the Strategic Plan, which will be in its second year of implementation during his presidency, to set the stage for his term. "In the past, when we had a strategic plan, there was no direct connection between the plan and the implementation. Now, there is continuity and we can more easily build on what we have already done.

"This frees up the new President to take a longer term view. When you think about the role of the President... sometimes the President is a leader because people follow your lead, but often it is because you are inclusive and help people get answers to tough questions. It is important to do both, but to know when to do which one."

He sees the President as a spokesperson for the Association, someone who can contact key leaders in the financial management profession who are potential members and supporters. With only 12 months to serve, Sadowski realizes that the danger can be in wanting to accomplish too much and actually accomplishing nothing. Currently, he is working to identify areas where he can make a real impact.

At the top of his list is ensuring that the right questions are asked, such as "Are we doing the right things?" and "Are we doing things right?"

Second, he would like to see AGA become a role model for other associations, for members and for governments. "It starts with a dynamic of living a life of best practices—always asking, always listening, always seeking the next level," he said.

Third, he wants to use the influence that comes with the office to encourage more people to become involved with AGA. Finally, he wants to parlay his intense interest in history into a real legacy for the Association. "We sometimes get so focused on the present, we forget that today's present is tomorrow's past," he said. "We need to ask ourselves whether we will be proud of what we did when we look back on it from the future."

While Sadowski genuinely enjoys the one-on-one communication with other members, he realizes the benefit to his career as well. "I have gotten to know a lot of people—some of the lions of the profession—and I have found that they are regular people, very willing to share what they know with others," he said.

He shares the story of how his career in Missouri state financial management began with a professor he had at the University of South Florida. Jim Antonio

later became Missouri's deputy state auditor and called his former student to join him. Sadowski went on to spend 10 years with the State Auditor's Office. He also spent eight years with the Missouri Department of Revenue and one year working for a bank before accepting his current position as director of accounting at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Sadowski's AGA career has included stints as National Treasurer and Mid-Missouri Chapter President. He was the first chairman of the Internet Committee and chaired the Ethics Committee last year. He is also a long-time member of the Journal Editorial Committee. He previously chaired the Research and Financial Standards Committees. He is a Certified Government Financial Manager and a Certified Public Accountant.

Sadowski, the fifth of seven children, was born in Michigan, but moved to the Florida Keys at the age of three. Sadowski's late father was in the real estate business in Florida and his mother still resides in Clearwater. Married since 1979 to Jatha, the associate director of Human Resources at the university, the Sadowskis are the parents of Grant, 18, Cale, 15, and Kaitlyn, 10.

Tom Sadowski is ready to ask, listen and learn as your next National President. ■