



**Association of
Government Accountants**
Denver Chapter



www.denveraga.org

January 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FEBRUARY 16

Monthly meeting. Live presentation the New Yellow Book. *See details inside.*

FEBRUARY 17-18

AGA National Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. *See agacgfm.org for details.*

MARCH 23

Audio conference on “improving Performance Reporting. *See details inside.*

APRIL 19-20

25th annual Denver AGA Professional Development Conference at the Inverness Hotel and Conference Center. *See details inside.*

MAY 3-6

AGA National Community Service Project in New Orleans. *See details inside.*

JULY 10-13

AGA National Professional Development Conference in Atlanta. Theme: “Celebrating Our Past, Embracing our Future. *See agacgfm.org for details.*

AGA’s mission is to serve professionals in the government financial management community by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

AGA Denver Chapter
Board of Directors Meeting
December 13, 2010

Name	Title	Present	Via Phone
Jeremy Cockrum	President		X
David La Veau	President-Elect & Vice President – PDC (co-chair)		
Sonya La Veau	Vice President - PDC (co-chair)		
Deb Cotrell	Vice President - Programs		X
Eric Johnson	Vice President - Communications		
Donna Piazza	Secretary & Director of Recognition	X	
Brad Gunther	Treasurer	X	
Cynthia Nickels	Director of Awards		X
David O'Farrell	Director of CGFM Programs		
Kari Vernon	Director of Community Service		
Leslie Peabody	Director of Early Careers		
Cheri Frazell	Director of Education	X	
James Herbic	Director of Emerging Issues	X	
Debra Clark	Director of Employment		
Porscha S Minor	Director of Agency Coordination & Director of Intergovernmental Relations		
Miriam Smith	Director of Membership	X	
OPEN	Director of Publicity		
Carol Hooper	Director of Scholarships		X
Karl Greve	Director of Webmaster		

1. Call to Order: 5:30 PM

2. Approval of Minutes: Brad Gunther made motion to accept and Cheri Frazell made a second motion. Minutes from November 1, 2010 were accepted as submitted.

3. Committee Reports-

a. President's Report- Jeremy Cockrum, reports he has nothing new.

b. President Elect – David La Veau,

c. Communications/Newsletter – Eric Johnson, Jeremy reports Eric plans to publish the next news letter in January. Please send all articles and information to him as soon as possible.

d. PDC Co-Chair – Sonya La Veau and David La Veau,

e. Programs – Deb Cottrell, reports she is taking suggestions for a February or March function. Jeremy mentioned that may be a good time for a wine tasting.

f. Chapter Secretary and Recognition - Donna Piazza, reports that some of the recent e-mail changes have not made it to all of the e-mail lists. The CRP is on track and she sent the update earlier today. She will be submitting the second quarter report the week of December 20th.

g. Treasurer – Brad Gunther, reported and presented the bank statements for August through November. He stated the old bank account is still open and the fees are increasing. Brad inquired about the \$100. Check to David, and Jeremy will follow-up on that. Also, Brad will research a new way to accept the monthly luncheon payments. Jeremy recommended Brad move most of the money in the Chase account over to the Credit Union.

h. Agency Coordination and Intergovernmental Relations - Porscha Minor,

i. Awards – Cynthia Nickels, reports announcement for awards nominations will be added to the events e-mail and sent out tomorrow. She hopes to have nominations back in time to place an order in February or March for presentation at the local PDC in April.

j. CGFM Programs – David O'Farrell

k. Director for Community Service – Kari Grimshaw,

m. Education – Cheri Frazell, reports she will be sending out the "upcoming events schedule" on Tuesday the 14th. All members in attendance agreed to keep the CPE event in March to one, due to how close it is scheduled to the PDC and to try out this option.

n. Emerging Issues- James Herbic, presented a handout on the four topic areas he will stay abreast of: Accounting, Cyber Security, Federal Workforce, and Virtual Workforce. He asked the opinion of the Board on his writing an article for the newsletter on the topic of Federal workers getting overpaid. All in attendance agreed that there should be another slant to the Washington Post's article.

o. Membership – Miriam Smith, reports she has been super busy with the scholarship proposal; the letters to the members and a little holiday cheer template as well. She will work with Cheri on the letters and Carol on the scholarships. Miriam has \$210.00 from National to spend on the member letters and some drawings at the January training session. Miriam will work with Leslie on upcoming college career day recruiting activities. She will also order some items from National, like brochures and other materials for the chapter.

p. Publicity – open

q Scholarships – Carol Hooper, reports she is planning to meet with Jeremy.

r. **Director for Employment – Debra Clark,**

s. **Webmaster – Karl Greve,** Cheri reported the address for the website will be renewed sometime this evening. Everyone at the meeting gave kudos to Karl for his cooperative and responsive attitude.

t. **Regional Officer's Report**

RVP - Glen Struempf,

Past National President – Jeff Hart,

5. **Next meeting:** January 10, 2010.

6. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 6:30 PM

7. **Submitted:** Respectfully by Donna Piazza, Secretary, happy and safe holidays are wished for all!



Upcoming CPE Events

February 16 - Live Presentation - 2011 Yellow Book

Presented by **Thomas Hackney, GAO.**

When: February 16, 2011

Where: TBA, most likely close to the Federal Center in Lakewood

Time: 11-11:30 Check In; 11:30 Lunch; 12-2 Presentation

Cost: \$25 for AGA Members; \$35 for Non-Members

Menu: Catered

1 CPEs will be awarded.

Please rsvp to Cheri Frazell at DenverAGA@gmail.com by February 11, space is limited.

March 23- Audio Conference- Improving Performance Reporting

When: March 23, 2011

Where: City of Denver, Wellington E Webb Municipal Office Building

Time: 12-2 pm

Cost: Free to AGA Members

Menu: Bring your own brown bag

2 CPEs will be awarded.

Please rsvp to Cheri Frazell at DenverAGA@gmail.com by March 18th, space is limited.



25th Annual Denver AGA
Professional Development
Conference

**“Adventures in Governmental Accounting
and Accountability...”**

When: April 19-20, 2011

Where: Inverness Hotel and Conference Center

200 Inverness Drive West
Englewood, CO 80112
(800) 832-9053

Selected Highlights:

Cloud Computing
Fiscal Responsibility Tour
State and Local IT Risk Assessments
High Performance in Federal Financial
Management
Emerging Trends in Federal Financial
Management
Ethics

Program Registration will be available online at www.denveraga.org
soon, please check the website after February 7, 2011.

Rates and CPE credits available will be announced shortly.

For more information, please contact David or Sonya La Veau at
denveraga@gmail.com with “DENVER PDC 2011” in the subject line of
your email.

Make Plans Now for 5th Annual National Community Service project in New Orleans, May 3–6, 2011

By AGA Past National President Jeff Hart, CGFM, CFE

We all know that community service and helping those that are less fortunate than ourselves is an important part of what AGA is about. The dates for our 5th Annual National Community Service project in New Orleans are **May 3–6, 2011**, again sandwiched between the two weekends of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. Check out festival details at <http://www.nojazzfest.com/>. In past years, some chapters have sponsored 1 or 2 chapter members to participate in this meaningful community service event, so please again consider that as an option.

We will seek lodging in the beautiful, new University of New Orleans dormitories (some rooms are actually two bedroom furnished apartments) with a rate of only about \$30/night/person. Please let me know ASAP if you plan to join us so we can secure these inexpensive accommodations for you.

As in each of the last 2 years, we will also create a second opportunity to experience what it's like to work with Habitat in conjunction with the PDC in Atlanta. We will have a 1-day community service event with Habitat on July 14th, 2011, the day after the PDC ends. For this event, we will seek to extend AGA's special hotel rate to include this extra night. Since we have had two projects in each of the last 2 years, this will actually be our 7th National Community Service Project.

I have spoken with the Atlanta Habitat chapter, and they are prepared for as many as 120 AGA volunteers on Thursday, July 14th, 2011, the day after the Atlanta PDC. We are also seeking sponsors for this big event, so please let me know if your organization is interested.

We also plan to invite all of AGA's 100 chapters to participate in a National AGA Community Service Week from July 9-17, 2011 spanning the dates of next year's PDC, including the weekends before and after the PDC. We will encourage our chapters to partner with their local Habitat chapter (or another charitable organization in your community) and devote at least one day of service on Thursday July 14th, 2011, and/or another day during that week (or thereabouts).

In the meantime, please put May 3-6 and/or July 14, 2011 on your calendar, and send me an email right away at jeffshart@comcast.net if you plan to join us at either event. And if you have any questions or suggestions about these projects, or other good works in other locations where we may want to plan a national community service project, please email me or give me a call at 303-907-4664.



Call for Award Nominations

The AGA Board is pleased to announce the opening of the nomination period for AGA awards. A listing of awards including nomination criteria is included as an attachment to this email (2010 AGA Award Descriptions & Criteria.pdf). Nominations can be submitted on behalf of individuals or on behalf of yourself. Submissions are requested no later than **February 18, 2011** to be considered for award. The AGA Board will review the nominations and present the awards during the annual Denver AGA Professional Development Conference in the spring.

Please submit nominations to Cynthia Nickels at DenverAGA@gmail.com by **February 18** for consideration.

Include the following in your nomination:

- Title of award
- Nominee's formal name with designations (i.e. CGFM, CPA, etc.) or group name as it might appear on an award
- Nominee's title
- Nominee's current employer

Citation of nomination for use as the formal award citation, succinctly (using two or three sentences) describe the highlights of the accomplishments, particularly impact and results.

Community Service Award

An individual, group, or organization that demonstrates a deep understanding of the issues surrounding a community and is influential in his or her organization and / or in the greater community in working towards that community's betterment. Such work might revolve around culture, education, or volunteer activities.

Criteria and Evaluation: Nominees must have contributed to their community for the current program year. Provide detail in specific terms the work that justifies the nomination.

Filling the GAP

Some people are born as leaders and others have it trusted upon them. This individual has been called upon and demonstrates the ability to step into a position that has recently been vacated.

Criteria and Evaluation: Nominees must have demonstrated the ability to assume responsibility for a program or government improvement after a sudden departure of personnel. Provide detail in specific terms, the work or contribution that justifies the nomination.

Generation Award

This person has shown a great affinity for getting the younger generation of people (ages 20-35) interested in government work particularly in the field of accounting or finance.

Criteria and Evaluation: Nominees must have demonstrated the ability and willingness to engage future government accountants. This includes managers that clearly had a significant impact on government financial management or advanced the state of the art of government financial management. Provide detail in specific terms, the work or contribution that justifies the nomination.

Eyes Toward the Future

This individual or group has worked to identify and educate the accounting and governmental industry about emerging issues which have a profound effect on the work that we do.

Criteria and Evaluation: Nominees must demonstrate major contributions to advancing community involvement will be considered on a broad basis of acts, achievements or service that advanced government accountability and enhanced AGA's prestige and stature. Provide detail in specific terms, the work or contribution that justifies the nomination.

Leadership

Is an individual that demonstrates a deep understanding of the issues surrounding the governmental accounting community and is influential in his or her organization.

Criteria and Evaluation: Nominee must have demonstrated outstanding leadership sustained over a period of years both on the job and through significant contributions to the profession. Provide detail in specific terms, the work or contribution that justifies the nomination.

Distinguished Service

This individual or group has demonstrated exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a duty of great responsibility.

Criteria and Evaluation: Nominee must demonstrate major contributions to advancing community involvement on a broad basis of acts, achievements, or service that assisted in advancing government accountability and enhancing AGA's prestige and stature. Provide detail in specific terms, the work or contribution that justifies the nomination.

Jim Herbic, **Emerging Issues**

“ ‘Til Pay Free Do Us Part”

Yes, I am married to my job. Sort of, kind of. I think there was a ceremony even. My employer is the Department of Defense after all so I know there was something formal. I'm pretty sure I even said "I do" at some point. And I kind of thought 'til death do us part might apply. But it seems something far more important has reared its ugly head for government employees. **PAY**

It's Freezing



FREEZE!

President Obama signed an executive order December 22, 2010 implementing a two-year federal employee pay freeze only a day after Congress approved continuing resolution legislation including his freeze proposal. He also directed agency heads who have statutory authority to exercise administrative discretion in establishing executive branch pay schedules not to use that authority during the pay freeze through December 31, 2012.

As the old saying goes, "When it rains it pours". A recent article in GovExec, (January 20, 2011) discusses The 2011 Spending Reduction Act planned to be introduced in Congress January 24, 2011. Sponsored by three Republican congressmen, it promises to reduce government spending \$2.5 trillion dollars over 10 years by reducing current spending to fiscal year 2008 levels and then freezing budgets at fiscal year 2006 levels. It includes provisions to reduce the federal civilian workforce by 15% through attrition, eliminate automatic pay increases for 5 years, and limit hiring to one new employee for each two that leave.



So, what happened? How did we go from recent years concerted efforts to achieve parity between federal and private compensation rates, to suddenly freezing our pay? Obviously, the severe economic crisis in 2008 into 2009 played a part, especially high unemployment levels in the private sector. Suddenly, in 2010 studies and polls regarding federal employment began to appear. The Heritage Foundation released a report in July 2010 based on an analysis of existing data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Bureau of Economic Analysis. It found, even after adjusting for factors such as age, skill level and education, federal employees earned 30 percent to 40 percent more in total compensation -- including wages and benefits -- than private sector workers in comparable jobs.

In the study, a Heritage senior policy analyst in labor economics, James Sherk stated:

"The different skills and characteristics of federal employees only partially explain these higher cash wages" But he went on to say:

"Congress should not cut federal pay across the board -- this would unfairly penalize the federal workers who earn market wages"

According to the Heritage report, bringing federal compensation in line with private sector compensation would save taxpayers approximately \$47 billion in 2011.

In November 2010, a new analysis from *USA Today* found that twice as many federal employees are earning \$150,000 than just two years ago. According to the report, based on data from the Office of Personnel Management, highly-paid staff increased at every agency. The Defense Department has 994 workers currently earning at least \$170,000 compared to just nine in 2005.

In November 2010, the presidential debt commission's recommendation to downsize the federal payroll by 10 percent during the next decade won a landslide two-thirds approval from voters, according to a poll. The proposal, which the commission's draft plan claimed would eliminate roughly 200,000 positions and save \$13.2 billion, garnered 66 percent of respondents in favor, with 22 percent opposed and 12 percent unsure, according to the Rasmussen Reports poll.

All of these findings came as Republicans prepared to take over the House. GOP lawmakers pledged to cut spending on the federal workforce through measures like pay and hiring freezes.

There were balancing views for Congress to consider. The President's pay panel (DOL, OPM, and OMB) reported that the federal government contains more higher-paying occupations and jobs that require greater qualifications than the private sector generally. For example:



- 44 percent of the federal work force consists of professionals and managers, while these groups consist of only 32 percent of the private sector;
 - 43 percent of the federal work force has a bachelor's degree, while only 28 percent of the private sector does;
 - the average age of employees in the federal work force is 45, while the average age in the private sector is 40; and,
- 60 percent of federal employees have served their nation for 15 or more years, signifying more on-the-job experience than the average private-sector employee.

Howard Risher, an independent compensation and performance management consultant, felt for federal employees to see no boost would be unprecedented. He said "To say we're going to freeze salaries where they are -- when no one has considered the consequences for agency staffing or performance, a blanket freeze could be costly."

Overall federal attrition remains low, but agencies could face a number of challenges if the pay freeze prompts workers to consider retiring or leaving for the private sector, according to a report from the nonprofit Partnership for Public Service and consultant firm Booz Allen Hamilton. "There's some evidence to suggest the 'go decision' is often based on the tangibles at work, things like pay and physical working conditions," said Ron Sanders, former chief human capital officer at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and currently a senior executive adviser with Booz Allen Hamilton. "The stay decision is often based on intangibles, things like the relationship to a boss and coworkers and a strong connection to the agency's mission and its culture.

Obviously, Congress has not been swayed by those views based on the legislation passed and new legislation pending. This emerging issue of federal work force compensation and reduction will be with us for years to come. Time will tell if " 'Til pay freeze do us part" will become a prevalent theme.

Source Credit: Much of the information herein was derived from past articles in Federal Computer Week (<http://fcw.com>) and Government Executive (<http://governmentexecutive.com>).

AGA Denver Chapter Officers and Directors for 2010-2011

<u>Elected Officer Positions</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>
PRESIDENT	Jeremy Cockrum	GAO	Jeremy4779@gmail.com	303-667-0043
PRES-ELECT	David LaVeau	FWS	david_laveau@fws.gov	303-984-6803
VP-PDC (co-chair)	Sonya LaVeau	Hein & Associates	slaveau@heincpa.com	303-601-4965
VP-PDC (co-chair)	David LaVeau	FWS	david_laveau@fws.gov	303-984-6803
VP-COMMUNICATIONS	Eric Johnson	Office of the State Auditor	Eric.johnson@state.co.us	303-869-2854
VP-PROGRAMS	Deb Cottrell	GAO	cottrelld@gao.gov	303-572-7345
SECRETARY	Donna Piazza	NBC	donna_d_piazza@nbc.gov	303-236-0330
TREASURER	Brad Gunther	City/County of Denver	Brad.Gunther@Denvergov.org	303-446-3493
<u>Appointed Board Positions</u>				
DIR- AWARDS	Cynthia Nickels	Price Waterhouse	Cynthia.nickels@us.pwc.com	720-931-7687
DIR- CGFM PROGRAMS	David O'Farrell	Boulder	ofarrelld@bouldercolorado.gov	303-441-3871
DIR- COMMUNITY SERVICE	Kari Vernon	FWS	kari_vernon@fws.gov	303-984-6807
DIR- EARLY CAREERS	Leslie Peabody	BLM	Leslie_peabody@blm.gov	303-236-6329
DIR- EDUCATION	Cheri Frazell	FWS	Cheri_frazell@fws.gov	303-984-6845
DIR- EMERGING ISSUES	James Herbic	DoD OIG	james.herbic@dodig.mil	303- 676-3280
DIR- MEMBERSHIP	Miriam Smith	A Resource	A_resource@msn.com	720-273-6697
DIR-PUBLICITIY	VACANT			
DIR-RECOGNITION	Donna Piazza	NBC	donna_d_piazza@nbc.gov	303-236-0330
DIR-SCHOLARSHIPS	Carol Hopper	BLM	carol_hooper@blm.gov	303-236-6635
DIR-EMPLOYMENT	Debra Clark		Debraclark73@hotmail.com	303-371-0850
DIR-AGENCY COORDINATION	Porscha S. Minor	NBC	porscha_s_minor@nbc.gov	303-969-7277
DIR- INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS	Porscha S. Minor	NBC	porscha_s_minor@nbc.gov	303-969-7277
Webmaster	Karl Greve	Colorado PERA	kgreve@copera.org	303-837-6218
<u>Other Leadership Members</u>				
Past Regional Vice President	Karla GomezMeyer	City/County of Denver	Karla.Gomez-Meyer@ci.denver.co.us	720-913-1544
Past Regional Vice President	Glen Struempf	Retired	grscdfm@comcast.net	303-627-8446
Past National President	Jeff Hart	Retired	jeffshart@comcast.net	303-777-8728

IF YOU HAVE ANY NOTICES YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE POSTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE E-MAIL THEM TO THE AGA E-MAIL ADDRESS:

DenverAGA@gmail.com