



**Association of
Government Accountants**
Denver Chapter



www.denveraga.org

May 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS:

JUNE 8

Audio conference on internal controls. *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.*

JULY 30

Community service event with Extreme Community Makeover. *See details inside.*

TBD (sometime this summer)

Denver chapter social event at the Rockies! *Watch for more 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
April 4, 2011

Name	Title	Present	Via Phone
Jeremy Cockrum	President		
David La Veau	President-Elect & Vice President – PDC (co-chair)		X
Sonya La Veau	Vice President - PDC (co-chair)		X
Deb Cotrell	Vice President - Programs		X
Eric Johnson	Vice President - Communications		X
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		X
Cheri Frazell	Director of Education		
James Herbic	Director of Emerging Issues		
Debra Clark	Director of Employment		
Porscha S Minor	Director of Agency Coordination & Director of Intergovernmental Relations		
Miriam Smith	Director of Membership		
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: Leslie Peabody made motion to accept and Deb Cotrell made a second motion. Minutes from March 7, 2011 were accepted as submitted.

3. Committee Reports-

a. President's Report- Jeremy Cockrum,

b. President Elect – David La Veau,

c. Communications/Newsletter – Eric Johnson, Eric reports he plans to publish the next news letter in May. Please send all articles and information to him by the 15th of May. He will send out an e-mail for Deb on the 14th at the Lucky Strike night of bowling.

d. PDC Co-Chair – Sonya La Veau and David La Veau, reports they have finalized the agenda and David will be sending an e-mail tomorrow. Roland is scheduled for Wednesday from 9-9:55 Am. 50 people have confirmed, they have received all of the swag from national. If anyone is able to arrive early to the PDC to help stuff bags and set up that would be appreciated.

e. Programs – Deb Cottrell, Deb reports the next event will be at the Lucky Strike in Belmar, April 14th. She is looking at hosting 30 people. She has reserved five lanes from 6-9. The thought is to provide two or three games, shoes, and two drinks. There may be enough money to buy a couple of trays.

f. Chapter Secretary and Recognition - Donna Piazza, reports she submitted the Chapter Recognition Report through March. Please see attachment. The next and final submission for this fiscal year is due the end of May. She reported that she will not be able to attend the May meeting if it is held on the 2nd. She asked the Board if anyone would be able to take the minutes. David said worse case he will take the minutes.

g. Treasurer – Brad Gunther, reported he plans to wait for the PDC to wrap up before submitting the credit card transactions to help avoid having to make refunds. He gave the credit card information to the person at Lucky Strike. Brad has not received the bill for 240 Union. David said he will call the owner to follow-up. Leslie will get with Kari for the lock box key as she drives by the post office often. Brad inquired about paying half to the City of Denver for the event they hosted.

h. Agency Coordination and Intergovernmental Relations - Porscha Minor,

i. Awards – Cynthia Nickels, reports she has two nominations and all board members. Please let her know if anyone would like to nominate someone.

j. CGFM Programs – David O'Farrell

k. Director for Community Service – Kari Vernon,

l. Director of Early Careers – Leslie Peabody, reports she plans to co-host the Lucky strike night out and will go by the Dollar store to pick up some fun gifts. She mentioned this event is not on the calendar of the website. Brad said he will send an e-mail to Karl Greve. The \$50.00 gift card leftover from the February luncheon will go to the PDC to use for a drawing.

m. Education – Cheri Frazell,

n. Emerging Issues- James Herbic,

o. Membership – Miriam Smith,

p. Publicity – open

q Scholarships – Carol Hooper, Carol reports she has not received anything on the CGFM e-mail she sent out. She plans to make announcements at the PDC. If anyone has any suggestions please let her know.

r. Director for Employment – Debra Clark,

s. Webmaster – Karl Greve,

t. Regional Officer’s Report

RVP - Glen Struempf,

Past National President – Jeff Hart,

5. Next meeting: May 2, 2011

6. Adjournment: There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 6:07 PM

7. Submitted: Respectfully by Donna Piazza, Secretary



Upcoming CPE Events

June 8th – Improving Controls Can Improve Program Performance (2 CPEs!!)

AGA is pleased to announce a new and increasingly important topic to our audio conference schedule—the role that internal controls play in improving agency performance.

Establishing and maintaining effective internal controls are key factors for managing risk while improving operational efficiency and effectiveness. Many government agencies are making progress on improving controls, but are hampered by limited resources and the proliferation of requirements.

This audio conference focuses on how some agencies are meeting this challenge. Participants will gain insight into the methodologies, solutions and tools available to enable agencies to more effectively and efficiently assess entity-wide risks, evaluate internal controls, improve processes, comply with government requirements, and achieve agency program goals and business objectives.

To share their expert knowledge and practical experience in internal controls are Kathy Hill, director, Risk Management and Compliance, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Rory Souther, chief, Office of Resource Management,

U.S. Coast Guard.

Please join us for two hours of lively discussion about this important and timely topic. In addition to the speakers' commentary, about 20 minutes will be set aside for questions.

Time: 11:00 Check-in and lunch with the call starting at 12–2:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time.

Learning Objectives: To understand how government agencies can improve operations by balancing good internal controls, risks, mandates and agency goals.

Prerequisite: None required

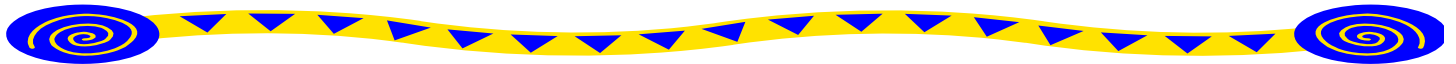
Advance Prep: None required

CPE: Two credit hours

Field of Study: Auditing

This audio conference offers important information to almost everyone in the accountability profession. Please share this program announcement with others in your government, chapters, educational institutions and private firms.

- **REGISTRATION:** Please RSVP to Donna Piazza at denveraga@gmail.com by June 2, 2011.



Influence your Profession

This is your chance to help your professional community shape the next several years of policies and procedures. AGA's 17th annual survey of government financial professionals is now under way and we invite you to take part. This year's survey covers the topics of risk management, tight budgets and financial reporting. We would appreciate 5 minutes of your busy schedule to give our input. You can take the survey now at: www.surveygizmo.com/s/441755/2011-cfo-survey

Join * Learn * Connect

The Denver Chapter of AGA is organizing for the next fiscal year. We need your help by joining the Board or leading one of our committees which are forming now. Your input will make our services more useful and targeted. We also need your help reaching out to non-members in our profession. Please consider how your input on the following topics, to name a few, could bring your membership value. With increasing demands for openness in government activities comes a responsibility to run government programs with the best tools and guidance available and the Denver AGA would like to be a source of information and a tool in your toolbox for growth.

- Building a powerful professional network as a critical tool in career success.
- Managing your career path in the federal, state, local and private sectors.
- How is effectiveness in the workplace determined by communications style and skills?
- Subject areas focusing on all aspects of government performance, including compliance, internal controls, risk, strategic planning, performance reporting and continuity of operations.
- And other topics

And as a reminder, if you haven't renewed yet, there are three ways to renew or join through our website www.agacgfm.org under the heading of "Join Now".

25th Annual Denver Professional Development Conference a Resounding Success!

The 25th annual Denver AGA PDC was held at the Inverness Hotel on April 19th and 20th, 2011.

Thanks to all the sponsors Hein & Associates, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Kearney & Company, Becker, and A Resources; it is with your support that we were able to host such a successful event!

The presenters were excellent and there was a wide variety of topics discussed. The event started with "Governmental Fraud" where Dr. Johnnie presented his theory of the three D's of Fraud. There was also a presentation on Conflict Resolution in the Work Place which included an analysis of conflict personality traits, and how to make the best of an uncomfortable interaction. Attendees were challenged by Sarah Imhof from the Concord Coalition with an exercise on balancing the budget. This exercise was a great team project; and I believe it opened the eyes of many people who participated. Evie Barry, a representative from National, Association of Government Accountants presented on Citizen Centric Reporting; she shared with us the City and County of Denver's report. This sort of reporting seems to be gaining quite a bit of momentum nationally. To read more on National's efforts in this arena, please visit:

<http://www.agacgfm.org/citizen/>. Thanks to all the presenters we appreciate you sharing your knowledge and time with us!

There were drawings for several books donated by Kearney and Company and another for the agency with the most registrants... It was an exciting time indeed!

We were also able to gather some food and funds that were donated to the Food Bank of the Rockies. Several of the presenters donated instead of receiving a presenter's gifts. Thanks to all who contributed to the food drive!

We appreciate all who took the time to attend this year, and hope to see you all again next spring!

If you would like to help the AGA keep the CPE trainings offered interesting and applicable; please send us suggestions for presenters and/or topics to denveraga@gmail.com. We would also love to hear from anyone who would be interested in volunteering...



Denver Board Members Attend Sectional Leadership Meeting

On May 12- 14, 2011 four members of the AGA Denver Chapter attended the annual Sectional Leadership Meeting (SLM) in Dallas Texas. The officers that attended were David LaVeau, President Elect; Sonya LaVeau, PDC- CO chair; Miriam Smith, Director of Membership; and Kari Vernon, Director of Community Service. Conference attendees included individuals from all over the western United States including Hawaii, and Guam. There were also, Department of Defense (DOD) representatives from foreign assignments. The SLM provides an opportunity for chapter officers to attend training on how to lead the chapter, and for the AGA national staff to inform chapter leaders of new initiatives.

Some new initiatives of note include a new emphasis on accountability and performance. Each chapter will now have an Accountability Outreach Director. Their responsibilities will include promoting AGA's performance and accountability programs to chapter members and the community. AGA has three accountability performance programs Certificate of Excellence in Accountability (CLEAR) federal government focus, Certificate of Achievement in Service Efforts and Accomplishments Report Review Program (SEA) state and local focus, and Citizen Centric Government Initiative.

Furthermore, in an effort to provide training on performance during a time when governments are most concerned with providing services at a lower cost and more efficiently, this year AGA will provide six audio conferences about performance in addition to twelve audio conferences on topics such as the CFO Act, fraud, auditing, internal controls, and ethics. In addition, AGA will continue to pilot webinars such as the one held in May titled "Managing the Brand of YOU".

Finally, the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) designation is gaining momentum as DOD and the Department of Veteran Affairs will adopt the CGFM as their certification standard. Plus, in the next few months the national website will undergo an update to make it more user friendly. As you can see, there are many fun and exciting things happening within the AGA this coming year!!



CGFM Scholarship Winners!!

The Denver AGA Board is pleased to announce that scholarships have been awarded to three individuals to help them complete their CGFM certifications:

Nancy Schnarr, Public Works Administration, City and County of Denver

James Taurman, Office of the State Auditor

Kari Vernon, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The scholarships are based on successfully passing the CGFM test. Congratulations to all the winners!!

AGA Community Service Event with Extreme Community Makeover



Date: July 30, 2011

Time: 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Location: Stapleton Rec Ctr

5090 Broadway Street

Denver, CO 80216

We will be working on outdoor projects in the Globeville Neighborhood. Family and friends are welcome. See

www.extremecommunitymakeover.org

to learn more about ECM.

Contact Kari Vernon 303-984-6807 or denveraga@gmail.com by July 8th to participate.



The Denver AGA Board is pleased to pass along the following information about one of our fellow accountability organizations AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials):

What: 2011 AASHTO Subcommittee on Internal/External Audit

When: July 24-27, 2011

Where: Grand Hyatt, 1750 Welton Street, Denver

18 CPE Hours

See www.regonline.com/aashto2011 for more information.

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 Hooper	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