



# Association of Government Accountants

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## Denver Chapter



[www.denveraga.org](http://www.denveraga.org)

APRIL 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**MAY 19 AUDIO -  
CONFERENCE**

**Those Faint Signals: Learning to  
Catch Ethical Slippage Before  
It's Too Late**

**JUNE AGA MEETING**

**Date and Time TBA**

**JUNE 14 -15**

**ACFE 2010 ANNUAL FRAUD  
TRAINING SEMINAR**

**Details Inside**

**JULY 11-14, 2010**

**AGA's 59<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Professional Development  
Conference & Exposition**

**ORLANDO, FLORIDA**

*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.*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Hello Denver AGA members!

I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather and sunnier days now that Spring has officially sprung!

The big recent news for our chapter was the holding of our annual Professional Development Conference (PDC) last month. I was very pleased with the program and the turnout and hope those that attended also found the program to be valuable. I particularly liked that we were able to provide breakout sessions that focused more specifically on federal and state/local topics. We will be sending out a survey soon to get feedback from participants. Please let us know what you liked and did not like about the 2010 PDC, so that we can make the 2011 PDC even better.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to once again thank Cheri Frazell and Kari Grimshaw, who co-chaired the 2010 PDC, for all their hard work. Putting together a conference is an enormous task, and I really appreciated Cheri and Kari's dedication, perseverance, and grace under pressure in making the PDC a success. I just wish we could convince them to do it again in 2011! I would also like to thank the other board members who helped Cheri and Kari organize the PDC, particularly LaVerle Kepler, Brad Gunther, and Doug Griffin.

For the remainder of the current program year (which runs from July-June), we intend to resume the monthly meetings in May. Please be on the lookout for details in the next few weeks. I look forward to seeing you there!

--Eric Johnson

(NOTE: Jeremy wrote this for the last news letter, but we felt it was important enough to run it again)

## **Call to Service –** **Experience the Benefits of** **Serving on the AGA Denver Board**

By: Jeremy Cockrum

It is time for you to make a difference! AGA Denver is now accepting nominations for our next board, which will begin service on July 1, 2010. I invite you to serve regardless of how long, if at all, you have been an AGA member or been employed in the accountability profession. Actually, the benefits of serving on our board will prove especially fruitful if you are new to Denver, new to AGA, early in your career, or thinking of a career change. Following are just a few of the key benefits you will experience from serving on the board.

- Build leadership skills
  - You may be invited to attend the National AGA National Leadership Conference or Sectional Leadership Conference, all expenses paid.
  - Ability to influence the structure and organization of our annual professional development conference.
  - Create, lead and manage projects that benefit members and fulfill our mission.
- Networking
  - Opportunity to attend regional and national AGA conferences.
  - Unique, one-on-one face time with officials from academia, the private sector, and local, state, and federal government. Many of these individuals are, or have easy access to, major decision makers in their organization.
- Make an Impact on the Accountability Profession
  - You will have a voice in the decision making process. For example, you will have the opportunity to recommend training, events, and projects that AGA Denver provides to members and nonmembers.

For the full list of board positions, please visit <http://www.denveraga.org/roster.html>. Please contact me if you are up for the challenge or if you would like to nominate someone to serve in any of these positions.

Jeremy Cockrum – 303-572-7342 or [cockrumj@gao.gov](mailto:cockrumj@gao.gov)

**AGA Denver Chapter  
Board of Directors Meeting  
April 12, 2010**

**1. Call to Order:** 5:40 PM

**2. BOD Attendees:** President- Eric Johnson, Treasurer- Doug Griffin, Chapter Secretary - Donna Piazza, Employment-Brad Gunther  
Via phone: President Elect – Jeremy Cockrum and PDC Co-Chair- Cheri Frazell

**3. Approval of Minutes:** Discussed that the topic at the March meeting was last minute details and finalizing for the PDC. Minutes were not taken.

**4. Committee Reports-**

**a. President's Report- Eric Johnson,** Habitat for Humanity, the only Volunteer is Debra Clark. We would like to pay \$500.00 toward her trip – no objections. We have two month's left and need speakers' for the monthly meetings. Board decided to not have a meeting in April, go with the audio conference for May, and decide next month on whether to hold a meeting in June or wait till July. Eric reported he has met with an interested person to sit on the Board and has on his schedule to meet with another.

**b. President Elect – Jeremy Cockrum,** asked if the Board can still use the conference room in Eric's building for meeting during the next year. Eric suggests seeking out an alternate location. Jeremy reports he has started the recruiting process for next years Board and will e-mail a list of candidates to the Board.

**c. PDC Co-Chair - Cheri Frazell/Kari Grimshaw,** We all congratulated Cheri and Kari on their superb effort on and wonderful completion of the PDC. Congrats and thank you!!! Cheri is still working on getting the CPE's out. She will send Doug the receipts for expenses. Congratulations to Kari on her wedding.

**d. Chapter Secretary - Donna Piazza,** discussed the Chapter Recognition Report and provided samples of items we could work on, see "recognition". She will send a scanned copy of third quarter's report out later. She will forward L.C. Williams information to Eric as a Speaker prospect.

**e. Treasurer – Doug Griffin,** detailed what he had as he has not picked up the bank statement for reconciliation. He estimates an income of \$12,000.00 from the PDC. More to follow.

**f. Recognition – Donna Piazza,** mentioned the Chapter Recognition, and some of the "point" requirements are:

Pg.2 Annual audit/review of chapter finances conducted. The Auditor or reviewer should be independent of the Treasurer and the finance and executive committees. Submitted to the National office within 90 days after close of chapter's fiscal year, 200 pts.

Pg. 3 Annual report of accomplishments and service to members within 90 days of chapter's year end. The report should include at a minimum, education provided (e.g. total number of CPE's provided) CGFM, membership, community service and early career activities during the program year. 200 if we submit to RVP, SVPRS, national office and chapter executive committee. 150 if we communicate to members via web, newsletter etc.

Pg. 4 Register our chapter with our state board of accountancy, 150.

Pg. 5 Submit outstanding speaker info to AGA's education department, 25/per.

Pg. 5 Publish and distribute a training calendar brochure to the membership, 250, market the brochure to the government accountability community 50 more

Pg. 6 Post chapter educational events to AGA's events calendar, 25 per event

Pg. 6 Publish CGFM members achievements in newsletter and local newspapers, 25 per

**g. Director for Employment - Brad Gunther,** He has received many job links and keeps posting them to Denver's website.

**5. Next meeting:** May 3, 2010

**6. Adjournment:** There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 6:15 PM

**7. Submitted:** Respectfully by Donna Piazza, Secretary

**MAY 19, 2010, AUDIOCONFERENCE**



**Those Faint Signals:**

## **Learning to Catch Ethical Slippage Before It's Too Late**

**2 CPE Hours Available!**

AGA, in conjunction with the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT) and the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA), is pleased to announce a new and increasingly important topic to our audio conference schedule – cases of ethical lapses.

During this audio conference, the presenter will recount some recent ethical lapses in government and examine the causes and effects. By examining a series of ethical lapses, we find that a pattern emerges. That pattern allows us to think about this question: What is it in the culture of an agency that allows obvious ethical breaches to occur and continue? Once we understand the culture, we can think about putting the detection methods, as well as antidotes, in place.

The compliance training, the codes, and all those easily measurable components of ethical culture may not tell the full story. Without the full story, we can never be sure that we are catching all those gradual slips. The full story requires consideration of factors that are not easily placed into dashboard measures. The presenter takes a look at some of the faint signals which appear long before the ethical troubles emerge.

To share her expertise in ethical behavior and its ramifications is **Marianne M. Jennings**, JD, Professor in the Department of Management in the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University (ASU). At ASU, Marianne teaches graduate courses in the MBA program in business ethics and the legal environment of business. Professor Jennings has authored hundreds of articles and has six textbooks and monographs in circulation. Marianne's latest book, *The Seven Signs of Ethical Collapse*, was published by St. Martin's Press in July 2006. She has conducted more than 300 workshops and seminars in the areas of business, personal, government, legal, academic and professional ethics. Among her many awards and honors, Marianne was inducted into the AGA Speakers' Hall of Fame and also received a writers' award for best article in AGA's *Journal of Government Financial Management*.

Please join us for two hours of lively discussion about this important and timely topic. In addition to the speaker's commentary, there will be approximately 20 minutes for Q & A so that the participants can ask the speaker questions and share their own experiences.

**Learning Objectives:** To understand how ethical breaches are influenced by agency culture, what are the key signs of ethical slips and what can be done to prevent such occurrences in the first place.

**Prerequisite:** Familiarity with ethical behavior in the workplace.

**Advance Prep:** None required

**CPE:** Two credits

**Field of Study:** Behavioral Ethics\*

\* Please note that this course qualifies for continuing professional education credits under NASBA; however, the material provided in this audio conference is general in nature and not specific to any laws or rules of any specific state. Therefore, please check with your State Board of Accountancy if you have any questions regarding the CPE eligibility of this course.

**MAY 2010**

**DENVER CHAPTER AGA**

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**CONFERENCE**



By all accounts, the Denver Chapter AGA PDC was a big success. There were over 70 people registered to attend the conference, and we still ran out of room. The speakers covered a wide variety of topics that seemed to appeal to the attendees.



KUDOS to Cheri Frazell and Kari Grimshaw for all of their hard work in getting this set up with such a wide variety speakers and topics.

The chapter would also like to thank PWC for sponsoring the breakfasts both mornings. We didn't hear any complaints about the food either, which is a coup in itself.



The chapter will be sending out a survey in the near future to everyone who attended. We would appreciate everyone's feedback, so please take the time to fill it out.

We've added a couple of pictures to this article, but all the pictures will be uploaded to the Denver Chapter AGA website soon.

## Why Earn the CGFM?

### The Certified Government Financial Manager

The Mark of Excellence in Federal, State and Local Government.

[Why Earn the CGFM?](#)

[CGFM News](#)

Since its inception in 1994, the CGFM has become the standard by which government financial management professionals are measured. Its [education](#), [experience](#) and [ethics requirements](#) have served to elevate the most seasoned financial professionals.

More than 14,000 individuals have received the designation so far. Now it's your turn. Experience the benefits of certification first hand—the CGFM is the mark of excellence in your profession. We look forward to adding your name to our distinguished list of Certified Government Financial Managers.

***The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the employment of accountants and auditors is expected to grow 18 percent between 2006 and 2016, which is faster than the average of all occupations. Accountants and auditors that hold a college degree or any other certification will have the best job prospects.***

### Give Yourself an Edge Over Your Competitors

Recent research has shown that employers attribute their recruiting difficulties to a shortage of qualified professionals. Give yourself a competitive advantage by showing your commitment to lifelong learning. You need a credential that shows you are qualified and have the skills to lead. The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) does this like no other credential.

The CGFM is the first certification broad enough to cover the whole field of government financial management—federal, state and local. It measures a wide range of knowledge and skills that a professional needs to succeed in the federal government financial environment, or to meet the unique challenges faced by state and local government financial managers.

***"In today's complex and changing world, a professional certification provides prospective employers with a degree of confidence that candidates are prepared for the real world." —John Radford, CGFM, State Controller, State of Oregon***

### Value and Recognition of the CGFM Credential

The foundation of the CGFM is the requirement for Education, Experience and Examination. Building on this foundation is a [Code of Ethics](#) and required Continuing Professional Education (CPE).

This designation is already recognized as a professional standard. Each year, more and more federal agencies and state and local governments are realizing the value of the CGFM and are formally embracing the designation. It is often listed as a preferred hiring qualification on federal RFPs. The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Board of Regents has also recognized the CGFM. It is accepted as a waiver for part IV of the CIA examination.

### Toward the Future

The challenge facing today's government financial managers is to keep up with the changing times. New innovations, new regulations and new methods of implementation require staying abreast of the latest developments.

AGA presents a dynamic program of educational events every year that will expand your knowledge and sharpen your skills.

The field of government financial management will be far different tomorrow from what it is today. Having a broad knowledge and a recognized professional designation will be the way to distinguish yourself from the crowd.

There's no time like the present for joining the thousands of other leaders in government financial management who already have discovered the unique value and benefit of the CGFM designation.

***"In the aftermath of the accounting scandals, professional certification is even more important to ensure that accountants' credentials and knowledge of ethics are sound. Regardless of specialty, accountants and auditors who have earned professional recognition through certification or licensure should have the best job prospects." —Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-2009 Edition***

THIS NOTICE CAME FROM SUSAN M RAINY BILER, PRES., HEARTLAND CHAPTER ACFE

**Heartland Chapter ACFE 2010 Annual Fraud Training Seminar  
June 14-15  
Mid-America Center, Council Bluffs, IA**

There will be eight hours of training on ethics on day one, and eight hours on digital forensic tools and techniques on day two. You will receive 16 CPE hours for attending this seminar.

We have an exciting lineup this year:

James Reese, PhD – With 25 years experience as an FBI "Mind Hunter," Dr. Reese is an internationally know, award-winning authority in the areas of leadership, stress management, violence, motivation, criminal profiling, ethics, and more. He has provided expert testimony before Congress and addressed the President of the United States' Council on Integrity and Efficiency.

Jim Butterworth – As an expert in cyber security with over 14 years of experience, Jim is uniquely qualified to address digital forensic techniques, including relevant case law, the pros and cons of forensic software tools, and obtaining forensics from cell phones, PDA's, and other digital storage devices.

James Ratley, CFE is the President of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. He has won numerous awards, including the 2005 Crissey Award.

This year, your registration includes continental breakfast and lunch both days. **SIGN UP TODAY!** Registration for both days is \$189 for Heartland ACFE members, or \$214 for non-members. If you join now for \$20, you'll save five dollars on your reservation. **Seating is limited, so reserve your spot today.**

Sign up on-line at [www.heartlandCFE.com/Upcoming\\_Events](http://www.heartlandCFE.com/Upcoming_Events)

Or go to [www.heartlandCFE.com/About\\_Us](http://www.heartlandCFE.com/About_Us)

to print a registration form and sign up by mail.

Now, I've had questions about a one-day rate, and group discounts. We've never done this for the seminar before, but you now have two opportunities to save:

If you only want to attend one day, you can. The one day registration is \$125 for Heartland ACFE members, and \$150 for non-members.

If you register five people to attend, the sixth person is free. (If non-members and members attend together, the free registration will apply to a member.)

To take advantage of these discounts, you'll have to register by mail. For groups, I'll need one registration form for each person attending. And, if you're only attending one day, please indicate what day you plan on attending (we need to know how many we'll have for lunch each day).

If you have any more questions, I'm more than happy to help you. Call me at 402-982-8676. Or e-mail me at [susan.rainey-biler@bcbsne.com](mailto:susan.rainey-biler@bcbsne.com). I hope to see you at the Mid-America Center for this exciting seminar.

Susan M. Rainey Biler

President, Heartland Chapter ACFE

P.S. Remember the available seats are filling up fast, so register today

## AGA Denver Chapter Officers and Directors for 2009-2010

<u>Elected Officer Positions</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>
PRESIDENT	Eric Johnson	Colorado State Auditor	<a href="mailto:eric.johnson@state.co.us">eric.johnson@state.co.us</a>	303-869-2854
PRES-ELECT	Jeremy Cockrum	GAO	<a href="mailto:cockrumj@gao.gov">cockrumj@gao.gov</a>	303-572-7342
VP-PDC (co-chair)	Cheri Frazell	DOI-FWS	<a href="mailto:Cheri_Frazell@fws.gov">Cheri_Frazell@fws.gov</a>	303-984-6845
VP-PDC (co-chair)	Kari Grimshaw	FWS	<a href="mailto:Kari_Grimshaw@fws.gov">Kari_Grimshaw@fws.gov</a>	303-984-6807
VP-COMMUNICATIONS	LaVerle Kepler	NBC	<a href="mailto:laverle_e_kepler@nbc.gov">laverle_e_kepler@nbc.gov</a>	303-969-7421
VP-PROGRAMS	Gwenna Zacchini	DOI-MMS	<a href="mailto:Gwenna.Zacchini@mms.gov">Gwenna.Zacchini@mms.gov</a>	303-231-3513
SECRETARY	Donna Piazza	NBC	<a href="mailto:donna_d_piazza@nbc.gov">donna_d_piazza@nbc.gov</a>	303-236-0330
TREASURER	Doug Griffin	DOL	<a href="mailto:dgriffin@ix.netcom.com">dgriffin@ix.netcom.com</a>	720-264-3235
<b><u>Appointed Board Positions</u></b>				
DIR- AWARDS	Jennifer Leone	GAO	<a href="mailto:leonej@gao.gov">leonej@gao.gov</a>	303-572-7346
DIR- CGFM PROGRAMS	David O'Farrell	Boulder	<a href="mailto:ofarrelld@bouldercolorado.gov">ofarrelld@bouldercolorado.gov</a>	303-441-3871
DIR- COMMUNITY SERVICE	Debra Clark		<a href="mailto:debraclark73@hotmail.com">debraclark73@hotmail.com</a>	303-437-9199
DIR- EARLY CAREERS	VACANT			
DIR- EDUCATION	VACANT			
DIR- EMERGING ISSUES	James Herbic	DoD OIG	<a href="mailto:james.herbic@dodig.mil">james.herbic@dodig.mil</a>	303- 676-3280
DIR- MEMBERSHIP	Miriam Banach	DOI-MMS	<a href="mailto:miriam.banach@mms.gov">miriam.banach@mms.gov</a>	303-231-3231
DIR-PUBLICITIY	VACANT			
DIR-RECOGNITION	VACANT			
DIR-SCHOLARSHIPS	Debra Haynes	City/County of Denver	<a href="mailto:Debra.Haynes@ci.denver.co.us">Debra.Haynes@ci.denver.co.us</a>	720-913-6336
DIR-EMPLOYMENT	Brad Gunther	City/County of Denver	<a href="mailto:Brad.Gunther@Denvergov.org">Brad.Gunther@Denvergov.org</a>	303-446-3493
DIR-AGENCY COORDINATION	Jennifer Leone	GAO	<a href="mailto:leonej@gao.gov">leonej@gao.gov</a>	303-572-7346
DIR- INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS	James Herbic	DoD OIG	<a href="mailto:james.herbic@dodig.mil">james.herbic@dodig.mil</a>	303- 676-3280
Webmaster	Karl Greve	Colorado PERA	<a href="mailto:kgreve@copera.org">kgreve@copera.org</a>	303-837-6218
<b><u>Other Leadership Members</u></b>				
Past Regional Vice President	Karla GomezMeyer	City/County of Denver	<a href="mailto:Karla.Gomez-Meyer@ci.denver.co.us">Karla.Gomez-Meyer@ci.denver.co.us</a>	720-913-1544
Regional Vice President	Glen Struempf	Retired	<a href="mailto:grscdfm@comcast.net">grscdfm@comcast.net</a>	303-627-8446
Past National President	Jeff Hart	EPA	<a href="mailto:Hart.Jeff@epamail.epa.gov">Hart.Jeff@epamail.epa.gov</a>	303-312-6169

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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