

**Association of  
Government Accountants**  
**Denver Chapter**

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



April 2006

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Ah!! Spring is finally here. Your officers and I hope you had a successful winter season and are looking forward to the warming weather ahead.

Our year is winding down. There's two more events in the year before summer, the Professional Development Conference on April 19-20, 2006, and the Awards Banquet in May. Your officer's and I hope to see you at both events.

The March meeting on March 1, 2006 was a very successful meeting. The theme of this meeting was "THE IMPLICATIONS OF SARBANES-OXLEY FOR THE FUTURE OF THE AUDITING PROFESSION". Read the write-up on this meeting in this newsletter.

The Professional Development Conference is quickly approaching. The theme of this year's conference is "MANAGING CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING ". Sixteen (16) CPEs will be given at the conference. The dates are April 19-20, 2006. Get the registration form and agenda at [www.denveraga.org](http://www.denveraga.org). Get your application in by Aril 1, 2006 to receive the best value for the conference. This will be a very informative conference.

**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 (CONTINUED):**

The National Professional Development Conference will be held on June 18-21, 2006 in San Diego, California. 25 CPE will be given at this training. There are six different educational tracks being given at this conference. San Diego is a great town. There's lots of things to do, tourist-wise. Also, this is a great opportunity to meet AGAers from around the world. To get information, and the registration form, about the national PDC, log on to the national AGA website, [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org).

Besides our normal newsletter, two areas that we tried to promote this year was education and community service.

1). Education - Our chapter would like to be the main source of your education. However, we have tried to promote other organizations and their PDC's or monthly educational opportunities. Please let us know what education you would like us to put into our program for next years program.

2). Community Service - We have also listed different community service opportunities for you to volunteer your talents too. We hope that you have volunteered your time and talents to these worthy organizations. Please let us know if you like the community service section of the newsletter, and what we can do to improve this service.

Karla Gomez-Meyer will be the chapter President next year. She is starting to put together her team of officers. She needs your help. If she calls you, please say "YES". If she doesn't call you, please call her at 720-913-1544 and become a part of next year's board. The last couple of years the board has had a lot of federal employees. With DFAS closing, we need to get more state, local, and other federal agency people on the board. Please consider helping your association by becoming a board member.

Have a nice Easter and see you at the Professional Development Conference on April 19-20, 2006.

## **EDUCATION**

The AUDITFORUM is hosting their 16th Biennial Forum of Government Auditors Conference on May 23-25, 2006 in San Jose, California. The brochure and registration information are available on their website [www.auditforum.org/sanjose/index.htm](http://www.auditforum.org/sanjose/index.htm).

The National AGA 55th Annual Professional Development Conference is June 18-21, 2006 in San Diego, California. The theme of this years conference is "**Navigating the Way to Citizen-Centered Government**". There are six education tracks being offered.

The brochure and registration information are available on the national AGA website, [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org). See you in sunny San Diego.

The ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS'S Denver Chapter  
PRESENTS IT'S

20TH ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE:

*"Managing Change in Government Accounting"*

April 19-20, 2006

Radisson Hotel – Denver Southeast

3200 South Parker Road

Aurora, Colorado 80014

(303)695-1700

Registration forms are available at [www.denveraga.org](http://www.denveraga.org).

This conference will be held at the Radisson Hotel East at South Parker Road and Interstate 225 in Aurora, Colorado.

The theme of the conference is "Managing Change in Government Accounting".

Day one starts with National AGA President-elect Jeff Hart. Colorado's Attorney General John Suthers is up next. Following is Wilson Campbell with a GASB-SEA update. Bob Cornell and Jamie Sharp present a Change Workshop, and White Collar Crime Center program, respectively. The first day session closes with a presentation from Denver City Auditor Dennis Gallagher and then everyone is invited to a Wine and Cheese Social Hour.

On day two the opening speaker is Robert Moore, the Vice-President for Budget and Finance for the University of Colorado System. Colorado Secretary of State Gigi Dennis addresses the conference next. Presentations follow by Denver Economic Development Director John Huggins and Public Research Management Group representative Eric Parrish speaking on Impacts of Indirect Cost Plans. JD Williams, former Idaho State Controller, has been asked to speak about Oracle. State Treasurer Mark Hillman will speak on "Keeping Pace with Fiscal Policy". The conference concludes with a "Motivational" program from LC Williams, Deputy Director of the National Business Center. Plans are in process as we go to press with this newsletter to get additional presentations focusing on federal accounting issues. Program changes will be posted to the chapter website as they become known.

Reminder, the 2006 PDC program and registration information, including registration form, are now available on our Denver AGA Chapter website: [www.AGADENVER.org](http://www.AGADENVER.org).

We ask that you share this information with your fellow employees and encourage you to consider attending this worthwhile event. In addition to providing informative sessions, this conference is a great networking opportunity. This conference will provide for up to 16 hours of continuing professional education.

Thanks for your support,  
Denver AGA PDC 2006 Planning Committee

## IMPLICATIONS of SARBANES – OXLEY for the FUTURE of the AUDITING PROFESSION

The presentation was presented by Nancy A. Valley, Partner, KPMG LLP, and Kinney Poynter, Executive Director of NASACT.

Sarbanes – Oxley sets the regulations that all government agencies must adhere to become more responsible to the public they serve. Internal Controls must be improved and all management must take responsibility for the financial reports that are generated. Management must attest to the internal controls of the financial statements so that taxpayers will have assurance that their tax dollars are being spent honestly and fairly. With good internal controls, management can make process improvements and rely on the financial information to run the business of government.

The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) and the National Association of State Auditors, Controllers, and Treasurers (NASACT) conducted a research project sponsored by KPMG on Sarbanes – Oxley. “The goal was to assess the current and future state of audit and internal control assessments in SLG’s (state & local government) and to evaluate whether improvement is needed”. The survey was based on the different sections of the Sarbanes – Oxley law, which includes Auditor Independence, Corporate Responsibility, Enhanced Financial Disclosure, Corporate Responsibility and Criminal Fraud Accountability.

What the survey showed was that governments are trying to adhere to the law. Some governments are doing a better job in some areas, other governments are doing better in other areas, but not all areas are being addressed yet by governments..

Because Sarbanes-Oxley is a fairly new mandate, a lot of money is being spent by governments to get into compliance with its regulations. The cost-benefit hasn’t been established yet. Governments are initially spending more money than the perceived benefit received. But governments are improving their processes, and will become more efficient as they implement their framework to adhere to the regulations of Sarbanes-Oxley.

## **Last Month's board meeting minutes:**

### **ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS - DENVER CHAPTER MARCH 6, 2006 - OFFICER'S MEETING NOTES**

Officer's Present: Patrick Mulcahy (President), Karla Gomez-Meyer (President-Elect), James Caldwell (Treasurer), Dave Lewis, and Karl Greve. The officer's meeting started at 5:45 PM

The first item of business we discussed was the date (March 17, 2006) to have articles in for the newsletter. We want to get the April newsletter out to the membership before April 1, 2006 because the application deadline for early registration for the PDC is April 1, 2006.

The second item of business we discussed were the March through May meetings. The March meeting was held on March 1, 2006 prior to the officer's meeting. The topic of the March meeting was "Sarbanes-Oxley". This was a successful meeting with 38 attendees. The April meeting is on April 19-20, 2006. This is the Professional Development Conference. The theme of this meeting is "Managing Change in Government Accounting". The program is set. The May meeting is the Awards Banquet. Date and place are still being arranged.

The next item of business we talked about was the Community Service programs we're trying to promote. Dave Lewis stated that he's putting organizations into our program that need volunteers. We also decided to assist the Senior High Rise Food Bank by doing a food drive at the PDC. Please bring a can of food to the PDC.

Next, James Caldwell gave us the Financial Report. We're spending a little more money than we're getting from our meetings. But this is to be expected since we're a non-profit organization.

Our next item of business was discussing the Awards Banquet. We're still looking for a location, date, and time. We will make this information available in the May newsletter.

Under New business, we discussed three items.

The first item we talked about was getting our newsletter into national for the Newsletter Award being given at the National PDC in San Diego, California on June 18-21, 2006. Karl Greve is going to get our newsletter into the competition.

The next item we talked about was putting together a gift basket that will be auctioned off at the National PDC in San Diego. Karla is going to put the basket together.

The last item we discussed was doing a survey for next years programs. The survey will be in the May newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM. The next officer's meeting will be April 3, 2006 at 5:30 PM at the PERA building.

## **Education Corner:**

CPEs: Earn CPEs through on-line classes using SMART-PROS;  
<http://education.smartpros.com/main> (Financial Management Network)

CDFM: Sponsored through ASMC. To apply:  
<http://www.asmc certification.com>

CGFM: Sponsored through AGA. To apply:  
<http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/cgfmdefault.aspx>

## **EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY:**

### **CGFM Exam 3 Study Guide Now Available!**

Be sure to order the new Study Guide for CGFM Exam 3: *Governmental Financial Management and Control* to help in your preparation for the examination.

Check the AGA National web site for details.

## **Career Corner:**

Federal Civil Service employment: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>

Denver City employment: <http://www.denvergov.org/Jobs/jobsm.asp>

Colorado State employment: <http://www.state.co.us/jobinfo.html>

AGA Career Bank listings: <http://www.aga.careerbank.com>

## **AGA Community Service:**

Volunteer opportunities to help low-income with their taxes; volunteer opportunities for Habitat for Humanity; canned food drive

## **Scholarship Program:**

Scholarship program included two \$1000 scholarships.

## **Treasurer's Report:** FY2006 Budget.

Budget \$21,100; Expenses (PDC) \$8,500; Monthly meetings \$7100; Other \$7,600 Total Expenses \$23,100 Net Income/Loss (\$2,000)

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

APRIL 19-20, 2006 - Professional Development Conference -  
THEME – “MANAGING CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING  
MAY, 2006 - Awards Banquet

## CGFM CORNER

Governor Bill Owens signed a proclamation declaring March, 2006 as CGFM month in Colorado. The proclamation will be presented to our chapter at the Professional Development Conference later this month.

If you are interested in obtaining information about the Certified Government Financial Manager Certificate (CGFM), please contact the national AGA office at 1-800-AGA-7211, or [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org). The CGFM application form can be found at <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/downloads/CGFMapplicationform.pdf>.

Management Concepts will be hosting a training session in Denver March 22-29, 2006. The registration information is located at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org), at the CGFM Certification block on the main menu screen. There will also be a CGFM training session at the Professional Development Conference in San Diego.

## TRAINING

Besides the monthly meetings, check out the training opportunities offered by the national AGA office. There are three national conferences coming this fiscal year. Go to [AGACGFM.org/conferences](http://AGACGFM.org/conferences) to see these training opportunities.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Please indicate what additional community service projects in which you (our members) would like to participate. Please have members contact me (Dave Lewis) at [DAVID.LEWIS@cCI.DENVER.CO.US](mailto:DAVID.LEWIS@cCI.DENVER.CO.US) with suggestions.

This service year we have helped with two food banks, a holiday toy drive, preparation of income tax and earned income documents for low income persons, Habitat for Humanity projects, and American Cancer Society Relay-For-Life events. We also were put on a waiting list of helping at the Denver Dumb Friends League telethon. We will be having a canned food collection for the Senior High Rise Food Bank at the PDC. This summer the Cherry Creek Art Festival will need volunteers. Doors Open Denver needs volunteers on April 22 and 23 to assist in self-guided and expert-led architecture tours in downtown Denver. The contact is Melinda Laz at 720-865-4310 or volunteer applications are at <http://www.denvergov.org/doorsopendenver/>.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*Sent on behalf of Workforce Development...*

### **Want to help lift Denver's low-income families out of poverty?**

#### **YOU can help them get tax refunds -- no experience required!**

You don't need to be an accountant or even a computer whiz to lend a hand to Denver's hard-working low-income families.

**The City and County of Denver is calling for volunteers on behalf of the Denver Asset Building Coalition (DABC), which will operate a single [Free Tax SuperSite](#) in 2006 located at:**

**The King Trimble Center  
2980 Curtis Street  
Denver, CO 80205**

**If you are interested in volunteering, please complete an online application, at <http://www.denverabc.org/volunteers06.htm>.**

**Please put "City of Denver" in the "Referred By" field.**

The DABC will train you to help file tax returns for struggling single moms, parents who have lost their jobs, immigrant families who cannot speak English, and others hurt most by the economy. DABC tax law training is offered online, through a self-study course, or in the classroom in December and January. E-file training to prepare returns using a computer will be provided to all volunteers in January.

**Volunteers are asked to commit to at least 24 hours (after training) between January 28 and April 17, 2006. In exchange for your commitment, you can do your family's taxes for free using the latest IRS software at the SuperSite!**

**The Problem:** Even with a steady job, many working families are struggling to make ends meet. They may be stuck in low-wage jobs due to their education status or past work history. In addition to having limited income, many of these families are not connected to the "financial mainstream." Some don't have bank accounts, others may be in debt or have bad credit, and many don't own a home.

**The Solution:** The [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) (EITC) is a powerful work incentive and antipoverty tool that has benefited millions of low-income families since its inception. The EITC is a refundable credit offered through the Internal Revenue Service to working families that, in 2004, earn less than \$35,458.

National estimates indicate that approximately 15% of eligible families do not claim the EITC. Some don't think they're eligible. Some families may feel that since they owe too little to have to file that there's no benefit to them filing at all. Education and free tax preparation are crucial to these families.

The average EITC in Denver last year for families earning less than \$36,000 was more than \$1,600. This money can make all the difference in remaining financially stable. If you are bilingual in Spanish, Russian, or Korean, you would also be a great asset to any of the tax preparation sites.

For additional information, please visit the DABC website: [www.DenverABC.org](http://www.DenverABC.org)

### **"Habitat for Humanity"**

This project is in need of volunteers. Please read next page for details.

Dear Habitat Volunteers,

January was a very busy month for Habitat and February won't be any different! Please consider helping out in any way possible.

1. Construction Volunteers - Habitat is in need of volunteers who are available on weekdays (Wed., Thurs. and Fri.). With 11 homes under construction we are in need of 110 volunteers each day. If you are available on weekdays please sign up to volunteer online by visiting [www.habitatmetrodenver.org](http://www.habitatmetrodenver.org). Volunteer groups are also welcome. Habitat work days make excellent team building opportunities. Please contact [Beverly@habitatmetrodenver.org](mailto:Beverly@habitatmetrodenver.org) if you would like to schedule a group volunteer day.
2. Habitat Home Improvement Outlets - The Denver location is in need of volunteers to answer the phones and run the cash register on Saturdays. The Wheatridge Outlet is in need of volunteers to help with general warehouse work. If you are interested please contact [Alice@habitatmetrodenver.org](mailto:Alice@habitatmetrodenver.org).
3. Women Build - Habitat's Women Build Committee is planning to organize Women Build volunteer days on Habitat's project in Lakewood. This is a great opportunity for women to work together on construction sites. If you are interested in learning more about the Women Build volunteer days please contact [Jeanne@habitatmetrodenver.org](mailto:Jeanne@habitatmetrodenver.org).
4. Data Entry - During the month of April Habitat will have a great need for data entry volunteers. If you are interested in helping with this project please email [Amanda@habitatmetrodenver.org](mailto:Amanda@habitatmetrodenver.org).
5. Volunteer Fair - On February 14th Red Rocks Community College is holding a volunteer fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers are needed to represent Habitat. Please email [Jeanne@Habitatmetrodenver.org](mailto:Jeanne@Habitatmetrodenver.org) if you are interested.
6. Home Dedication - The duplex at 32/34 Hazel Ct. is almost finished and we are in the process of scheduling the dedication ceremony. Most likely it will take place the 3rd week of February. Please check our website [www.habitatmetrodenver.org](http://www.habitatmetrodenver.org) for the date and time.

Thank you all for your support of Habitat for Humanity. If you have any questions please feel free to either email or call me.

In partnership,  
Jeanne Fischetti  
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