

**Association of
Government Accountants**
Denver Chapter

www.denveraga.org



December 2005

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Greetings!

I hope everyone is having a nice November and is looking forward to a super Thanksgiving and Christmas!!!

As you can see from the calendar of events, we almost have a full schedule established for our monthly meeting. This is the first time that we’ve been able to get our schedule established fairly early. However, we still need help from you to carry out some of the programs we would like to get accomplished this year. We need help in getting the programs set up for the Professional Development Conference and some of the charity activities we would like to do. If you know of a topic that you would like us to sponsor, please let one of the officers know. We need new insights into the programs that we have every month. This is a rewarding way to help keep your chapter alive and kicking and aids the organizations we work for.

In addition, please consider being an Agency representative. This job involves emailing to your organization the activities that your Denver chapter is doing every month and taking and forwarding any reservations that you receive.

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:

There are several community service opportunities, please participate if possible.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

DECEMBER 7, 2005 - Audio-Conference Meeting – 2 CPE
“Identity Theft – What is Being Done to Prevent It”

JANUARY, 2006 - TOPIC - “Measuring Progress toward Meeting Goals”
Kelly Brough, City & County of Denver, Deputy Chief of Staff, Accountability & Reform

FEBRUARY, 2006 - TO BE DETERMINED

MARCH 1, 2006 - Audio-Conference Meeting – 2 CPE
“Implications of Sarbanes-Oxley for the Future of the Auditing Profession”

APRIL 19-20, 2006 - Professional Development Conference

MAY, 2006 - Awards Banquet

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2006:

Our PDC 2006 is around the corner and we are busy making preparations for another wonderful program. The dates will be April 19-20, 2006. More to follow....

“Habitat for Humanity”

This project is in need of volunteers. Please contact Barbara at 720-272-2116 for details.

DECEMBER MEETING

THIS IS AN AUDIO-CONFERENCE MEETING

TOPIC: "IDENTITY THEFT – WHAT IS BEING DONE TO PREVENT IT"

DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2005

CPE: 2 HOURS

LOCATION: RADISSON HOTEL

3333 Quebec Street

Denver, Colorado

TIME: 11:00 – 11:30 AM CHECK-IN

11:30 - LUNCH

12:00 - 2:00 PM PROGRAM

COST: AGA MEMBERS - \$25.00

NON-MEMBERS - 30.00

This meeting is also a membership drive meeting. All persons joining AGA at this meeting will receive a \$25.00 discount on the membership cost.

Please RSVP to Patrick Mulcahy at Patrick.Mulcahy@mms.gov or 303.231.3330 by COB December 5, 2005.

There are two community service opportunities at this meeting.

- 1). Food Bank. Bring a non-perishable food donation to this meeting. All foods collected will be donated to the Denver Inner City Parish.**
- 2). Toy Drive. Bring an unwrapped, NEW toy to the meeting and receive a \$5.00 discount on the meeting cost. All toys received will be donated to Denver Social Services.**

Membership Drive

Every member is challenged to recruit at least one new member so that our chapter will "Go For Growth". The membership committee is sponsoring a membership campaign. You can earn AGA merchandise by becoming the top recruiter of new members by December 31, 2005. In addition to the numerous benefits of membership in AGA, new recruits will receive \$25.00 off membership fees if they join now through the December 7, 2005 Audio-conference meeting. On your mark, get set, GO. Let's help others benefit from the membership in AGA Denver Chapter. Contact Sylvia Taylor-Porter, Membership Chair at 303.676.7750 or sylvia.taylor-porter@dfas.mil for additional information. Membership forms are available on the National website at www.agacgfm.org or by contacting the Membership Chair.

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 to see these training opportunities; there is also a calendar listing of current events.

<http://www.agacgfm.org/events/calendarlisting.aspx>

CGFM CORNER

For all of you non-CGFM'ers the national office of the Association of Government Accountants is offering a discount to anyone interested in obtaining the CGFM Certificate.

"From September 1 until November 30, 2005 AGA will give a discount of \$20 to CGFM applications received with the assistance of AGA chapters.

In order to receive a \$20 discount,

1. the complete CGFM application (application form, \$85 application fee and proof of a bachelor's degree) must be received by AGA Office of Professional Certification during the period of September 1 through November 30, 2005.
2. the CGFM application form must have the promotional phrase: "CGFM chapter promotion - [name of your chapter]" written at the bottom of the form (under the source code). If the application is submitted online, the applicant must put this phrase in the last question: "How did you learn about the CGFM Program?"

Important notes: A full application fee of \$85 must be paid at the time of application. The \$20 check will be sent to the applicant by mail in January.

- the applicant must put the words "CGFM chapter promotion" AND the name of your chapter on the application form in order to receive the discount.
- It is preferable that the applications are submitted by the applicants themselves and not by the chapter. The applicant does not have to be a chapter member in order to receive the discount.

CGFM application form can be found on

<http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/downloads/CGFMapplicationform.pdf>

Last Month's board meeting minutes:

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS - DENVER CHAPTER NOVEMBER 7, 2005 - OFFICER'S MEETING NOTES

The meeting came to order at 5:35 PM. Members present were Patrick Mulcahy, Karla Gomez-Meyer, Glenn Struempf, Karl Greve, Sylvia Taylor-Porter, and Dave Lewis

1). Officers

No one has stepped forward yet to assume a management position in the chapter.

We'll need to make telephone calls to members.

2). Newsletter. Need to keep the officers meeting in 3rd person format and/or do highlights only.

3). Monthly Meetings. The officer's meeting and the monthly meeting are only two days apart for December, 2005 and January, 2006. There should not be a problem if the monthly meeting is sent to the membership early in the month.

The December meeting is a 2 unit CPE training program. The cost for this program will be \$25 for AGA members and \$30 for non-members. This meeting will also be a membership meeting. Any new members joining at this meeting will receive a \$25 discount on the membership dues.

The food drive for the November meeting will go to Broadway Assistance Center.

The food drive for the December meeting will go to Denver Inner City Parish. The toy drive in December will go to Denver Social Services. The officers voted to give a \$5.00 discount to the December meeting if a new toy was brought to the meeting.

4). Financial Report

The financial report was given; however, the ending account balance could be given because we have not received the monthly statement. The November meeting lost \$205.37. The checkbook balance went down - \$35.90.

5). Community Service

Dave Lewis said he will put announcements in the newsletter about Community service opportunities.

Pat Mulcahy indicated that there had been no response to volunteers for the VITA site. Another announcement will be made in the next newsletter. Training for the program starts in November and runs through December. The VITA sites are open weekly from February through March 14, 2006.

6). Scholarships

The scholarship letters have been sent out to the schools according to Glenn Struempf.

7). Professional Development Conference

We decided to meet at Karla's house on Saturday, November 12, 9 AM to start formulating this years PDC.

8). New Business

Karla wondered if we needed insurance coverage for our community service activities. Pat said he would call national to find out what coverage was needed; however, the national policy may cover the local chapters

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

The next officers meeting is December 5, 2005, 5:30 PM, at the PERA building.

2005 DENVER CHAPTER AGA OFFICERS

Vince Lithgow	Regional Vice-President
Patrick Mulcahy	President
Karla Gomez-Meyer	President-Elect
Beth Machann	Immediate Past Chapter President
Karla Gomez-Meyer	Co-Vice President - PDC
	Co-Vice President - Monthly Programs
	Co-Vice President - Monthly Programs
Rita Debraccio	Vice President - Communications
Glen Struemp	Secretary
James Caldwell	Treasurer
	Treasurer-Elect
	Director of Awards
	Director of CGFM Programs
David Lewis	Director of Community Service
	Director of Early Careers/Mentoring
	Director of Education
	Director of Emerging Issues/Research
	Director of Employment
	Director of Agency Coordination
Sylvia Taylor-Porter	Director of Membership
	Director of Publicity
	Director of Recognition
Robin Moreno	Director of Scholarships
Karl Greve	Director of Webmaster

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:

Food drive, toy drive, and opportunity to help low-income with their taxes.

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)

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

American Cancer Society volunteer opportunity

"Relay University" to be held 12/3/05 Help needed in all positions listed.

What's Your Interest?

Chair/Co-Chair

- Work with ACS staff to mentor and train other committee members
- Run monthly meetings leading up to Relay For Life event
- Ensure success for other committee members by constant communication
- Network with local businesses to attract additional teams, sponsors, and interest

Team Recruitment

- Contact last year's teams
- Develop potential teams list
- Recruit new teams
- Coordinate Relay For Life kickoff
- Maintain communications with current team captains
- Assist in team captains meetings and mentoring

American Cancer Society volunteer opportunity

(CONTINUED)

Survivorship

- Recruit cancer survivors to join opening ceremonies and other survivorship activities
- Send invitations to survivors
- Plan cancer survivor ceremony, survivor lap, and survivor recognition activities
- Assist in cancer survivor's registration at event

Publicity

- Coordinate media potentials list with local communications staff
- Write and submit local Relay For Life stories and updates to local media outlets
- Place follow-up calls to media to encourage coverage
- Distribute posters and flyers

Logistics

- Assist in attaining all material needs (tables/chairs, restrooms, tents, etc...)
- Walk through location for exact placement of logistical support
- Assist in transporting material and setting up site on the day of event
- Recruit necessary medical personnel

Registration/Accounting

- Ensure that each team registers with the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all team members
- Set up registration area
- Set up a secure area for collecting team donations
- Account for and process all funds turned in at registration area
- Ensure proper Bank Night accounting

Luminarias

- Arrange luminaria ceremony (music, speakers, etc.)
- Obtain donated luminaria materials (sand, etc.)
- Sell luminarias at event and before event
- Promote ceremony to the public

Entertainment and Activities

- Secure music for both days of the event
- Work with logistics/facilities to set up public address system
- Arrange for games and activities for kids
- Secure other activities; e.g., massage therapist, clowns, aerobics, midnight madness activities, line dancing, volleyball
- Solicit small prizes from local businesses to present to contest winners throughout the event

Advocacy

- Plan advocacy activities that provide Relay participants with information on Society advocacy initiatives by recruiting, educating and empowering other volunteers
- Advocate awareness and recruitment at Relay for Life
- Evaluate advocacy activities

Sponsorship & Prizes

- Develop list of potential sponsors and donors
- Contact last year's sponsors
- Set goals for sponsorship income
- Contact potential sponsors and underwriters
- Send out appropriate thank you letters

Food & Beverage

- Secure donations of food and beverages being provided to participants during the event
- Work closely with facility and logistics committee on setup needs
- Work closely with Team Development and Entertainment & Activities committee