

**Association of
Government Accountants**
Denver Chapter

www.denveraga.org



January 2006

. From the President . . .

In this issue:

Greetings!

Denver Chapter of the AGA

Your officers and committee members would like to send you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, and Happy Holidays!!!

Presidents message . . .

PDC Conference 2006

We all hope you had a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to another successful year. I, and your officers, want to thank everyone who participated in the food drives in November and December, and the toy drive in December for their generosity. The agencies that we donated these items too were very appreciative of your thoughtfulness. Thank you.

January meeting - Topic -

TOPIC - "Measuring Progress toward Meeting Goals"

Last month's board meeting

Education Corner

There is a host of activities coming up for the remainder of this year, starting January 11, 2006. Check out the activities in the Calendar of Events. We will add activities as they become available. Also check out the volunteer activities available in the Volunteer Section of the newsletter. There are lots of organizations that can use your help. We are still running our membership drive. Bring in a new member and that person will receive a \$25 discount on the membership price. The member bringing in the most new members will receive a prize from the chapter.

Earn CPEs, CDFM and CGFM

Career Corner

Job Opportunities

Community Service

Volunteer Opportunities

Treasury Report

Budget figures provided

Current events Corner

This years Professional Development Conference is on April 19-20, 2006. The theme of the conference is "MANAGING CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING". The format of the conference is changing this year. Meetings will be shorter, but the CPEs awarded will be the same – 16. Get the Registration form and agenda at www.Denveraga.org. The agenda hasn't been finalized yet but we plan on having a dynamic 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.

JANUARY MEETING

**TOPIC – “DENVER OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY and REFORM –
IMPROVING PERFORMANCE TRACKING OUTCOMES”**

SPEAKER – Kelly Brough

**Deputy Chief of Staff, Director Accountability and Reform
City & county of Denver**

CPE - 1 HOUR

LOCATION – Radisson Hotel

3333 Quebec Street

Denver, Colorado

TIME –11:00 – 11:30am - Check-In and Social

11:30 – 1:00pm - Lunch

12:00 – 1:00pm - Presentation

COST - AGA Members - \$15.00

Non-Members - 20.00

**RSVP - To Patrick Mulcahy at 303-231-3330 or Patrick.Mulcahy@mms.gov by COB
1/9/2006.**

BIOGRAPHY

Kelly Brough is the Deputy Chief of Staff, Accountability and Reform for the City and County of Denver. Kelly has a Masters of Business Administration degree from the University of Colorado at Denver and a Bachelors of Science degree in Sociology, Criminal Justice from Montana State University. Her work experience is varied; she was a Personnel Analyst with the Career Service Authority and a Legislative Analyst with the Denver City Council. It was in these positions that she gained an in-depth interest in the workings of city government. Her ability to negotiate and work with employee groups and elected officials earned her a great deal of respect.

Kelly recognized the need to expand her knowledge and in 1997 she went to work for the University of Colorado at Denver as the Director of Training. Kelly directed an internationally recognized leadership program for public officials and managed strategic and comprehensive planning efforts such as: A Drug Strategy for Denver, Law Enforcement 2000, Denver Comprehensive Plan 2000, The Parks and Recreation Game Plan, Parking Meter Task Force and Ball-Fields Task Force. In addition, Kelly has always had an interest in the political process and was the Campaign Manager for the Casey for Mayor of Denver campaign.

BIO Continued:

In July of 2003 the Denver career Service Authority was looking for a new personnel director and selected Kelly as the Director of Human Resources. Kelly moved that department from an authoritarian culture to one based on service delivery and focused on outcomes. In a time where the city was changing significantly, Kelly led the process to assist all city employees in managing this change.

In August of 2005, Mayor John Hickenlooper appointed Kelly as the Deputy Chief of Staff, Accountability and Reform. Kelly's focus is on operations review, the implementation of the 3-1-1 customer service system, and personnel system reforms. When making the appointment, the Mayor said, "Kelly has proved to be instrumental in our efforts to reform and improve the career service system. She is an effective problem-solver and will be vital to or continuing work to make City government more customer-friendly."

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

IDENTITY THEFT – What Is Being Done To Prevent It
December 7, 2005

This was a very interesting and informative program. There were three people on the program, Ms. Kathy A. Buller, Social Security Administration, Ms. Naomi Lefkovitz, Federal Trade Commission, and Ms. Alice Robinson-Bond, State of Ohio. Each talked about what their organizations are doing to beef up their identity theft programs.

Ms. Buller talked about the history of the Social Security Card, how the cards are being used today, some of the frauds that have occurred with the card, and security issues (laws) that are being implemented today. Her bottom-line advice was to not carry your social security card in your wallet, lock it up in a safe place until needed, do not give the number out to anybody without knowing who and why you're giving that information out, check out the yearly wage numbers on the statement that the social security office sends you each year, check your credit rating once a year at a minimum, and shred any documents that have personal information on them that you're throwing out.

Ms. Lefkovitz talked about identity theft through the use of stolen credit cards, fraudulent checks, and hijacked cell phones. The majority of credit card theft occurs in the Pacific states, the south, the northeast, then moves inland. However, theft can happen anywhere, at any time. A majority of victims are young, 20-40 years old. There were 10 million people who suffered identity theft in 2004, and 50+% of that theft involved use of their stolen credit cards. The average out of pocket cost paid by the victim was \$500. The total time spent in 2003 in resolving identity theft was 297,000,000 hours, or 37 million 8-hour work days. 49% of the victims did not know how the theft occurred. 14% said they had lost their credit cards. Another 14% said that fraudulent transactions were charged to their accounts after they had used their cards. She also stated that credit card companies are being vigilant on your accounts to identify any abnormal purchases. Her bottom-line advice is be careful in the use of your cards, checks, and phones.

Ms. Robinson-Bond talked about the Identity Theft Verification PASSPORT Program that the state of Ohio is developing to assist victims of identity theft. This program gives the victim an ID card identifying them as an identity theft victim. On this card are the person's picture, fingerprint, and signature, and other information which will help the victim in dealing with law enforcement and other official agencies. This program, when developed, can be used by the federal government, and other state governments in assisting victims in re-establishing their identities.

Last Month's board meeting minutes:

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS - DENVER CHAPTER DECEMBER 5, 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 and Dave Lewis. There was a quorum present.

Newsletter

The January newsletter will be on the website prior to Christmas because of the holiday season, leaves, and the early January meeting.

Monthly Meeting

The January meeting is on January 11, 2006, 11:00am to 1:00pm. The speaker is Kelly Bough, Deputy Chief of Staff, Accountability and Reform, City & County of Denver.

The officer's voted to re-institute the policy of billing for meals when reservations are not cancelled. AGA has to pay for meals for the people that fail to attend the meetings. This policy will start with the January meeting.

Financial Report

The financial report was given by Patrick Mulcahy. The chapter is in sound financial position.

Community Service

Dave Lewis will continue to update the volunteer opportunities in the Community Service area of the newsletter.

Scholarships

The scholarship information has been sent out to the schools. Some guidance counselors in the schools have notified us that they are not receiving all of the attachments. We will get the attachments to the people that need them. We will also put the scholarship information on the chapter website.

National Leadership Conference

The chapter will send Karla Gomez-Meyer, President-Elect, to the National Leadership Conference on February 2-3, 2006 in Washington, D.C. The national AGA office will pay for hotel accommodations. The chapter will pay for travel and registration costs.

Professional Development Conference

The officers received an update on the Professional Development Conference in April, 2006. The schedule is being formalized. The theme of the conference is "Managing Change in Government Accounting". The team will meet on Saturday, December, 10, 2005 to continue working on the programs for the conference.

New Business

There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM. The next officers meeting is January 9, 2006, 5:30 PM, at the PERA building.

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

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.

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>

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 Struempf	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

"Habitat for Humanity"

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