

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

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



March 2006

. From the President . . .

In this issue:

**Greetings!!**

**Denver Chapter of the AGA**

**Presidents message . . .**

**PDC Conference 2006**

**March meeting - Topic - :**  
“IMPLICATIONS of SARBANES-  
OXLEY for the FUTURE  
of the AUDITING PROFESSION”  
**Last month’s board meeting**

**Education Corner**

Earn CPEs, CDFM and CGFM

**Career Corner**

**Community Service**

Volunteer Opportunities

**Treasury Report**

No current data

**Current events Corner**

I hope everyone had a nice Valentines Day and is looking forward to a wonderful March and a fun Saint Patrick’s Day.

The monthly meeting in March is on March 1, 2006. This meeting is an Audio meeting. See the announcement in this newsletter about the meeting, or at our website, located at [www.denveraga.org](http://www.denveraga.org). This will be a 2 CPE meeting.

Our Professional Development Conference is right around the corner, April 19-20, 2006. The theme of our conference this year is “Managing Change in Government Accounting”. We have some very interesting and dynamic speakers for this conference. The brochure and registration material for this conference are on our website at [www.denveraga.org](http://www.denveraga.org).

For those interested in obtaining their CGFM Certificate, Management Concepts will be giving a training seminar here in Denver this month. For information on this timely training, go to the national website, [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org).

**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):**

A training seminar will also be held at the national Professional Development Conference in June, 2006 in San Diego.

Check out the training opportunities in the education section of this newsletter. The PDC in Nashville in March and the audit training in May are great opportunities to stay in touch with what's happening in government accounting and auditing. Remember, our next meeting is March 1, 2006. Make your reservations for this training now.

## **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

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 -  
THEME – “MANAGING CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING”  
MAY, 2006 - Awards Banquet

## **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.

## **EDUCATION**

The Nashville Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants is pleased to be hosting the Southeastern Region Professional Development Conference on March 16-17, 2006. The theme of the conference is “**Open Government – Public Trust and Accountability**”. The brochure and registration information, including on-line registration, are now available on the Nashville Chapter website, [www.nashvilleaga.org](http://www.nashvilleaga.org).

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

## **MARCH MEETING**

**TOPIC: “IMPLICATIONS of SARBANES-OXLEY for  
the FUTURE of the AUDITING PROFESSION”**

**CPE: 2 HOURS**

**DATE: MARCH 1, 2006**

**LOCATION: RADISSON HOTEL  
3333 QUEBEC STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO**

**TIME: 11:00 – 11:30 AM CHECK-IN & SOCIAL  
11:30- LUNCH  
12:00- 2:00 PM PRESENTATION**

**COST: AGA MEMBERS - \$25.00  
NON-MEMBERS - 30.00**

**MENU: CREOLE CORNBREAD BATTERED  
CATFISH FILLETS**

**Fresh Delta Catfish Dipped and Pan Seared then  
Finished with Fresh Lemon**

**Served with Garlic Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes and  
Fresh Market Vegetables**

**VEGETARIAN (UPON REQUEST)**

**Please RSVP to Patrick Mulcahy at 303-231-3330 or  
[Patrick.Mulcahy@mms.gov](mailto:Patrick.Mulcahy@mms.gov) by COB 2/27/2006.**

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

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

Officer's Present: Patrick Mulcahy (President), Karla Gomez-Meyer (President-Elect), James Alexander (Treasurer), Glennon Struempf (Secretary), Sylvia Porter-Taylor (Membership Chair), and Karl Greve (Webmaster). The meeting started at 5:30 PM.

#### March Newsletter

Articles to the March newsletter need to be to Rita DeBraccio by February 17, 2006. The board decided that the articles for the February newsletter need to be to Rita Debraccio by January 20, 2005.

#### Monthly Meetings

The officers talked about the next three months of meetings.

The February meeting will be on February 15, 2006 at the Radisson Hotel at 3333 Quebec Street. The speaker is Bob Cornell, and the theme of the meeting is "Change Works- The Nature of Change". 2 CPEs will be given at this meeting.

The March meeting will be on March 1, 2006, also at the Radisson Hotel at 3333 Quebec Street. This is a lunchtime Audio meeting. The theme of this meeting is "Sarbanes-Oxley and its Effect on Government Auditing". 2 CPEs will be given at this meeting.

The April Meeting is the chapter's Professional Development Conference to be held on April 19-20, 2006. The meeting will be at the Radisson Hotel, located at Parker Road and I-225. The theme of the conference is "Managing Change in Government Accounting". The program is almost completely filled. There will be an additional track for federal accounting since the program is heavily weighted to State and Local speakers

#### Financial Report

The financial report was given by James Caldwell, Treasurer. We're almost breaking even on our monthly meetings. We also spent money to send Karla Gomez-Meyer to the National Leadership Conference in Washington DC, first week of February, and had some minor expenses to pay for the PO Box. The chapter is still financially sound.

#### Community Service

Dave Lewis stated that more opportunities for volunteer work were sent to Rita to be loaded into the community service section of the website. Please check out these opportunities to donate your time and expertise.

#### Scholarships

Pat Mulcahy informed the board that national AGA is promoting their scholarship program to AGA members only. If any member has a family member that is in college, they can apply for the AGA scholarship. For our chapters two scholarships, all of the packets received from around the state have been sent to the scholarship chair. We will award these scholarships at the Awards banquet in May.

#### Professional Development Conference

The program is almost set. There was a discussion on adding a federal track for the conference, since the program is heavily weighted to state and local issues. We will add a federal track to the program.

#### AWARDS BANQUET

The officers talked about the location and time of the Awards Banquet. We are looking into a location. We will discuss this more at the March meeting.

#### New Business

There was a discussion of having a summertime meeting, possibly a barbeque. We will talk about this at the March and April officers meetings..

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

The next officers meeting will be on Monday, March 6, 2006 at the PERA building, 5:30PM. All members are invited to attend.

## **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

## **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)

Last month's meeting message:

## CHANGEWORKS-THE NATURE OF CHANGE

By Bob Cornell

Bob Cornell gave an interesting and informative discussion on CHANGE and how it affects all of us everyday.

CHANGE is something we deal with everyday of our lives. It's how we manage change that allows us to cope with every situation. Change is inevitable.

CHANGE is caused by two events. These are 1) Cataclysmic Events, or 2) Dysfunction.

Change occurs because of the tension caused by these two events. It's how we manage these events that allow us to react positively to accepting the changes that affect us. Bob said that "Change is the central activity of the human experience, ...the heart of every relationship, and ... is the purpose of every job." We need to gain control of the situations to make the right decisions on accepting and dealing with the changes. To gain control of the situation, we need to get as much information about the change, so that we can make an informed decision regarding the change. As much as we would like situations to remain stable, we need to incorporate change in to the stability of our lives.

## CGFM CORNER

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 training session at the Professional Development Conference in San Diego.

## CGFM CORNER

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>

Good Luck to all personnel who took advantage of the discount offered by the national office last year.

## 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., Thur. 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  
Director of Volunteers  
Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver  
303-534-2929 ext. 136  
[jeanne@habitatmetrodenver.org](mailto:jeanne@habitatmetrodenver.org)