

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

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



November 2005

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**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.**

**Greetings!**

I hope everyone is having a nice October and is looking forward to a super Halloween

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.

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT - CONTINUED:**

A new project we would like to do is hosting a VITA (IRS Voluntary Income Tax Assistance) site from February, 2006 through April 15, 2006. This would involve a two-three hour commitment once a week throughout the tax season. We will need 4-5 people per week. IRS will train the volunteers. Please consider volunteering for this project. The people that you help are very appreciative of your assistance. Please contact me or one of your officers to become more active in your organization. The next meeting is a lunchtime meeting on November 15, 2005. The speaker is Meredith Williams from PERA. The topic is "PERA-The Past, The Present, and The Future". This should be a very interesting presentation about funding government retirement accounts. See you at our next meeting on November 15, 2005.

## **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

NOVEMBER 15, 2005 - TOPIC - "PERA - PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE"

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....

## **NOVEMBER MEETING**

**PLEASE BRING A CAN OR BAG OF FOOD TO THE MEETING - TO BE  
DONATED TO THE BROADWAY ASSISTANCE CENTER**

TOPIC – “PERA – PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE”

SPEAKER – Meredith Williams

DATE – NOVEMBER 15, 2005

LOCATION - RADISSON HOTEL

3333 Quebec Street

Denver, Colorado

TIME        11:00 – 11:30 AM – Check-In  
              11:30 – 12:10 PM - Lunch  
              12:10 – 1:00 PM - PRESENTATION

COST        AGA MEMBERS - \$15.00  
              NON-MEMBERS - 20.00

Please RSVP to Patrick Mulcahy at email [Patrick.Mulcahy@mms.gov](mailto:Patrick.Mulcahy@mms.gov) or 303-231-3330 by  
COB November 10, 2005.

## **CPE OPPORTUNITY:**

The Colorado Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners is presenting an 8 hour seminar November 18, 2005. The seminar "Best Practices: Governance, Whistleblower Programs & Ethics Hotlines" with Ed Williams and David Clark will be held at the Tivoli Student Center, Auraria College, 900 Auraria Parkway, Denver. For more information and reservations contact Allan Wick, COACFE Training

Director, 303-616-8381, email [allan.r.wick@excelenergy.com](mailto:allan.r.wick@excelenergy.com).

## **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; there is also a calendar listing of current events.

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

## **CGFM CORNER**

Let's congratulate one of our members for obtaining the CGFM Certificate

. THERESA CAROLLO recently received her certificate.

**CONGRATULATIONS THERESA!!!!**

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 OCTOBER 3, 2005 - OFFICER'S MEETING NOTES

The meeting came to order at 5:30 PM. This was an informational meeting. Four officers were present. Members present were James Caldwell, Rita DeBraccio, Glenn Struempf, and Patrick Mulcahy. There was not a quorum; therefore, no items could be voted on.

#### 1). Officers

The first item of business was talking about getting new officers to supplement the officers in place. Three committee members have tendered their resignation from their positions because DFAS announced that they were closing their offices in Denver. We will put an announcement in the newsletter that we need the help of the membership.

#### 2). Membership

The second item of business was talking about recruiting new members. We need to get the current members to talk up the benefits of AGA to their new employees. We also need to talk to upper management in our organizations to get them to verbally commit to promoting professional organizations.

#### 3). Newsletter

The newsletter was loaded to the website on October 3, 2005. We need to get the newsletter out sooner.

#### 4). Financial Report

Pat Mulcahy gave a short synopsis of the financial report. We lost money on our September Audio meeting plus new AGA signs were purchased.

#### 5). Community Service

Pat announced that Dave Lewis volunteered to chair the Community Service area of AGA. In addition, we decided to have a food donation for the November meeting even though we weren't sure which food bank we would donate to. Since there wasn't a forum we could not change the price of the meeting.

In December, we decided to do both a food bank donation and a toy donation. We'll talk about costs at the November officers meeting. Karla will pick the food bank and the recipient of the toy donation.

#### 6). Scholarships

Glenn mentioned that we need both letterhead and envelopes to mail out the announcement for this year's scholarships. Again we will do two \$1,000 scholarships.

Pat said he would contact Beth Machann to see if there was any letterhead paper left. Pat also mentioned that he would continue to search for the AGA stamp to use on the envelopes.

#### 7). Monthly Meeting

Pat stated that the October meeting was on for October 12, 2005 and that we needed to get the word out to our members and organizations.

Pat also mentioned that we did not have a speaker for the November meeting. Glenn stated we should talk to Karl about asking his boss to talk about PERA since they were in the news recently.

#### 8). New Business

Rita stated we have a printer from Kathy Kaledo that we can either use or sell. We will continue to talk about the printer at the next officers meeting.

Pat asked if anyone knew who had the CPE certificate form from last year. We need to get a copy of it to use at this year's meeting. Pat said he would contact Beth Machann and ask her if she knew who had the form.

The November officers meeting is November 7, 2005 at the PERA building, 5:30 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

## 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
Vacant	Co-Vice President - Monthly Programs
Rita Debraccio	Vice President - Communications
Glen Struempf	Secretary
James Caldwell	Treasurer
	Treasurer-Elect
Jennie Chon	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)

## COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

**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 by November 15, 2005, 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)