



Association of Government Accountants Denver Chapter



OCTOBER 2004

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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.

Can you believe we are $\frac{3}{4}$ through the year? I sure can't. September was an incredibly busy month for your Denver Chapter. We had a dynamic speaker at our monthly lunch meeting. Beth Terry had everyone captivated. You can read more about her presentation in this newsletter. In addition, our attendance at the luncheon was much higher than usual and we had some new faces. Our October meeting looks to be just as interesting.

I am trying to assure that we communicate with each and every one of you. A few weeks ago I sent out a test e-mail to verify e-mail addresses. I received a few back and Elaine Hanak-Hall has been tirelessly contacting the people with rejected e-mails so we can get correct information. I will also start phoning those members that I don't have e-mail addresses for. If you have one, we can get it and if not, we will mail you a newsletter. We want to be able to communicate with you!

I know that budgets are tight and all of you have been forced to make cuts. Typically cuts come from training budgets. Remember the Denver Chapter's Professional Development Conference is very economical. Use this as an opportunity for you and your co-workers or staff members to get much needed continuing professional education credits.

From the President - continued

In addition, let us know what kind of training you would like to see delivered. Also, if you know of good speakers please pass on their names and topics. We would love your input.

We are planning a November GASB training that you will get information on in the very near future. LC Williams and Becky Richardson, the Co-Vice President's for Monthly Programs are working hard to get this together.

This is your association and we can only be as good as our membership; we need your participation. If you would like to contact me with any ideas or would like to volunteer to help with the PDC, please e-mail me at Beth.machann@ci.denver.co.us or phone me at (720)913-5198.

AGA Denver Chapter, September 13, 2004, Board Minutes

Attendees: Beth Machann, Tom Wulf, Alberta Brehm, Elaine Hanak-Hall, LC Williams, Pat Mulcahy, Becky Williams, Sylvia Taylor-Porter, Karl Greve, Glen Struempfler, Karla Gomez-Meyer

Meeting started at 5:40

I. Approval of August Minutes – Minutes Approved

II. Treasurer's Report –Tom Wulf presented the budget status as of 8/31/04. The Chapter currently has a balance of \$18,530.59 in the bank account.

III. 2004-2005 Budget- Tom prepared a draft 2004-2005 budget with estimates based on prior year and items the board had discussed. Beth requested that the Committee members determine what they would like to accomplish in the coming year and e-mail her or Tom their needs by September 27th. Tom will take these into consideration and revise the budget for discussion and approval at the October Board meeting. Emphasis will be on the overall goal of providing services to the members for member retention and recruitment.

IV. Monthly Meetings (September update, October plans and possible GASB training) – LC reported that the speaker for the September meeting, Beth Terry, is confirmed. He is ready to sign the hotel contract and have final numbers which are due on the 20th. As of today, there were 19 RSVP's. LC and Becky are still working on a speaker for the October meeting. Becky is looking into a GAO speaker on the Yellow Book. She and LC will continue to work on this meeting. LC is working to do a November ½ day GASB training.

IV. Continued - The training would be free and the charge to members would be nominal to cover the meal. The charge to non-members would be higher. An estimate is \$30 for members and \$50 for non-members. We would like to do this jointly with the ASWA (American Society of Women Accountants) and the CGFOA (Colorado Government Finance Officers Association) and any others that may be interested.

V. Newsletter – Rita was unable to attend, but Glen brought the information that will be in the Newsletter. Rita does not have any software to produce the document, so Beth requested the information be e-mailed to her for her to have someone work on. Articles are due by the 10th of the month to be in a newsletter by the 15th. (The September Newsletter will be a few days late due to formatting for the first time)

VI. Chapter Recognition Program – Beth discussed the Chapter Recognition Program and Pat volunteered to be responsible for this for the Chapter since there is no Director for this position yet. The next deadline for points is November 19th so all chairs need to forward information to Pat prior to that date. Beth will e-mail each chairperson's applicable recognition information to them.

VII. Committee Chairs:

Membership – Sylvia reported an idea to do a one-page flier listing the benefits of belonging to the AGA as well as upcoming events. The Board thought this was a great idea.

Community Service – Karla will look into areas that the organization can volunteer for. Members brought up some areas they knew about.

Scholarship – Alberta spoke with National to understand their scholarship program and was concerned that it was very different than the direction she had planned on taking the program. The Board discussed this and agreed that we did not need to follow the same process as National did for their program, but that we could use the process she had planned on. There will be two \$1,000 scholarships.

PDC – The Board members have lots of ideas about the PDC and we think that there should be a separate meeting to just brainstorm ideas. Either Beth or Glen will schedule this in early October. If any Board members know of individuals in their agencies who would like to participate in the planning please invite them. Glen requested of Becky to get ideas from State employees, since we would really like to meet their needs.

Denver Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants Presents:



Dr. Connie Ingram

“Dynamic Motivational Speaker”

“Topic: It really IS all about YOU”

Connie Ingram has been an executive coach for more than 5 years and a psychotherapist for 13 years. Her experience as an entrepreneur and CEO of her corporation gives her an edge that other coaches may not have. Her approach is based on fostering a new sense of awareness and responsibility in each client. This affords the client to reach new heights in his or her personal or professional development and resultantly helps them to reach goals that they had only once dreamed of.

Connie has coached both groups and individuals. She has worked with agencies such as the American Society of Military Comptrollers, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Army (Europe), Hospitals, and individuals from many career paths. Connie has a Master's degree in Psychology, a Master's degree in Human Resource Development and a Doctorate in Organizational Leadership.

Connie's motto:

"If you don't change direction, you're liable to end up where you are headed!"

Where: Radisson Hotel, Denver
Stapleton Plaza
3333 Quebec Street
303-321-3500

When: Wednesday, October 27, 2004
Check-in: 11:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.
Lunch served: 11:30 a.m.
Presentation: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Cost: \$13 for members
\$15 for non-members

CPE: 1 hour

Menu:

**Sliced Roast Beef in Gravy or
Italian Meat or Vegetarian Lasagna
served with soup or salad, dessert; coffee, tea or milk**

Please RSVP no later than Friday, October 22, 2004 to L C Williams at

303-382-7638 or lcwilliams@kpmg.com.

Beth Terry Fire' em UP

Our keynote speaker at the AGA September 2004 kickoff luncheon was what the doctor ordered, International Speaker and Author Beth Terry. She reminded us how important it is for us to remember what a difference we make in the lives of millions of people. Whether we are in the accounting/auditing department for the military, other federal agencies, the city or the state of Colorado; our decisiveness, our efficiency and our productivity really does impact a lot of people!

Beth gave us some great advice on how to "become healthy" in our work and family life. We have to remember that everyone has issues; all of us have too much on our plate, and a lot of people have things going on in their lives that we would never guess are taking place. She reminded us that the world needs healthy people and challenged us, to get over ourselves and stop living down to our excuses, so we could Live UP to our Potential!

She provided 7 Action Steps for us -- here they are in Beth's words:

1. **Know yourself** - what do you want? Be clear about your goals and know that you really do deserve to reach them.
2. **Hang out with people who do what you want to do** - remember that you become just like the people you associate with so if they are successful, you will become more successful. If they are toxic, you will become more toxic. "(Said another way--I once heard a millionaire say, your income for the next five years will be the average of your five best friends--do you need some new friends?)"
3. **Talk to people about your dreams** - let others know what you want to accomplish in life. If you do, wonderful surprises await you. Life gets better when you share your dreams and your successes with friends.
4. **Say YES** - open yourself to possibilities and opportunities. Don't be afraid to take risks (except with other peoples money!)
5. **Listen to Your Echoes** - sit quietly and pay attention to what your inner voices say. You have a lot more guidance than you realize. And sitting quietly allows your brain to integrate all the information that is coming in from many sources, so that you can make better decisions for yourself and others.
6. **Write it Down** - if you fail to write down your goals and ideas, you have no way of celebrating your successes and no way to measure your progress. Write it down and pay attention to the threads in your goals over the years. It will help you better appreciate your strengths and see where you need and want to go.
7. **Be Flexible** - allow yourself to change your mind. The best of us miscalculate from time to time. We think we want something or want to go somewhere and then when we get further into it, we realize it isn't for us. Be careful about arbitrarily changing horses in midstream. But don't hang on just for the sake of hanging on. No one else is watching all that closely and no one is impressed. So take care of your gifts and make wise choices for your future. You are the only one who has to live with you for your entire life! **Live Well!**

We look forward to another exciting event at the next AGA luncheon scheduled for October 27, 2004. The speaker will be the very dynamic and entertaining, **Dr Connie Ingram**, speaking on the topic "**Coaching for Your Success.**" We will continue to feed your mind and body this year!

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>

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 Community Service: AGA is sponsoring a food drive for the Living with Disabilities on 39th Avenue, Denver. Please bring your non-perishable food items to the monthly luncheons during October through December.

Community Program: Scholarship program will include two \$1000 scholarships.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Wulf presented the budget status as of 9/30/04. The chapter has a balance of \$19,923.29 in the bank account as of that date.

2004-2005 Budget – The board made changes to the budget in the area of income for the PDC to be equal to that of last year, \$23,000. Due to this, the board decided to increase the expenses for the facilities to \$10,000 and the speaker costs to \$4,000 to arrive at a balanced budget of \$27,100. The board approved the budget as amended.

Call for National Awards Nominations -- Due October 29, 2004

Who do you know that deserves special recognition for contributions to our field?

Nominees do not have to be members of AGA. * Photos of nominees must accompany nomination packages!

These awards will be presented at AGA's Third Annual National Leadership Conference - February 7-8, 2005 in Washington, D.C.

Submit your nominations today!

Please help us acknowledge financial professionals at the federal, state and local level and private sector who are leading the way! (You might even consider nominating yourself.)

Federal Leadership Awards

- Distinguished Federal Leadership Award -- Formally recognizes individuals in either the legislative or executive branch who have made outstanding contributions to enhancing government financial management.
- Elmer Staats Award -- Recognizes the cumulative achievements of federal professionals who throughout their career have served as a role model for others and who have consistently exhibited > the highest personal and professional standards.
- Andy Barr Award - - Formally recognizes the cumulative achievements of private sector individuals who throughout their career have served as a role model for others and who have consistently exhibited the highest personal and professional standards.

State and Local Leadership Awards

- Excellence in Government Leadership Award - Recognizes the cumulative achievements of a state or local government professional who throughout his/her public career has served as a role model for others and has consistently exhibited the highest personal and professional standards.
- William R. Snodgrass Distinguished Leadership Award - Recognizes the outstanding leadership of individuals in state government that led to improved financial management practices, policies, systems or operations and consistently exhibited the highest personal and professional standards.
- Distinguished Local Government Leadership Award - Formally recognizes the outstanding leadership of individuals in local government that led to improved financial management practices, policies, systems or operations and consistently exhibited the highest personal and professional standards.
- Private Sector Financial Excellence Award - Recognizes the cumulative achievements of private sector professionals who throughout their careers have served as a role model for others and have consistently exhibited personal and professional standards.

National News:

***Improving Government Performance: Financial Managers Take Center Stage* Make Plans Now to Join Us for AGA's Third Annual National Leadership Conference, February 7- 8, 2005, in Washington, D.C.**

Sound financial management is more important than ever. Governments are grappling with a growing list of homeland security issues - ;how to keep our cities and our nation safe, and how to pay for it. In this environment, financial managers will take center stage, confronting these challenges and the difficulties of balancing the many competing demands on taxpayers' money. At the same time, governments are focusing more intently on performance to ensure that every dollar is spent wisely, and can be accounted for later. These developments are bringing financial managers into the spotlight.

The National Leadership Conference (NLC) will bring together the top leaders in federal, state and local government financial management, all of whom are struggling to make ends meet while providing an unprecedented level of services to the citizens they serve. This conference is a must for top government leaders - chief financial officers, inspectors general, state auditors, state comptrollers, state treasurers, city auditors, city finance directors and those who work with these top leaders to keep our governments fiscally sound.

The NLC offers unparalleled opportunities to make valuable professional contacts, discuss challenges, discover creative solutions and gain the tools you need to become more effective. Don't miss this opportunity to network with your peers and learn from the best in the government accountability business.

Registration is now open. Advance registration discounts apply to all forms received before January 14, 2005.