



AGA NEWSLETTER

- October 2009 -

Fellow AGA Members,

I would like to thank all members for supporting this association over the past years and hope you will continue to support us in the future. This year we are striving to better support you by adding more inexpensive CPE opportunities through this organization, and also in partnership with other local organizations.

Our monthly meeting will be held at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo hotel on October 27th at 11:30 a.m. We will meet in the Crystal Room. Our speaker is Ann Wilkins, Director of Internships Accounting and Finance. She will cover our annual Tax Update review. The cost of the luncheon will be \$16.50.

Please RSVP to Scott Matsinger by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 21st if you plan to attend. He can be reached at matsinger_s@mail.chattanooga.gov.

Afternoon Seminar – Tax Update Seminar

Please mark your calendars as follows:

WHAT: Tax Update Seminar
CPE HOURS: four (4)
DATE: OCTOBER 27th
TIME: 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
WHERE: Chattanooga Choo-Choo
Crystal Room
COST: \$50 for members & \$70 for non-members

A registration form for the Seminar is attached to this e-mail.

UTC's 36th Accounting Lecture Series

WHAT: Accounting Lecture Series
CPE HOURS: one (1)
DATE: NOVEMBER 12th
TIME: 11:40 AM to 1:00 PM
WHERE: Chattanooga Trade and Convention Center, downtown Chattanooga
COST: \$19

SPEAKER: John Houston is founder of John D. Houston, CPA, a Chattanooga CPA firm. He has more than 30 years of public accounting experience in the Chattanooga area, including more than 2 years of service with two national accounting firms.

REGISTRATION: Register with Scott Matsinger at matsinger_s@mail.chattanooga.gov.

For more information please visit the Lecture Series webpage at www.utc.edu/Academic/Business/ALS.php

Community Outreach

It is that time of year to help those of us who are not as fortunate as others. We are going to help Partnership for Families, Children and Adults again by making a few elderly people's Christmas wish list come true. We are asking each member to bring donations of any kind this month and next to help make these people's

Christmas a merry one. I know each of us have spare change laying around that can go towards this project. It was a huge success last year and I hope we can do the same this year!

For the month of December there are two projects that have been mentioned. One is wrapping for Kids on the Block and the other is a Christmas Party for a nursing home. Please think about which one you would like to participate in.

Membership “PLUS ONE”

“Association of Government Accountants”, AGA, is only as good and strong as its individual members, and we would appreciate having your continued membership. It will be a great year for the chapter, so if you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so today. Also, if you have any prospects, please provide them with the website addresses, and let’s grow even more. This year’s goal for membership is “PLUS ONE”. I would like to challenge each member to sign just one new member for our chapter. Contact Preciosa Goduco at 425-6215 for membership applications.

Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) & Early Career

The CGFM certification is the Mark of Excellence in Federal, State and Local Government. Since its inception in 1994, the CGFM has become the standard by which government financial management professionals are measured. Its education, experience and ethics requirements have served to elevate the most seasoned financial professionals. More than 14,000 individuals have received the designation so far. Now it's your turn. Experience the benefits of certification first hand - the CGFM is the mark of excellence in your profession. We look forward to adding your name to our distinguished list of Certified Government Financial Managers.

Heritage and Needs

Over the past two decades, a number of factors have created a rapidly changing environment for today's government financial managers. Beginning with the New York City financial crisis in the 1970s and 1980s, state and local governments began overhauling their financial management systems. In 1990, the Chief Financial Officers (CFO) act called for reforms that brought the goal of accountability to the forefront.

The value of financial managers against this turbulent backdrop has shot upwards. Those who believe they are on the high end of the profession, or on the "fast track" toward getting there, need a credential that shows they are qualified and have the skills to lead. The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) does this like no other credential.

The CGFM is the first certification broad enough to cover the whole field of government financial management - federal, state and local. It deals not with testing a person in a specific area, but with measuring a wide range of knowledge and skills that a professional needs to succeed in the federal government financial environment, or to meet the unique challenges faced by state and local government financial managers.

Expertise, Value and Recognition

The foundation of the CGFM is the requirement for Education, Experience and Examination. Building on this foundation is a Code of Ethics and required Continuing Professional Education (CPE).

This designation is already recognized as a professional standard. Since the 2001 federal legislation authorizing federal government agencies to use appropriated funds to pay for expenses to obtain professional credentials, three agencies including the DoD and twelve of its components, have issued formal professional certification policies, with other agencies soon to follow suit. The CGFM designation is listed as one of the funded certifications.

To date, seven states have formally recognized the CGFM - Idaho, Mississippi, Missouri, Maine, [Tennessee](#), Virginia and Washington. Also, various counties, including Contra Costa County in California, and cities, including Topeka, KS have also formally recognized the CGFM. Each year more and more federal agencies

and state and local governments are realizing the value of the CGFM and are formally embracing the designation.

The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Board of Regents has also recognized the CGFM. It is accepted as a waiver for part IV of the CIA examination.

Toward the Future

The challenge facing today's government financial managers is to keep up with the changing times. New innovations, new developments and new methods of implementation are creating a new environment in which government financial managers must function.

There's no time like the present for joining the thousands of other leaders in government financial management who already have discovered the unique value and benefit of the CGFM designation.

Please contact **Juliana Paucar at 648-1438** if you plan to work on your CGFM certification. The chapter has study manuals to prepare you for the three part examination.

AGA Board and Committee Members for FY 2009/2010

Committees

CGFM & Early Career Committee

Juliana Paucar

Membership Committee

Brian Lopez-Cepero
Preciosa Goduco

Membership Incentive

Beverly Adams

Education Committee

Harold Tallant
Vernice White
Gary Hurst

Website Committee

Thomas Chong

Program Committee

Miguel Partap

Publicity Committee

Brian Lopez-Cepero

Community Service Coordinator

Denise Hamby

Dates of AGA Events

October 27, 2009

Tax Update **w/ 4 hour Afternoon CPE session**

November 12, 2009

Accounting Lecture Series (@ the Trade and Convention Center)

November 17, 2009

Concord Coalition

December, 2009

Christmas Lunch Meeting

AGA Board Members for FY 2009/2010

Secretary, Cheryl Pohle
Treasurer, Scott Matsinger
Immediate Past President, Beverly Adams

Elected Board

Second Year:

Brian Lopez
Harold Tallant
Anthony Sammons

First Year:

Thomas Chong
Suzy Anthony
Natalie Blackwell