

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The temperatures are cooler, but AGA is just starting to heat up! Have you heard? We are in hot competition with the San Antonio Chapter to see who supports their community more. Our Baby Food Drive at the last meeting definitely helped us kick start the year. There will be more to come so keep your eyes peeled for the next big competition (and more information later in this newsletter).

We have several opportunities within the next couple of months to meet with your fellow Chapter members. We had a Mixer coming up on October 27th at Opal Divine's at Penn Station and will have more in the future. Bring a friend and introduce them to AGA. We also have our first 4-hour CPE Event on November 10th! The topics are *Reviewing the CFO Act - Lessons Learned and Observation for Advancing Financial Management Practices* and *SSAE 16: Reporting on Controls*. I hope to see you there!

Mara Ash
President, Austin Chapter

UPCOMING AUDIO CONFERENCE

Reviewing the CFO Act - Lessons Learned and Observation for Advancing Financial Management

Speakers:

Debra Bond, MPA
Deputy Controller,
Office of Federal Financial Management,
Office of Management and Budget;

James L. Taylor
Chief Financial Officer,
U.S. Department of Labor.

Date: Thursday, November 10, 2011
Place: ERS Board Room
200 E. 18th Street
Time: 08:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.)
CPE Credit: 4 hours
Registration: Patricia Aguilera at patty.aguilera@ers.state.tx.us

SSAE 16: Reporting on Controls

Speakers:

Rick Hannmann
Partner, IT Advisory Services,
KPMG, LLC

Dean Martin
Audit Liaison and Internal Control
Coordinator, National Business Center, U.S.
Dept. of the Interior

Executive Committee

President
Mara Ash
(512) 673-2806
Mara.Ash@bafsoptions.com

President-Elect
Paul Morris
(512) 438-5685
paul.morris@dfps.state.tx.us

Immediate Past President
Zulay Sanchez
(512) 936-1688
zulay.sanchez@oag.state.tx.us

Secretary
Lynne Pfeffer
(512) 867-7181
lynne.pfeffer@ers.state.tx.us

Treasurer
Mari Queller
(512) 867-7197
mari.queller@ers.state.tx.us

Research Chair
Leita Hart
(512) 996-8588
Leita@auditskills.com

Education/Programs Committee
Debi Weyer
(512) 438-5341
debi.weyer@dfps.state.tx.us

Communications Committee
Eddie Chan
(512) 867-7310
eddie.chan@ers.state.tx.us

CGFM Committee
Bernard Ndoping-Angandje
Bernard.Ndoping-Angandje@tceq.texas.gov

Community Service Committee
Lynda Baker
(512) 280-9550
bright_sunny_disp@yahoo.com

Membership Committee
Kadie Weyer
kadie.weyer@twc.state.tx.us

CPE Events Committee
Patricia Aguilera
(512) 867-7169
patty.aguilera@ers.state.tx.us

Chapter Historian
Phillip Ashley
(512) 463-4275
phillip.ashley@cpa.state.tx.us

Webmaster
Lynne Pfeffer
(512) 867-7181
lynne.pfeffer@ers.state.tx.us

Regional VP
Riley Shaull
(405) 521-4775
riley.shaull@osf.ok.gov

LUNCHEON MEETING IN SEPTEMBER 2011

Regular Business

Kadie Weyer, Membership Chair, made the following announcements:

- A Facebook page and a Twitter page have been created for the Chapter.
- The Austin Chapter currently has 103 members.
- The National Office is sponsoring "Ready, Set, Grow" which rewards current members with a free year of dues when six of their referrals become AGA members.

Program Speaker

Debi Weyer introduced Joe Collins, Certified Fraud Examiner. Joe covered the following topics in his presentation.

- 2008 Stock Market Crash – A Disaster in the Making
- The history of the Banking Act of 1933
- The rise and fall of mortgage backed securities
- Shadow banking
- The creation of Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN SEPTEMBER 2011

- Executive Committee decided to use Square to accept credit card payments in our luncheon meeting in October 2011.
- National Scholarships for Recruitment is \$175 and the chapter can use it for the mixer in October.
- An additional scholarship in the amount of \$200 is available for recruitment purposes. Plans must be submitted to National by 10/21/2011 and the sponsored event to must take place on or before 12/31/2011. Executive Committee has proposed making this event a "Resume Building" event to focus on people interested in acquiring governmental accounting jobs.
- Executive Committee discussed the feasibility of converting the chapter historical documents into electronic format. Phillip Ashley, our Historian, will develop an outline of the types of data and the storage format for the documents that are currently in his custody.

For details of our meeting minutes, please visit our website at <http://www.agaAustin.org/Minutes.html>

MEMBER ON THE MOVE



Phillip Ashley, our chapter's historian, has been promoted to Director of Fiscal Management for the Texas Comptroller' of Public Accounts in August 2011. In his current position, Phillip administers division operations. Prior to his appointment as Director, Phillip served as the Assistant Director of Fiscal Management.

Phillip holds Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Business Administration degrees from Baylor University. He is also a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Government Financial Manager. He and his wife, Laura, live in Buda with their two children and enjoy camping and hiking.

NEW MEMBER

Please join us to welcome the following new members who joined our chapter in October 2011.

Autum Bellfield

Department of Veteran Affairs

Daniel Funderburk

ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations! The following members have reached their milestone anniversary In October 2011:

1 YEAR

Terrell Blodgett

15 YEARS

David Gibson, CGFM

10 YEARS

Lynne D. Pfeffer, CPA

BRONZE SPONSORSHIP



TREASURER'S REPORT

FOR THE MONTH ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

Beginning cash balance per Books	\$6,116.61
Plus: Revenues	
Luncheon meeting	1,346.70
Dividend	0.55
Total Revenues	1,347.25
Funds available	7,463.86
Less: Expenditures	
Gift Basket to PDC	86.64
Travel reimbursement to Zulay Sanchez	327.37
Purchase of one audio conference CD	87.89
Total Expenditures	984.78
Ending cash balance per Books	6,479.08
Adjustments:	
Outstanding checks for audio conferences	224.96
Ending cash balance per bank statement	<u>\$6,254.12</u>

For more details, Please visit our website at <http://www.agaustin.org/TReports.html>

COMMUNITY SERVICE

COMMUNITY TAX CENTERS



At the Community Tax Centers, volunteers help low-income families claim millions of dollars in tax refunds and credits. By providing free income tax preparation services, IRS certified volunteers give working families a chance to build a financial future.

For the 2012 tax season, we need over 700 volunteers to reach our goal of completing 20,000 tax returns and putting \$32 million back into the pockets of those who need it most.

What it takes to volunteer:

- Complete 8-12 hours of New Volunteer Training – No Prior Experience Required!
- A commitment of just 3hrs/wk, or a total of 36 hours, between January and April
- CPE credits are offered for CPA's that receive their IRS certification and volunteer the 36 hours requested
- A desire to give back to YOUR community

There are 10 conveniently located tax centers throughout Austin, including one in Round Rock and del Valle.

Join us for our Cupcake Social from 5:00 – 7:00 pm on November 3rd. Take a tour of our flagship site, talk to other volunteers and program staff and enjoy a delicious cupcake!

For more information and other ways to volunteer and to sign up to volunteer, please call Jackie Blair at (512) 610-7377 or e-mail her at Jackie.Blair@foundcom.org. If you volunteer, please turn in your hours to Lynda Baker at bright_sunny_disp@yahoo.com.

BABY FOOD DRIVE

The baby food drive was a success, but it is not over! The Austin Chapter has decided to continue the drive through the end of December since the Food Bank is in great need of baby food and other food items due to the wild fires. At this time, The Austin AGA Chapter brought in 122 pounds of baby food which feeds 92 babies and \$65 into the Capital Area Food Bank which feeds approximately 211 babies. Our Chapter's counts may not be final since the Food Bank is looking into donations that were made and have not been allocated towards the baby food drive.

The San Antonio Chapter and Concordia Lutheran Church brought in a total \$170 which feed approximately 510 babies plus baby food items that have not been tallied yet. The San Antonio Chapter is still collecting donations, so this is not their final count. Dallas will be joining in the challenge and will be doing their drive during the month of December.

No matter who wins the challenge, it is the babies in Austin, Dallas, and San Antonio who win! Let's give a big hand to the San Antonio Chapter for doing such a great job! Pat yourself on the back if you participated in this drive and feel proud that you helped give a baby a meal! Let's all share in the joy of knowing that approximately 813 babies (if not more) received a meal!

WINTER BREAK JOB SHADOWING PROGRAM

Texas State University's Career Services invites you to collaborate with our office as a participant in its outstanding Winter Break Job Shadowing Program. The actual shadowing would take place January 2-13, 2012.

You can make a difference, one student at a time, interacting with them in a variety of ways by having a student spend a day with you "on-the-job." For those of you who are unfamiliar with a Job Shadowing Program, here is a brief overview:

- A job shadowing opportunity is a



short-term (half/full day, several days or a week long) experience where students can gain insight into a particular job or work environment.

- Students are able to identify day-to-day business activities, determine their fit within a career field and provide an opportunity to assess their skills, interests and fit in career fields.
- Benefits include a chance to network, establish mentor relationships, and gain additional career information through advice from professionals.
- Typical shadowing activities may include: observing employees, assisting in basic office activities, participating in short-term projects (depending on time limitations), attending meetings, touring offices, and maybe even having lunch with you and some of your staff who may be a Texas State alumnus.

We would like for you to become part of (or continue in) this outstanding partnership with Texas State Career Services. Please [click here](#) to complete the "Employer Registration Form" no later than **Friday, November 11, 2012**. To ensure that your time is respected, please indicate the amount of time you would be willing to give to the shadowing student(s).

If you have any questions, please contact [Karen Julian](#) or [Casey Menn](#) at (51) 245-2645 or you can send an e-mail to kjulian@txstate.edu or cm1034@txstate.edu for more information.

CGFM

Due to popular demand, AGA National Office has extended its GFM CHAPTER PROMOTION for this program year. If our chapter holds a GFM course through AGA National during the 2011-2012 program year, we will receive 10 free CGFM Examinations which can be used by the participants! That's a \$1,090 savings!

If we hold all three GFM courses, we will receive 30 free CGFM Examinations – a savings of \$3,270 to our members! Please see the details below. It's a great opportunity to support our chapter members.

In addition, AGA National Office provides incentive to members who are interested in apply for the CGFM Program by offering a \$20 rebate to all CGFM applications received with the assistance of AGA local chapters from September 1 until December

31, 2011. AGA National Office also give a set of free study guides to the participating chapters. For more information on CGFM CHAPTER PROMOTION, please

go to www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/promotion.aspx. AGA National Office offers an Intensive Review Course event in February and March 2012 to help individuals set a deadline and complete their CGFM examinations.. Please see http://www.agacgfm.org/nlc_2012/cgfm_exams.htm for more information.

RESEARCH

INDEPENDENCE UPDATE FOR CPA FIRMS

No one expects the independence section of the 2011 Internet Version of GAGAS to change much – as it is based on old AICPA standards regarding independence. In this version of the Yellow Book, the GAO extracts what the AICPA has to say about independence in its Code of Ethics Section ET Section 101 and adds a few more tidbits that apply to government organizations OR that the GAO can't help but emphasize specifically.

What is the bottom line for CPAs in public practice following the yellow book standards? This version of independence viewed in tandem with SAS 115 is going to make it harder to justify creating the financial statements of entities that don't have financially savvy people on hand. As you know, the standards are heavily influenced by the jumbo accounting firms that don't have little tiny, two-person, not-for-profits as clients.

Here are the main points that CPA firms should pay attention to as I dissect this revised pronouncement (I will dissect it from the perspective of an internal auditor or legislative auditor in a future newsletter):

1. Creating the financial statements is a non-audit service
2. The client needs to claim the responsibility for the results of the non-audit service in order for the auditor to maintain their independence
3. The client needs to have the knowledge, skills, and experience to be able to discern whether the non-audit service was done correctly
4. SAS 115 encourages us to report when the client is unable to create their own financial statements and point out that the client does not have anyone knowledgeable about finance on staff (in other words, no one on staff to discern whether the non-audit service was performed correctly)
5. The auditor must document their reasoning that performing the non-audit service does not impair their independence

Please [click here](#) for more information on this article.

- Leita Hart-Fanta, CPA