



CAPITOL TOPICS

DECEMBER 2013

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PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Once again the holidays are upon us. With Thanksgiving arriving so late in November, it feels like we are rolling right into the remainder of the holiday season without much breathing room. Our community engagement continues. I'd like to thank everyone for their generosity during November's annual canned food drive for the Capital Area Food Bank. Our chapter donated 50 pounds of food - equivalent to 42 meals or enough food to feed ten families of four. We continue to make a positive impact in Central Texas. There are plenty more opportunities to make a difference, via volunteering with Austin Dancing with the Stars and our annual Holiday Family giving. If you are interested in these efforts and others, please contact Lynda Baker at bright_sunny_disp@yahoo.com or Priscilla Suggs at community-service@agaustin.org. Thank you Lynda and Priscilla for your organizational efforts.

We've worked hard to engage with local professionals to continue the string of successful luncheons and evening events, and our next luncheon topic promises to be most excellent. Our December luncheon will host a presentation by Zakir Mahmood with Grant Thornton. I encourage you to come and hear Mr. Mahmood's thoughts on financial management - you won't be disappointed. As always, we welcome suggestions for future events or topics that you'd like to see. We hope to see you soon and if not, happy holidays to you and your families.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Morris,
President, AGA Austin Chapter



UPCOMING EVENT

Effective Financial Management Of a Technology Intensive Organization
Speaker: Zakir Mahmood, PMP, CGFM, CBRM, CSM, Senior Manager, Global Public Sector, Grant Thornton LLP

Attendees will be able to list and describe the key financial management processes, corresponding outputs and outcomes, and best practices in an IT intensive environment.

Date/Time: Thursday, December 12, 2013 - 11:30am-1:00pm
Location: Carmelo's 504 E. 5th St. Austin TX 78701
CPE Credit: 1 Hour
Registration: <http://www.agaustin.org/aga-austin-reg.html>

HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING MINUTES

Call To Order

Chapter President Paul Morris called to order the Executive Committee Meeting at 12:00 PM on Thursday, November 14, 2013

Bob Childree talks about challenging times in state and local government.

The Value of AGA:

- ◆ Education luncheons, webinars, Professional Development Conference, Financial Management Standards Board, networking, and an environment for government accounting professionals.
- ◆ In an environment to surround yourself with intelligent people, share experiences, and even collaborate to resolve outstanding issues.

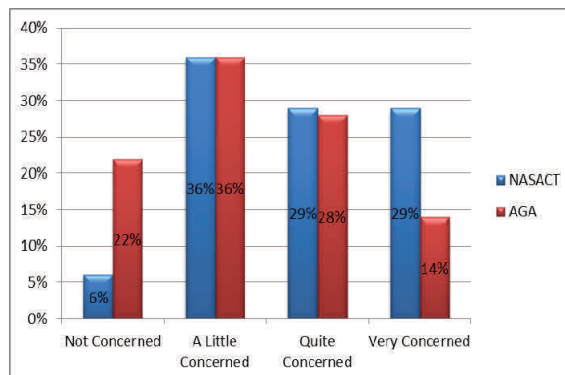
The NASACT-AGA Survey:

- ◆ The purpose is to understand current issues facing government financial executives so that NASACT (National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers) and the AGA can provide relevant thought leadership and resources.

Challenges in State and Local Government:

- ◆ Personnel – 50%-75% of upper management can retire in the next 5-10 years.
- ◆ Funding – having to do more with less.
- ◆ Technology – to meet the analytical requirements and demand for meaningful data

Concern that a "Retirement Wave" is a significant Risk



Luncheon Information

- ◆ Luncheons are held on the second Thursday of each month at Carmelo's Restaurant (on 5th St.).
- ◆ AGA members and non-members are welcome to join us at luncheons and earn CPE credit.
- ◆ Lunch (and dessert) is provided with your registration.
- ◆ Payment options: Pay at the door or online at <http://www.agaaustin.org/aga-austin-reg.html>.

New Online Membership Application

- ◆ AGA has launched a new membership application that first requires someone to set up an AGA record.
- ◆ Once they create their record they will be able to join, apply for CGFM or a register for a national event.
- ◆ This new process is more lengthy than our previous application but it is totally automated and available 24/7.
- ◆ The new system also allows one person to register others for national training events all at once.
- ◆ We have also automated the CGFM application process.



- ◆ Journal CPE Quiz Sale runs through 12/18/13 – 4 quizzes for \$59 = 12 CPEs. This is a great deal for anyone who needs CPE (non-NASBA) by the end of the year. You can buy more than one subscription and they don't expire!
<https://secure.agacgfm.org/cpeonline/>
- ◆ Deadline for the Young Professional PDT Scholarship program submissions is 12/15/13. Details are here:
https://www.agacgfm.org/AGA/About/Documents/Governance/YPs-at-PDT14_v3.pdf

For details of our meeting minutes, please visit our website at:

<http://www.agaaustin.org/ECMinutes.html>



Since its inception in 1994, the Certified Government Financial Manager (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 15,000 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.

For more information, Please follow this link.
<http://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification/The-Value-of-CGFM.aspx>

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Holiday Giving

We are excited about sponsoring a **family of 8** with the Centers for Child Protection. The children are victims of abuse and neglect. The oldest child has a mental handicap. Please bring wrapped gifts with the tag below and donations to the **December luncheon**. These donations will be delivered to the Centers for Child Protection right after the meeting. To ensure that gifts are distributed evenly, please contact Lynda Baker at bright_sunny_disp@yahoo.com to sign up for an item and obtain the child's name and so she can provide you with a donation form to be completed and returned. For the Holiday Family, we are trying to obtain per child:

- ◆ 3 tops
- ◆ 2 pair of pants
- ◆ pajamas
- ◆ socks
- ◆ 1 pair of shoes
- ◆ 2-3 wish list items (if it's an expensive item, only 2)

The wish list and donation guidelines are described as follows:

	Age	Gender	Shirt size	Pant Size	Shoe Size	Special request
Child 1	5	M	7-8 boys	7-8 boys	12 Toddler	Likes cars and helicopters.
Child 2	7	F	8 girls	8 girls	1 kids	Dolls, Barbie, flash cards, games, coloring books
Child 3	10	M	10-12 boys (large)	10-12 boys (large)	3 kids	Likes cars, video games, basketball
Child 4	12	F	Junior Medium	5-6 Junior/teen	5 women's	Likes make up, hair, nails. Likes to do art.
Child 5	13	F	Medium Misses	5-6 Misses	5 women's	Likes board games, music, & art. Likes to do her hair.
Child 6	15	F	Small women's	1	5 women's	Makeup, hair, nails.
Child 7	16	F	Small women's	N/A	N/A	Make up, body spray, perfume
Mom	31	F	N/A	N/A	N/A	All of my children need new clothes.



Gift Guidelines

- ◆ If possible, please wrap gifts. If they are wrapped please provide a detailed list of the contents. (See attached gift form)
- ◆ Do not put any locating information such as your address, phone number or last name on the gifts.
- ◆ The children we serve are victims of abuse and neglect. Provocative clothing, explicit music or t-shirts, etc. are not appropriate. We also ask that you not give items that have been used or worn.
- ◆ Each gift should be labeled with a gift contents tag (attached) to indicate family number and the recipient's name. Gifts can be placed in a large bag and labeled with the family number for easier transportation.
- ◆ In addition to the tag that has the children's name and From Santa, please loosely add this tag.

Family Number: ___1___

Name of Child: _____

Detailed Contents of Gift: _____

*If you would like to volunteer, please feel free to contact
Lynda Baker at bright_sunny_disp@yahoo.com.*

Community Service

Tax Assistance

Community Tax Centers program needs over 600 volunteers to help us complete an anticipated 18,000 tax returns this upcoming season, helping to bring in over \$30 million in refunds to the Austin economy.

This year the Center will have 5 area sites running in Austin and Round Rock the centers provide free tax assistance for the low-income families and individuals in the Austin area. This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity that is really helping to lift people out of poverty and increase spending in the Austin economic market.

The website is <http://www.foundcom.org/get-involved/volunteer-with-tax-centers/> Please contact Jackie Blair, the Director of Volunteer Programs for the Community Tax Center for more information jackie.blair@foundcom.org or call 512-610-7377.

Membership News

December Anniversaries

1 YEAR

Mr. Michael D. Needham

5 YEARS

Mr. Paul Morris, CPA, CGFM

5 YEARS

Mr. Thomas E. Voyce

11 YEARS

Mrs. Sandra Vale Moore, CGFM, CPA

15 YEARS:

Mrs. Tracy Hardwick

Mr. Cherman L. Vinyard, CGFM-Retired

16 YEARS:

Ms. Henrietta Cameron-Mann

Research Article

Executive compensation in higher education: Trends and best practices

Concerns about rising college tuition, spiraling student debt, heightened calls for transparency and the recent release of the IRS' final report on Colleges and Universities Compliance Project1 (CUCP) have put higher education institutions in the spotlight – and with it, higher education executive compensation. What follows are a number of developments and trends in colleges' and universities' pay practices, as well as their implications for boards and trustees.

Managing compensation risks

The IRS began CUCP in 2008, sending detailed questionnaires to 400 colleges and universities asking for comprehensive reporting on compensation paid to administrators and faculty. Based on these questionnaires, the government audited 34 colleges and universities, including the University of Texas, Harvard, Cornell and the University of North Carolina. One outcome is newfound attention to compliance with Internal Revenue Code Section 4958, which says that organizations may pay no more than reasonable compensation to their officers, directors, trustees and key employees. Anyone paid unreasonable compensation — and anyone who approved such compensation — can be subjected to an excise tax. (This applies to private colleges and universities, not public institutions.)

“The risk of having to pay an excise tax is small in comparison to the reputational risk facing these institutions,” said Larry Ladd, director in Grant Thornton LLP’s National Higher Education practice. “No one wants to see a headline in the media accusing your university of overpaying your president. The appearance of paying a key executive an inflated salary just makes an institution look bad in light of today’s high cost of education and rising student debt.”

View the article here: <http://www.grantthornton.com/issues/library/articles/nfp/2013/NFP-2013-06-executive-compensation-in-higher-education.aspx>