



CAPITOL TOPICS

FEBRUARY 2014

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

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

President-Elect

Tennyle Walker
Tennyle.Walker@us.gt.com

Immediate Past President

Mara Ash
Mara.Ash@bafasolutions.com

Secretary

Autumn Bellfield
Autumn.bellfield@va.gov

Treasurer

Mari Queller
mari.queller@ers.state.tx.us

Research Chair

Lorna Schwimmer
Lorna.Schwimmer@us.gt.com

Education/Programs Committee

Debi Weyer
debiweyer@gmail.com

Communications Committee

Jeanne Yanga
jeanneyanga@gmail.com

CGFM Committee

Bernard Ndoping-Angandje
Bendoping@gmail.com

Community Service Committee

Priscilla Suggs
Priscilla.Suggs@gmail.com

Awards Committee

Patty Aguilera
Patty.Aguilera@ers.state.tx.us

Membership Committee

Aaron Dvorak, **Chair**
Aaron.Dvorak@ers.state.tx.us
Patty Aguilera, **Co-Chair**

CPE Events Committee

Charmane Horton, **Chair**
charmane.horton@ers.state.tx.us
Adana Barry, **Co-Chair**
Adana.barry@austintexas.gov

Chapter Historian

Sharita Coyle
Sharita.Coyle@dfps.state.tx.us

Webmaster

Eddie Chan
eddie.chan@ers.state.tx.us

Regional VP

Don Bellcock
Donald.Bellcock@arkansas.gov

PRESIDENT MESSAGE

In my travels this month I came across the book "Making a Difference" by Captain Chesley Sullenberger, the airline pilot who successfully guided a stricken passenger jet to a water landing on the Hudson River in New York. You've all seen the story; an amazing feat, and no fatalities. Many of you may have read his books. What strikes me is that Capt Sullenberger has used his exposure from that 2009 event in such a positive manner. His book is a collection of interviews with thought leaders from many walks of life, and is filled with wisdom starting from page one. I highly recommend it to everyone. Two things struck me in this read: the first, Capt Sullenberger's desire to affect others positively is inspirational. He has made the most out of a significant emotional event. The second was a leadership concept from Warren Bennis, founder of the Leadership Institute at the University of Southern California; "When leaders treat followers with respect, followers respond with trust." In my head, I replace the term 'follower' with 'team member' – someone leaders are to guide, nurture, develop and support. But you get the idea. If we all as leaders did this a little more, our agencies would be so much more effective. Food for thought.

February; we are more than halfway through the AGA year. There are three more luncheons planned. I hope you joined us this month at Carmelo's for Scott Erwin and JoAnne Palmer from Texas State University. Their presentation, "Contract and Grant Compliance at Colleges and Universities" Was excellent. We also have community volunteer events approaching and we also hosted a February Member Networking luncheon at the Flying Saucer. Please join us in the future for CPE opportunities and more.



Paul Morris
President, AGA Austin Chapter

UPCOMING EVENT

CONTRACT AND GRANT COMPLIANCE AT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Provide an awareness of rules governing compliance of sponsored programs; Practical application of rules; Distinction between rules governing state agencies and universities.

Date/Time: Thursday, February 13th, 2014 - 11:30am-1:00pm
Location: Carmelo's 504 E. 5th St. Austin TX 78701
CPE Credit: 1 Hour
Registration: <http://www.agaaustin.org/aga-austin-reg.html>

(If you prefer a vegetarian dish, please let Adana know when registering)

HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING MINUTES



Call To Order

Chapter President Paul Morris called to order the Executive Committee Meeting at 12:00 PM on January 15, 2014.

Roll To Call

The following members were in attendance physically either at the ERS Conference Room – Longhorn Annex or via conference call: Paul Morris, Eddie Chan, Tennyle Walker, Sharita Jefferson, Mari Queller, Lorna Schimmer and Charmane Horton.

Treasurer's Report

- Capital Credit Union has had website and server issues and Mari has been unable to print the Treasurer's Report; as soon as the issues are resolved, Mari will send out the report
- We have over \$6000 in the account-- this does not include scholarships

Old Business

- We had 28 to 29 participants at last week's luncheon event
- Charmane says only about 8 people printed the presentation from online
- Eddie will post the presentations to the webpage from now on, once we receive approval from the speaker

Professional Development Conference

- Will be held this summer from July 13-16, 2014 in Orlando, Florida

February Membership Anniversaries

2 YEARS

Ms. Jeanne L. Yanga

6 YEARS:

Mr. Phillip R. Ashely, CGFM

Ms. Zulay A Sanchez, CGFM

10YEARS:

Mrs. Janet Kay H. Davis

15YEARS:

Mr. Gregory E. McLaughlin, CGFM

22 YEARS:

Mrs. Patty Lynn Hamm, CGFM

Mr. Greg D. Herbert, CGFM

23YEARS:

Ms. Lesli B. Cathey, CGFM

Treasurer's Report

For the Period Ending 01/31/2014

Beginning Bank Balance 12/31/13		\$6,163.80
Revenue:		
	DPS	\$56.45
	DADS	\$25.00
	Membership Fees From AGA National	\$12.10
	Luncheon 01/09/14	\$170.17
	Dividend through December 31, 2013	\$0.52
	Total Revenue	\$264.24
Funds Available		\$6,428.04
Expenditures:		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Check No./ Credit Card.</i>	
		<i>Luncheon</i>
01/09/14	CC	01/09/14
		\$482.00
	Total Expenditures	482.00
Ending Bank Balance 01/31/14		\$5,946.04
Check Register Reconciliation:		
Ending Bank Balance 01/31/14		\$5,946.04
Outstanding Checks:		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Check No.</i>	<i>Description</i>
		Total Outstanding Checks
		\$0.00
Outstanding Deposits:		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>	
		Total Outstanding Deposits
		\$0.00
Adjusted Ending Bank Balance @ 01/31/14		\$5,946.04
Total Chapter Cash Available Per Check Register @ 01/31/14		\$5,946.04
Cash On Hand:		
	CU Min Savings Balance	\$5.00
	Luncheon Bank	\$40.00

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Austin Pets Alive! Volunteer Orientation

What: Become a volunteer for the non-profit Austin Pets Alive, an organization whose mission is to promote and provide the resources, education and programs needed to eliminate the killing of companion animals.

There are tons of ways you can volunteer from simply taking pets on a walk nearby Town lake, to assisting with adoption hotlines and websites, behavior training, becoming a "Big Brother/Big Sister" to a loving pet, data entry/office admin, facilities maintenance, fostering animals, bottle baby nursery, promoting APA events and lots of other opportunities.

When: Saturday, February 8, 2014 from 10:00am to 12:00pm

Where: Town Lake Animal Center
1156 W Cesar Chavez Street
Austin, TX 78703

How: To sign up, submit a volunteer application at: <http://www.austinpetsalive.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

15th annual Make a Difference gala hosted by: New Life Children's Center

What: The 15th annual Make a Difference Gala benefits the abused and troubled girls (ages 11-17) at New Life Children's Center in Canyon Lake, Texas. The Italian theme is "Under the Tuscan Moon"; the event will include cocktails & dinner, live & silent auctions, and a performance by the Night Owls. Come volunteer

When: Saturday, February 15, 2014 from 5:00pm to 11:00pm

Where: Brazos Hall
204 E. Fourth St.
Austin, TX 78799

How: To sign up, submit a volunteer application at: <http://www.newlifechildrenscenter.org/volunteer/>

African American Community Heritage Festival

What: The African-American Community Heritage Festival is a family-friendly community celebration noting the contributions and achievements of African Americans. There will be activities for children, live performances and music, food and sales vendors. The type of activities that volunteers will participate in depends on the time

of day when you volunteer. The festival is scheduled from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 pm.

When: Saturday, February 22, 2014 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm (Volunteer opportunities are available between 8:00 am and 6:00 pm.)

Where: Huston Tillotson University

How: To volunteer, contact the Office of State Representative Dawwna Dukes at [\(512\) 463-0506](tel:5124630506).

Illuminate Austin: A Walk for Safe Families

What: Illuminate Austin is an evening walk in Mueller Lake Park, along a path lined with beautiful luminarias. Please join us for the walk and vendors, art activities, photo booth and kids' activities! This fun, family-friendly event will benefit SafePlace, which provides shelter and essential services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Austin.

When: Saturday, February 22, 2014 from 4:30pm to 8:00pm

Where: Mueller Lake Park & Hangar
4550 Mueller Blvd.
Austin, TX 78723

How: To participate, register here: <http://illuminateatx.org/register/>

Special Olympics Central Texas - 2014 Area 13 Basketball Competition Volunteers

What: Join the Special Olympics Texas on Friday, Feb 28 &/or March 1 for the 2014 Special Olympics Texas - Central Texas Area Basketball Tournament. More than 400 athletes will participate in this competition. Please sign up by February 24.

Potential Volunteer Assignments include: Gym supervisors, court monitors, scorekeepers, equipment set-up/break down, opening ceremony, awards, escorts, runners, floaters, volunteer check-in, individual skills event, team skills event, 3-on-3 event.

When: Volunteer shifts are available from Friday, February 28, 2014 at 1:00 PM - Saturday, March 1, 2014 at 4:00 PM

Where: Texas State University - Jowers Center
601 University Dr
San Marcos, TX 78666

How: To sign up, select a volunteer shift through Eventbrite at: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/2014-area-13-basketball-competition-volunteers-tickets->



Research Article

The State of the Union: A View of the Federal Government's Management from the Inside

Sure, as we heard the President say in his annual speech, the state of our union is strong; but what about its management? If you've been watching the news or paying attention at all, you'd have to admit that the state of management in the federal government is not what it should be. Admittedly, there has been intermittent progress. But recurring failures, like Healthcare.gov, remind us that we have a hard time learning the lessons of the past.

In July 2013, the President announced he had tasked his Cabinet to develop an aggressive management agenda for his second term that would deliver a smarter, more innovative, and more accountable government for its citizens. We expect that New Management Agenda to be announced in March when the President releases his 2015 budget or earlier.

In the interim, analysis of both agency Inspector General reports and surveys of the government management community suggest we know what the problems are just as well as we know their potential solutions. A new management agenda promises to address government's greatest management challenges, but if the past is prologue, achieving and sustaining progress will be a challenge.

Agency Inspectors General Report Major Management Challenges

Each year, as required by law, Inspectors General report on what they see as their agencies' major management challenges. It's an annual tally of the biggest issues plaguing agency management, and unfortunately, it rarely changes from year to year. Together with the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) biennial high-risk list, these issues are what puts the government's success and Americans' trust at risk.

The table to the right summarizes the 8 management challenges most often cited by Inspectors General at the 24 largest agencies:

Clearly, these challenges impact major swaths of the government's operations and need more sustained, transparent oversight and attention. For example, at seven large agencies, all of the management challenges cited by the Inspectors General stayed the same from 2012 to 2013 – none were removed!

As an example, let's take a quick look at the Improper Payments challenge. One of the government's longstanding challenges has been making payments properly. If an organization makes trillions of dollars of payments each year, sometimes they're going to get some of them wrong. However, there is evidence that, with persistent attention, the government is making significant progress. The practices agencies employed to achieve these advances should be studied and replicated so we can make even more progress.

Unfortunately, the manner in which agencies approach their error reduction efforts is inconsistent. GAO, for instance, found deficiencies in every key requirement of DOD's implementation of laws intended to reduce payment error.

The Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act (IPERA) of 2010 required Inspectors General to annually review agency efforts to correct improper payments. Grant Thornton has reviewed the Inspectors General reports for 20 large agencies to determine the status of agency efforts and see what best practices are reducing improper payment rates. For 2012, only 4 of the 20 agencies were totally compliant with IPERA, and 7 were clearly not compliant. However, we did identify some areas where agencies had made some improvements over time. The challenge is to disseminate this information to the agencies most in need of it.

Improper payments should be an area in which we celebrate real progress. However, because we don't really know the extent of our payment error problem, it's difficult to claim success against a major challenge.

	IT Security	IT Mgmt	Financial Mgmt	Acquisition Mgt	Human Capital Mgmt	Grants Mgmt	Improper Payments	Internal Controls
USDA								
DOC								
DOO								
DoED								
DOE								
HHS								
DHS								
HUD								
DOI								
DOJ								
DOL								
DOS								
DOT								
Treasury								
VA								
EPA								
GSA								
NASA								
NRC								
NSF								
OPM								
SBA								
SSA								
USAID								
Total	18	17	16	15	12	8	8	8