



CAPITOL TOPICS

MARCH 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

Greetings one and all. March already and once again many of our members begin preparing for the Texas Legislative Session, while our federal friends keep an eye on federal budget issues. This is the time of year that I encourage everyone to keep visiting the AGA national website and in particular, to check out the 'AGA & Industry News' section. You can find that section at this link: <http://www.agacgfm.org>. The Austin Chapter would like to recognize the work you all do in government accounting. It is more crucial than ever for us to work hard to help our agencies ensure accountability.

Congrats also to the local chapter of AGA. It is March, and the Governor's Office has recognized the special place and need for Certified Government Financial Managers. March was declared CGFM Month. We are humbled and honored by the recognition. Also, in this month's newsletter we include more information on community involvement led by our community service chair – thank you Priscilla for your efforts. In addition, we hope you were able to join us for our February member recognition luncheon. Finally, please join us for our March education event which will be a Presentation by Mac McLeod on the Perils of Being on the Cloud. We hope to see you there.

Paul Morris
President, AGA Austin Chapter



March is CGFM Month

UPCOMING EVENT

The Perils of Being on the Cloud

Date/Time: Thursday, March 20th, 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 February 20, 2014.

Roll To Call

The following members were in attendance physically either at the ERS Conference Room – Longhorn Annex or via conference call: Eddie Chan, Tennyle Walker, Sharita Jefferson, Lorna Schwimmer, Debi Weyer, Patti Aguilera, Autumn Bellfield and Charmane Horton.

Membership Event

- ◆ Executive Committee elections will be in April 2014 (Education Co-chair, President Elect, Treasurer, Co-Luncheon, CGFM)

Old Business

- ◆ Treasurer and Secretary Minutes have been e-mailed to Executive Committee for review and approval. A majority approval is needed.
- ◆ Quorum for a meeting is 10%.

Professional Development Conference

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

Membership Anniversaries

2 YEARS

Mr. Nicholas Cotton
Ms. Vanessa L. Creader

3 YEARS

Ms. Adana Barry
Ms. Michele R. Castro, CGFM

4 YEARS

Ms. Brigitta M. Crider, CGFM, CPA

5 YEARS

Ms. Dale G. Hernandez, CGFM

13 YEARS

Mr. Kip D. Wilson, CGFM

15 YEARS

Ms. Gaye M. Pharr, CGFM

18 YEARS

Mr. David L. Spencer, CGFM
Ms. Debra L. Weyer, CGFM

19 YEARS

Ms. Kimbelry R. Emmerich, CGFM

22 YEARS:

Mr. David M. Griffith, CGFM

23 YEARS:

Mr, Stephen H. Niemeier



Upcoming Event

(Thursday, March 20th)

The Perils Of Being on the Cloud

Speaker: M.A (Mac) MacLeod, Adjunct Professor

Mr. MacLeod carries a Bachelor degree in Computer System Management and a Master Degree in Computer Information Systems, both from St. Edward's University. He is enrolled at Capella University, and has been accepted to start his dissertation for a PhD in Business and Organizational Management, with a specialization in Information Technology Management.

Mr. MacLeod is currently an adjunct professor at St. Edward's University and Austin Community College (ACC). At St. Edwards, he teaches management theory for information technology in the Master's program for Computer Information Systems.

At ACC, Mac teaches in the undergraduate program in the computer information system discipline. He has been in the Information Technology field for over 30 years and has designed data center technology for companies throughout the United State. He has also had the privilege of building the 3rd largest data network in state government here in Texas.

COMMUNITY SERVICE



Keep Austin Beautiful

KAB has lots of year-round volunteer park and greenbelt cleaning opportunities. In fact, last year more than 13,000 people rolled up their sleeves to put in more than 30,000 hours of volunteer work. If any organization knows how to keep volunteers happy, it's KAB. Check out their calendar of opportunities.

Texas Parks & Wildlife

Sure, you can help clean-up and get ready for spring with TPW, but you can also volunteer to be a guide or docent. Everyone wants to guide someone through that cool cave at Colorado Bend, right? Here's the place to sign up.

Colorado River Alliance

Colorado River Alliance has year-round cleanup opportunities, including one coming up on March 7 in Bouldin Creek. This organization is all about the conservation and beautification of the vital Colorado River, and also offers lots of educational opportunities. It's worth checking out this advocacy organization.

Volunteer with Green Doors

Help landscape a home, distribute food at the food pantry, share your holiday cheer, assist with fundraising activities or plan a donation drive in the local community - there are many opportunities to support Green Doors' deserving residents.

Green Doors was started as an all-volunteer, grassroots, people-helping-people non-profit organization. Volunteers have always been, and continue to be, crucial support to the organization. Volunteer roles are adapted to fit individual knowledge, skills and preferences. Volunteers must be over the age of 18.

The organization welcomes inquiries about

short or long-term volunteer opportunities for both individuals and groups.

- ◆ If you are an individual looking to volunteer with us, please contact Emily Frenzel at efrenzel@greendoors.org or [512-469-9130 X 312](tel:512-469-9130).
- ◆ If you are looking for opportunities to get your group involved, please contact Allison Scharf at ascharf@greendoors.org or [512-469-9130 X 305](tel:512-469-9130).

Adult Literacy: Volunteers needed!

Education is key to gainful employment, however in central Texas there is a high rate of adult illiteracy. There are dozens of organizations in Central Texas that are equipped to help improve adult literacy...

YOU can help do something about it!

What's great about adult literacy volunteering is that **you can make a real connection with the person you're helping**. Bent over a book together with pencils in hand, volunteers have to directly impact the lives of people in need. In fact, here are some local organizations looking for literacy volunteers right now:

- ◆ **American YouthWorks** needs teachers for its ESL, Computer Literacy and GED programs.
- ◆ **Ascend Center for Learning** needs volunteers to help adults get their GEDs.
- ◆ **Lifeworks** helps young people who've spent their lives in foster homes and shelters get their GEDs.



Happy St. Patrick's Day

Research Article

The Obama Administration's New Management Agenda! Fresh Approaches to Measuring and Reducing the Cost of Government?

It's been a long time coming, but the framework of the Obama Administration's new management agenda was just released. Hot off the press, it outlines a series of initiatives designed to improve the performance and efficiency of the federal government. Some of the areas are new, others are not. But together they represent an opportunity to renew efforts to fix what's broken in government and begin to restore America's trust. Cost management is just one of those areas.

The new management agenda – Creating a 21st Century Government – consists of four pillars: (1) Effectiveness; (2) Efficiency; (3) Economic Growth; and (4) People and Culture. Of the four pillars, Efficiency is the area in which cost management plays a major role. A number of important cost initiatives are featured.

The full title of this pillar is *Efficiency: Increase Quality and Value in Core Operations and Enhance Productivity to Achieve Cost Savings*. The areas of focus in which cost management is prominently featured include:

- ◆ **Expanding the Use of Strategic Sourcing.** Leveraging the government's buying power to purchase common goods and services can reduce their cost by "over 65 percent."
- ◆ **Establishing cost and Quality Benchmarks for Core Administrative Functions.** Through executive councils, the Administration will establish such benchmarks for key administrative areas such as human resources, finance, acquisition, information technology, and real property. These benchmarks will baseline costs and set the stage for better management of these activities government-wide.
- ◆ **Saving on Real Estate Costs.** Building on efforts to inventory and freeze the government's real estate footprint, the Administration proposes a Civilian Property Realignment Act to streamline the government's disposal process and save \$2 billion.
- ◆ **Reducing Administrative Overhead.** Continuing initiatives to cut administrative costs, the Administration will further reduce the cost of activities such as travel, advisory contracts, printing, extraneous promotional items, and transportation.

These initiatives are just a subset of a more ambitious list of ongoing initiatives to address government's major management challenges. Added together, though, they represent a substantial savings to the taxpayer. But to make the progress promised by the Administration, agencies and OMB must have a clear view of the cost of activities and the savings that result from the actions being taken. Otherwise, expect the Government Accountability Office, Inspectors General, or Congress to report, like GAO did recently, that "better support for estimated savings may increase the chances that they will be achieved." A little early planning will pay big dividends.

You can see the management agenda at http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2015/assets/21st_century.pdf.

You can see the GAO report at <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-65>.



March is CGFM Month