



CAPITOL TOPICS

NOVEMBER 2015

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy (belated) Halloween! It was great seeing everyone at the October luncheon last month. I was truly impressed on how knowledgeable Cathy Terrell was and her ability to take a complicated topic and make it easy to follow! We are only a few months into our chapter fiscal year and have had some great speakers.

The Chapter Executive Committee met on October 15 and discussed a number of initiatives. The Education and Programs Committee confirmed that Eric Kuntz, State Coordinator for Recovery at the Texas Department of Emergency Management will present at the November luncheon. He will discuss disaster recovery efforts in the State of Texas. Please be sure to join us for this very relevant topic for everyone.

I hope some of you were able to attend one or more of the great volunteer opportunities that were included in the September newsletter. My husband and I attended the Texas Advocacy Project Black and White Ball at the JW Marriott on October 16. The Texas Advocacy Project raised over \$50,000 in just 3 short hours! Proceeds from the event are put towards their mission of providing free legal services for women that are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. There was champagne, ball gowns and live and silent auctions. A very chic evening for a great cause.

Lastly, I would like to announce that the Secretary position is now vacant, in addition to the vacant positions noted in the September newsletter. Please reach out to me or one of the Board Members if you are interested and would like more information on the roles and responsibilities. Thank you for your continued support of the chapter. See you all on November 12th!

Bhakti Patel
President, AGA Austin Chapter



UPCOMING EVENTS

Disaster Recovery in the State of Texas

Join us November 12, 2015, to hear Eric Kuntz discussion on disaster recovery. Eric Kuntz is the Texas Division of Emergency Management's State Coordinator for Recovery Efforts. As part of his position, Eric oversees recovery efforts due to natural disasters and emergency situations, including floods, fires, hurricanes, etc. Eric has overseen drastic recovery efforts, coordinating with the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) related to Hurricane Ike, the Bastrop fires and more recently, the Texas Floods that impacted the majority of the State of Texas in May 2015. He manages a team that spans Statewide during times of emergency response, managing not only TDEM staff, but also coordinating with contractors, municipalities, school districts and State Agencies, to name a few.

Please note the registration fee has increased to \$25 per member and \$30 for non-members.

Date/Time: Thursday, November 12, 2015 - 11:30 am-1:00 pm
Location: Pappadeaux at 6319 N. Interstate 35, Austin, TX 78752
CPE Credit: 1 Hour
Registration: <http://www.agaaustin.org/aga-austin-reg.html>

Attend Today! Win a Gift Card for Tomorrow!

Highlights

Luncheon Gift Card Drawings!



Congratulations to **Mariana Miranda** for winning the \$20 Starbucks gift card during the October 8th luncheon!

AGA will continue to have a raffle for attendees during every luncheon event this year! The raffle winner will receive a \$20 gift card (i.e. Starbucks, Target, Walmart, etc.) by drawing the winner from the list of names in attendance (excludes Executive Committee Members)!

Minutes

On October 15, 2015, the Austin Chapter held its monthly executive meeting. The key points from the meeting follow.

- Need for Speaker Bios
- Continuation of holding the monthly luncheon at Pappadeaux for November and December
- Change of one menu option during luncheon
- Miscellaneous (speaker gifts, newsletter submission, vacancies)

Membership

November Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following members who have reached their anniversary milestone in the month of November 2015.

1 YEAR:

Nancy M. Clark, CGFM

5 Years:

W. Scott Erwin, CGFM

Defined Benefit Plan Debate CPE Event - October 8, 2015 -

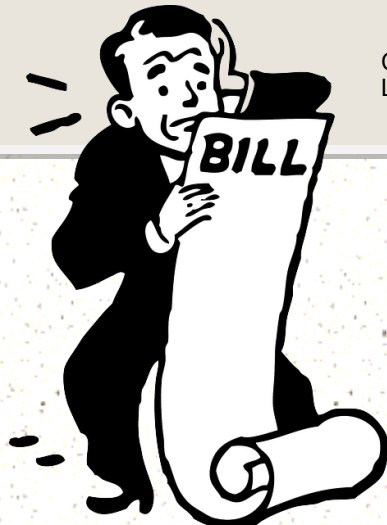


**A special thank you to
Sharita Jefferson
for the photos!**
(more photos on page 9)

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report For the period ending 9/30/2015

Beginning Bank Balance 8/31/2015	\$6,497.59
<i>Revenue:</i>	
9/25/2015 ACH Square Luncheon	\$24.31
9/15/2015 ACH - Texas Comptroller - DFPS PO	\$25.00
9/11/2015 Luncheon Check Deposit	\$25.00
9/11/2015 ACH Square Luncheon	\$121.55
9/9/2015 ACH Square Luncheon	\$48.62
9/9/2015 ACH - Texas Comptroller - DFPS PO	\$70.00
9/4/2015 ACH Square Luncheon	\$106.96
9/1/2015 Dividend through 8/31/2015	\$0.56
Total Revenue	\$422.00
 Funds Available	 \$6,919.59
<i>Expenditures:</i>	
<i>Date</i> <i>Check No./Credit Card.</i>	
9/12/2015 <i>Debit card</i> Aplus - Website services	\$119.27
9/11/2015 <i>Debit card</i> Pappadeaux - Luncheon	\$430.92
Total Expenditures	\$550.19
 Ending Bank Balance 9/30/2015	 \$6,369.40
Check Register Reconciliation:	
Ending Bank Balance 9/30/2015	\$6,369.40
<i>Outstanding Checks: Outstanding Checks:</i>	
<i>Date Check No.</i>	<i>Description</i>
 Total Outstanding Checks	
	\$0.00
<i>Outstanding Deposits: Outstanding Deposits:</i>	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
 Total Outstanding Deposits	
	\$0.00
 Adjusted Ending Bank Balance 9/30/2015	 <u>\$6,369.40</u>
Total Chapter Cash Available Per Check Register 9/30/2015	<u>\$6,369.40</u>
<i>Cash On Hand:</i>	
CU Min Savings Balance	\$5.00
Luncheon Bank	\$40.00



Community Service



Drink for a Cause – ACS Relay for Life Fundraiser

Hosted by: Relay for Life of Central Austin and the American Cancer Society
When: Tuesday, November 3, 2015 from 4 PM - 9 PM
Where: Kung Fu Saloon, 510 Red River Street, Austin, TX 78701
More information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1635278453393474/>

Join the Relay for Life of Central Austin and the American Cancer Society in the fight to create a world with less cancer and more birthdays. Come out to Kung Fu Saloon on Tuesday, November 3 and drink for a cause! 15% of drink sales from the entire day will go to the American Cancer Society (via the Relay for Life of Central Austin). Happy hour is from 4-9 p.m. and includes \$3.25 wells and domestics and \$2 off everything else. Kung Fu Saloon has plenty of vintage arcade games and table games to keep the fun going all night long! *This event is 21 and over.*

Zombie Apocalypse Hunt

Hosted by: American Red Cross Disaster Recovery Relief
When: Saturday, November 7, 2015 from 5:00 PM to 10:30 PM
Where: Old Settlers Park, Virg Rabb Pavilion, Round Rock, TX 78665

Sign-up to volunteer as a zombie: Please contact ZombieApocalypseHunt@gmail.com with "Volunteer" in the subject line.
Sign-up for race here: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/zombie-apocalypse-hunt-tickets-19111543140?aff=es2>

Join us for a night of fun filled horror and excitement as we raise money for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. This is a non-profit event, all proceeds will be donated. *Sign-up to race through an apocalyptic scavenger hunt, meeting at checkpoints for water, weapons, and supplies, all while avoiding the flesh eating zombies that abound around you. Or Volunteer to be a zombie.*



AIDS Walk Austin

Hosted by: AIDS Services of Austin
When: Sun Nov 8, 2015, 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Where: Republic Square, 422 Guadalupe St., Austin, TX 78701
Sign-up here: http://aidsa.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=walk_volunteer



The 28th Annual AIDS Walk Austin will be Sunday November 8th at Republic Square Park. Volunteers make all of the difference on this day. We could not do it without you. If you are interested in participating this year we would be honored to have you. Volunteers have the opportunity to help during set up the day of while participating in the day's festivities, creating pit stops along the route called "special moments" that are themed and fun to keep the walkers inspired, and much more!

Community Service (continued)



SPiRiT 105.9 Fest 2015

When: Sat, November 14, 2015 at 9:00 AM - Sun, November 15, 2015 at 10:00 PM
Where: Dell Diamond, 3400 East Palm Valley Boulevard; Round Rock, TX 78665
Sign-Up Here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f49adaa2dab9-spirit13>

SPiRiT Fest, Central Texas' largest family festival, brings the top national talent in Christian Music and a family friendly outdoor festival together at the Dell Diamond for an uplifting and encouraging one-day event! Grammy recording artists from around the country will come together at Dell Diamond for a day of faith, family and fun! Festival participants can visit the Family Fun Zone offering over 5,000 square feet of carnival rides, bounce houses, arts and crafts activities. We can't do these concerts without YOU the volunteer! You are going to have a lot of fun see a great concert and get to know a lot of new friends.

We Are Girls Conference

Hosted by: Girls Empowerment Network
When: Saturday, November 14, 2015 various shifts
Where: Austin High School, 1715 West Cesar Chavez Street Austin, TX 78703
Sign-up here: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/we-are-girls-conference-volunteer-sign-up-austin-tickets-17831581741?aff=es2>

Sign up to volunteer at the We Are Girls Conference, produced by Girls Empowerment Network. This conference is a statewide, multi-city event designed especially for girls in grades 3-8 and the adults who care about them. Now in its 8th year, the 2015 theme is "Tell Your Story." Featuring skill-building workshops and dynamic presentations, the We Are Girls Conference connects girls to relatable role models and encourages healthy relationships, educational discovery, and creative self-expression. Hurry and sign up, volunteer shifts are filling fast!

Keep an eye out for more volunteer opportunities that will be distributed at the beginning of November!



Research Article *Connie Spinelli*

New Tax Abatement Disclosure Requirements for State & Local Governments

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On August 14, 2015, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued its final guidance on tax abatement disclosures. Statement No. 77, Tax Abatement Disclosures, requires governments granting tax abatements to individuals and businesses to disclose program information in the notes to the financial statements through the duration of the agreement. Extant standards do not require state and local governments to disclose information related to tax abatement programs, although many governments do provide information to the public about them. Statement 77 changes this; governments soon will be required to provide information to help users assess the government's accountability over authorized abatements and the effects of these agreements on a government's financial health and ability to raise revenue. Disclosure requirements include information about revenues forgone as well as the mechanism by which the taxes are abated and the governmental entity's abatement-related commitments other than to reduce taxes, if any. The guidance addresses tax abatement agreements entered into by the reporting government as well as those initiated by other governments that reduce the reporting government's tax revenues.

The standard is limited to disclosures and doesn't address recognition issues. It's effective for periods beginning after December 15, 2015, with earlier adoption encouraged.

Blending Requirements of Certain Component Units

Public higher education institutions, health care entities and similar special-purpose entities have accounting and financial reporting issues different from those of general-purpose governments. They primarily engage in business-type activities (BTA) and expand operations by acquiring legally separate entities or spin-off operations to incorporate them into legally separate entities. These separate entities often constitute large operational segments of the government, carry forward its mission and in some instances provide a significant portion of the government's services. There is diversification in practice in how BTAs present legally separate not-for-profit organizations that they have acquired or set up separately. Some governments classify and present the organizations as component units while others classify them as investments. Some present them as blended component units while others present them as discretely presented component units. In its research, GASB concluded the component-unit method chosen by certain BTAs has not best represented the reporting-entity presentation and met financial statement user needs.

To provide needed guidance, GASB recently issued a proposal adding an exception-based criterion to the existing blending requirements contained in Statement No. 14, The Financial Reporting Entity. Under the proposal, a component unit should be included in the reporting entity financial statements using the blending method when the component unit is organized as a not-for-profit corporation in which the primary government is the sole corporate member. Under the blending method, activities of an acquired or legally separate not-for-profit organization are presented as if they were activities of the primary government. Blending Requirements for Certain Component Units, an amendment of GASB Statement No. 14, applies to all state and local governments, including governments engaged in both governmental and business-type activities.

The proposed statement would be effective for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2016. Some governments may wish to implement the guidance earlier than the effective date, which the statement both permits and encourages since the primary government should have sufficient information regarding its legally separate entities. Governmental entities would apply the provisions retroactively by restating financial statements, if practical, for all prior periods presented. Comments are due October 2, 2015.

Research Article *(Continued)*

The proposed statement does not address fundamental reporting entity principles established in Statement 14, as amended, such as the criteria for inclusion of component units in the financial reporting entity or the presentation principle that most component units should be discretely presented. In general, discrete presentation should be the presumed method of inclusion of component units and blending should occur only in specific, narrowly defined circumstances. The board tentatively agreed not to expand the scope of the project to develop blending criteria for equity interest in entities with less than 100 percent ownership, as the board believes existing disclosure requirements adequately address information needs. Therefore, the board decided not to require any additional note disclosures in this statement. This proposed blending criterion would not apply to component units included in the financial reporting entity by Statement No. 39, Determining Whether Certain Organizations Are Component Units.

Fun Fact:

The name for “piggy banks’ comes from the use of family money jars in the Middle Ages made from a type of clay called pygg.



Ronald McDonald House Volunteering



In September, AGA members Mari Queller and Priscilla Suggs partnered with Austin Young Chamber of Commerce to cook dinner for families at the Austin Ronald McDonald house for Dell Children’s Hospital. Volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House make a difference to the families and their children who rely on this “home-away-from-home.” From cooking, cleaning, comforting or by simply being there and helping out in any way, volunteers help care for central Texas families in need. Contact the RMH to volunteer at any time, (512) 472-9844.



**Defined Benefit Plan Debate
CPE Event
- October 8, 2015 -**



Join the FUN!

