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# AGA- OKC

## October 2009 Newsletter

October 2009

### President's Message

The new meeting year is off to a great start! We had about 23 join us for the September luncheon for a stimulating topic that we should all know about presented by an expert speaker. This month's meeting topic will be just as thought-provoking as we get an overview of the International Financial Accounting Standards that will be coming to the USA soon.

Some (uninformed) people say that accounting or auditing is boring, but that just isn't true. When you

think you've got it all figured out, along comes a new standard or two... or ten, and it's time to learn something new. So, join us for the luncheon this month to learn about the new standards and how they may impact you in the future. And, in case, you are worried about keeping up with the changes, OCU professors will tell us how easy it is to locate and get started in a masters program at your favorite college around the OKC area.

Also, it's not too early to



to make plans to attend the OKC-AGA Fall Training Conference. We have a full eight-hour program planned covering Internal Controls, The Stimulus and Other Issues. The cost is only \$130 for members, and there is no better deal around. So, check it out!

Brenda Bolander  
Chapter President

**AGA-OKC Luncheon**

**Wednesday  
October 14, 2009  
11:30 - 1:00**

**Topic: New International GASB Standards;  
Master's Program Requirements**

**Carolyn Webster, CPA, MSA  
Visiting Instructor of Accounting  
and**

**Dr. Jacci Rodgers, CPA, CMA  
Chair of the Accounting & Information  
Technology Dept  
Oklahoma City University**

**Italiano's  
4801 N. Lincoln Blvd  
Oklahoma City**

**OCTOBER LUNCHEON**

Dr. Jacci Rodgers, CPA, CMA is the chair of the Accounting and Information Technology department and Faculty Liaison for Assessment at Oklahoma City University. Her specialties are cost accounting and quality issues. She has served as an Oklahoma Quality award examiner and is a peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, the accrediting body for colleges and universities. She has published and consulted in the areas of costing, quality, and assessment.

Carolyn J. Weber, CPA, MSA, is a visiting instructor of accounting at Oklahoma City University. She teaches financial, intermediate, and consolidations accounting courses. She also currently works as an accountant for several businesses in investments and accounting software for churches and not-for-profit entities. Previously, she worked in taxation with a Big Four firm.

## September 9, 2009 Luncheon Meeting Minutes

We held our first meeting of the year at our new location, Italiano's Pizza and Pasta and had a great turnout with 24 in attendance!

Brenda Bolander opened the meeting and introduced the new Chapter Officers. Our next meeting is October 14, 2009 at Italiano's Pizza and Pasta. Our chapter will also be holding a Fall Seminar on November 12, 2009 at Rose State College for 8 hours of CPE. For more information, please visit

our website at [www.agaokc.org](http://www.agaokc.org). Vonna Anderson presented our Scholarship recipient, Robin Cooper with her award certificate. She is working on her Masters Degree in Accounting at OCU. She was accompanied by her Accounting professor Jacci Rodgers.

Our speaker was Cody Garretson with Belfor, a disaster recovery company here in the United States but with offices in 23 countries. With their

many locations around the United States, they can be in a location within 24 hours of an event. They have several large clients such as Marriott, Coca Cola, Walmart, and several cities, libraries and government offices including Oklahoma State University. They can go in before an event (such as a hurricane) and board up buildings, protect equipment and move documents. They can come in after a disaster (water, fire, hurricane, earthquake, etc.) and work to restore

electronic equipment and buildings as well as recover documents. They can de-humidify equipment to prevent further damage, clean equipment to get it back in running order, and can recover wet documents and scan them or dry them to prevent further damage. They can help to get a company back up and running quickly so the company can start making a profit again.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Koehn, Secretary



### In the News with Headlines

Source: <http://www.acfe.com/home.asp?copy=news>

#### [U.S. Says Petters Faked Checks, Orders in Ponzi Scheme](#)

Tom Petters concocted fake checks and purchase orders as part of a Ponzi scheme to deceive retailers into believing that he was transacting more business with them than he actually was, the U.S. government said at his trial on Thursday.

- Reuters

#### [Investigations in India Point to New Government Focus on Corruption](#)

Less than a year after India was rocked by a large fraud at one of its biggest technology companies, Indian authorities are starting a raft of high-profile corporate investigations.

#### [Another UBS Informant Gets Leniency for Tax Fraud](#)

A tax evader turned government informant received a light sentence in Florida on Friday because he cooperated in a high-profile U.S. probe of Swiss bank UBS AG. It was the second case this week in which a former U.S. client of the Swiss bank was treated lightly due to the assistance he gave federal investigators.

- Reuters

#### [French Branch of Scientology Convicted of Fraud](#)

The French branch of the Church of Scientology was convicted of fraud and fined nearly \$900,000 on Tuesday by a Paris court. But the judges did not ban the church entirely, as the prosecution had demanded, saying that a change in the law prevented such an action for fraud. The church said it would appeal.

- The New York Times

## From AGA Today - States Counting on Cheap Credit to Avoid Spending Cuts

By Dennis Cauchon  
September 28, 2009  
USA Today

State governments are rushing to borrow money to take advantage of cheap and plentiful credit at a time when tax collections are tumbling.

Investors, lured by the safety of taxpayer-guaranteed debt, are lending states money at the lowest interest rates in decades.

The borrowing has helped governments increase spending during the recession and avoid some painful spending cuts. Lower interest rates will save governments several billion dollars annually during the life of the debt.

Even financially troubled states are getting large amounts of cash at bargain prices. California borrowed \$8.8 billion last week at interest rates of 1.25% to 1.5% for debt

due by June 30. That's about one-third the interest rate it paid a year ago.

"It's a good time to go out and borrow money," Utah Treasurer Richard Ellis says.

State and local governments had added \$217 billion in new debt this year through last Thursday, up 5% from a year earlier, reports Thomson Reuters. That doesn't include California's \$8.8 billion debt issue, which closed Friday.

Governments are borrowing more while consumers and business have less access to credit.

• **Miami-Dade schools.** The district will make a profit on \$150 million borrowed last week to tide it over until property tax collections arrive in December. The district borrowed money at 0.37% and will invest the money,

until it is spent, at 0.80%. "We'll make a little money on our debt," Chief Financial Officer Richard Hinds says.

• **Ohio.** The state planned to borrow \$252 million last week. Instead, it borrowed \$544 million to take advantage of low rates and refinance old debt.

• **Utah.** The state borrowed \$1 billion for highway projects Sept. 16. As one of seven states with the top AAA bond rating, Utah sold 15-year bonds for 2.72%. "We caught the market at a phenomenal time," Ellis says.

Short-term interest rates for governments hit a record low of 0.56% last week for debt due in 13 months or less, reports *The Bond Buyer*, a newspaper that tracks public finance. Rates on 20-year bonds fell to 3.79%, the lowest level since

1967.

Not all governments can get low rates, *Bond Buyer* editor Amy Resnick says. Some small governments or programs backed by a specific revenue source, such as tolls, have a hard time borrowing cheaply because investors don't want to take risks.

States and cities borrow at lower rates than businesses because interest paid to investors is generally exempt from federal income taxes. Risk is low, too. No state has defaulted since the 1930s.

State and local governments increased borrowing at an 8.3% annual rate in the second quarter, the most recent figures available, the [Federal Reserve](#) reports. Federal borrowing rose 28%. By contrast, household and business debt shrank.

### Welcome To Our New Member

John Wilson

Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Laws  
Enforcement Commission



## Membership - "Share the Magic"

The 2009-2010 "Share the Magic " of Membership Member-Get-A-Member Campaign offers you the opportunity to win great prizes just for sharing the value of your AGA membership with your friends and colleagues and persuading them to join.

The campaign runs from May 1, 2009-April 30, 2010 and encourages current members to recruit new members. Because we are a membership-driven organization, an effective membership program must be an on-going, year-round process. The power of your organization is directly related to the commitment and active participation of your membership. It is essential that your Association aggressively recruit, retain and engage membership in the organization.

Since you already know the benefits of being an AGA member and have contacts in the financial management profession, this is a great way to increase AGA's membership, which in turn expands your own professional network and allows AGA to better meet your needs. Prizes are awarded to show our appreciation of your support of AGA and your efforts to help the Association grow.

View the complete list of Member-Get-A-Member Rules at [http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/memcampaign\\_rules.aspx](http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/memcampaign_rules.aspx).

How to participate:

It's easy! Request membership applications by e-mailing membership manager Rodneikka Scott ([rscott@agacgfm.org](mailto:rscott@agacgfm.org)) or by calling 800.AGA.7211. You can also download an application and give it to

your friend or colleague, or direct the person to visit AGA's website to apply online.

What you can win:

You only need to recruit one new member to win a prize! All members who recruit 6 or more new members before December 31, 2009 will receive free membership. Better yet, recruit the most new members and win the grand prize of a complimentary registration to AGA's 2010 Professional Development Conference & Exposition in Orlando, FL, and two one-day passes to an Orlando theme park. There are many opportunities to win prizes for you and your chapter. Go to [http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/memcampaign\\_prizes.aspx](http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/memcampaign_prizes.aspx) for a complete list of prizes.

### Chapter Recognition Program Report

The Oklahoma City Chapter of AGA participates in the Chapter Recognition Program sponsored by the national organization.

AGA's mission is to serve professionals in the government financial management community by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

The Chapter Recognition Program (CRP) is designed to support, encourage and promote the accomplishment of AGA's mission, and to provide flexible noncompetitive guidelines for a well-rounded chapter. The CRP is a noncompetitive program recognizing a chapter's performance in relation to a standard or benchmark linked to AGA's mission.

AGA-OKC  
 Goal 10,000 points  
 YTD 4,790 points  
 Gold Status Goal 17,001 points

in attendance!

## Reporting Government Performance

By Carol McFarland, RVP

Accountability and transparency. If you hear those “buzz words” one more time, will it make you scream? It’s hard to get excited every time another new concept comes along, even when they’ve been around a while. So why get excited about performance measurement now? And how do you know that it’s not something that will fade away or become obsolete the moment you get your organization rolling in that direction?

The private sector’s been at it for a while, but government is different – we’re not in it for the money, right? True, but we are in it to provide the most effective services in the most efficient manner. So how do we prove that we’re doing it . . . or trying to do it . . . or need resources to do it? All indications are the country is turning to performance reporting for just this purpose. Thanks to our new president, our nation even has a website dedicated to tracking the performance results of all those stimulus dollars being disbursed.

Governments of every shape, size and purpose are getting on this band wagon. Federal, state and local governments have mandates, suggestions, guidelines and assistance from various sources to carry out the tracking and reporting of results.

The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 requires federal agencies to prepare an annual PAR – Performance and Accountability Report. The reporting of performance has been designated as a tool to “. . . improve federal program effectiveness and public accountability by promoting a new focus on results, service quality and customer satisfaction.”

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), state and local governments’ standard setting board, conducted extensive research and in 2003 released a special report, *Reporting Performance Information: Suggested Criteria for Effective Communication*. The report provides recommendations for publicly reporting on governments’ Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA) including what performance information to report, and how to communicate it effectively.

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Center for Performance Measurement has developed performance measures in several areas pertinent to local jurisdictions. The organization has collected comparative data from over 220 cities and counties. By clearly defining the measures, local governments can compare their performance to similar jurisdictions around the country.

At the national level, the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) has been a pioneer in the arena of performance measurement and management. Early on, AGA took an active role in promoting performance measurement and reporting at all levels of government.

AGA has a section of their website dedicated to the topic of performance reporting. For more information, go to AGA’s website at <http://www.agacgfm.org/performance/performancedefault.aspx>.

AGA operates two certificate programs. The Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) reviews reports from federal entities compared to PAR requirements. The Certificate of Achievement in SEA Reporting targets state and local governments comparing reports to the GASB suggested guidelines. These programs are aimed at encouraging federal, state and local governments to take a stab at or further develop performance reporting. For more information, go to AGA’s website at <http://www.agacgfm.org/performance/performancedefault.aspx>.

AGA supports research projects through the Corporate Partner Advisory Group. They delve into various aspects of performance measurement and reporting. For more information, go to AGA’s website at <http://www.agacgfm.org/research/default.aspx>.

AGA has scheduled its fifth annual Performance Management Conference in November 2009. The conference brings together all levels of governments, the private sector, academicians and other stakeholders, to discuss best practices and emerging issues in the field of performance. For more information, go to AGA’s website at [http://www.agacgfm.org/pmc\\_2009/index.htm](http://www.agacgfm.org/pmc_2009/index.htm).

The Citizen-Centric Report was developed by AGA as an at-a-glance overview of the government, its performance, financial situation and future prospects. More information on citizen-centric reporting can be found at <http://www.agacgfm.org/citizen/>.

AGA’s most recent endeavor to promote performance is the establishment of an Accountability Outreach Coordinator. This position would educate the chapter and the community at large about AGA’s accountability programs. If you’re interested, speak to your local chapter’s executive committee about volunteering for this position.

So, go take a look at what governments are reporting. Quite a few governments have taken on the challenge. Check out your state, hometown and/or agency’s performance. Is your organization reporting performance publicly? Governments who are should be recognized for – dare I say it – being transparent and accountable to the citizens they serve. I guess you could say that performance is what the buzz is all about!

## CGFM Frequently Asked Questions

**QUESTION:** What topics and subjects qualify for CPE hours for the CGFM certification?

**ANSWER:** The CGFM is initially responsible for determining whether a topic or subject qualifies as acceptable CPE. CPE programs include a wide variety of topics and subjects that may contribute to maintaining or enhancing the professional proficiency of some CGFMs, but not others. Determining what topics and subjects are appropriate for individual CGFMs to satisfy the CPE requirement is a matter of professional judgment. Among the considerations in exercising that judgment are CGFM's experience, the government financial management area(s) in which they work and the responsibilities they assume in performing government financial management functions.

To help one determine whether the course would qualify for CPE, the CGFM should answer "yes" to all of the following questions:

Is the information covered in this course applicable to government financial management?

Does this course contribute to my professional proficiency as a CGFM?

Does this course provide information that directly benefits me in my job as a government financial manager or enhance my overall knowledge of government financial management?

**QUESTION:** What is the CGFM's responsibility for maintaining documentation of CPE?

**ANSWER:** CGFMs are required to maintain supporting documentation on CPE hours earned for a minimum of three years and provide it to AGA upon request. The CGFM's records must include the following information for each CPE program or activity attended or completed:

- A.** The sponsoring organization (for example, AGA National Office, a local AGA chapter);
- B.** The title of the program, including subject matter, field of study or a brief description of its contents;
- C.** The dates attended for group programs or dates completed for individual study programs;
- D.** The number of CPE hours earned; and
- E.** Evidence of attendance or completion. This might include the following:
  - A certificate of attendance, a CPE form or other evidence of completion of CPE from the CPE provider for group and individual-study programs.
  - A grade report received for a university or college credit course.
  - A letter from the program sponsor, documenting the CPE courses presented and/or developed.
  - A copy of the published book, article, or materials that names the writer as author or contributor, a written statement from the writer supporting the number of CPE hours claimed, and the name and contact information of the publisher, if applicable.
  - An official report from the employer that has the employer's name and lists all of the required information (employee's name, sponsoring organization, title of the program, completion date and number of CPE hours earned).

**2009 - 2010 Upcoming Meetings**

Wednesday, October 14, 2009	Int'l GASB Standards/Masters Programs UCO Dr. Jacci Rogers & Carolyn Webster	1 hour CPE
Wednesday, November 12, 2009	Fall Training Event	8 hours CPE
Thursday, December 3, 2009	Christmas Social (evening) American Red Cross speaker	
Wednesday, December 16, 2009	Audio Conference—Latest Trends in Occupational Fraud, William Moorehead	2 hours CPE
Wednesday, January 13, 2010	Carol McFarland, RVP, Performance	1 hour CPE
Wednesday, February 10, 2010	SA&I. ARRA	1 hour CPE
Wednesday, March 3, 2010	Audio Conference—Fraud	2 hours CPE
Wednesday, March 10, 2010	Monthly Luncheon TBD	1 hour CPE
Wednesday, April 14, 2010	UCO Scholarship Recipient	1 hour CPE
Wednesday, May 12, 2010	Audio Conference—Ethics	2 hours CPE
Thursday, May 13, 2010	End of Year Social (evening) Oklahoma Redhawks	



AGA-OKC strives to meet the needs of our members and other accountability professionals in our state. Do you have an idea or example of how we might enhance our chapter? We need to know! Don't hesitate to contact one of the officers above to make suggestions and recommendations for the coming year. Your input is vital to our success!

BE MORE THAN AN  
OBSERVER!  
PARTICIPATE!

AGA-OKC is looking  
for enthusiastic  
individuals willing to  
invest time and energy  
into making our  
Chapter the best it can  
be!

Are you looking for  
leadership skills /  
training? Or need to  
add some pizzazz to  
your resume? Here's  
your chance! Become  
a member of the OKC  
Chapter Executive  
Committee!

Contact  
Brenda Bolander  
or  
Marilyn Capps  
at the email  
addresses to  
the right.

Visit our website at  
[www.agaokc.org](http://www.agaokc.org)



## Association of Government Accountants Oklahoma City Chapter 2009 - 2010 Chapter Officers

President .....	Brenda Bolander, CGFM	Brenda.Bolander@osf.ok.gov
President-Elect.....	Marilyn Capps, CGFM	Marilyn.Capps@opm.ok.gov
Past President .....	Vonna Anderson, CCFM	Vonna_Anderson@sde.state.ok.us
Secretary .....	Betty Koehn	B.Koehn@occcemail.com
Treasurer .....	Donna Anderson, CGFM	Donna.Anderson@tinker.af.mil
CGFM Coordinator .....	Riley Shaull, CGFM	Riley.Shaull@osf.ok.gov
Community Service.....	LaTisha Edwards	LaTisha.Edwards@opm.ok.gov
	.....John Minor	JMinor@securities.ok.gov
Early Careers .....	Stephanie Hunter	Stephanie.Hunter@okhca.org
Education/Scholarship.....	James Calkins	jamesgcalkins2000@yahoo.com
Membership.....	Marilyn Capps, CGFM	Marilyn.Capps@opm.ok.gov
Newsletter.....	Donna Anderson, CGFM	Donna.Anderson@tinker.af.mil
Programs .....	Vonna Anderson - CGFM	Vonna_Anderson@sde.state.ok.us
Publications.....	Bob Shaw, CGFM	Shaw11501@aol.com
Website.....	Riley Shaull, CGFM	Riley.Shaull@osf.ok.gov
Regional Vice President.....	Carol McFarland, CGFM	Carol.McFarland@okhca.org

Association of Government  
Oklahoma City Chapter No. 39

P.O. Box 10672  
Midwest City, OK 73140

## Financial Update

Association of Government Accountants  
Oklahoma City Chapter  
September 2009

Beginning Balance	\$8,357.97
(September 1, 2009)	
<u>Income</u>	
September Member Meals	\$264.00
Tail Twister	\$ 33.00
Dues	\$248.25
March Audio Conf	
Registrations	\$389.00 \$ 934.25
<u>Expenses</u>	
September Meals	\$246.43
September Audio Conf	
Registration Fee	\$ 15.14
Conference Expense (Pens)	\$197.07
Business Checkcard Fee	\$ 1.00
Bank Maintenance Fee	<u>\$ 5.00</u> <u>\$ 464.64</u>
Ending Balance	<u>\$8,827.58</u>
(September 30, 2009)	
Twister Balance	\$93.00

# **AGA – Oklahoma City Chapter – 2009 Fall Training Event**

## **Internal Controls, The Stimulus and Other Issues**

*Satisfy CPE requirements for accountants and gain valuable training!*

Rose State College Training Center  
(new training center on Hudiburg Drive, Midwest City, OK)

- ▶ Government Accountability Professionals: Are you called upon to . . .
- prevent fraud in the workplace through improved internal controls?
  - maintain ethical values in a seemingly continuous atmosphere of change?
  - improve communications in the workplace?

Join us for 8 hours of continuing professional education geared for professionals at all levels of government and private industry who strive to serve through the business of government in the midst of a continually evolving business and political environment.

Topics and Speakers include:

**Dr. William A. Morehead, CGFM, CPA – National AGA President – Internal Controls**

**Bill Mauser – Maximus Consulting – A-87 Cost Principles**

**Richard Finley, CPA – Finley & Cook – The Stimulus and Tax Law Changes**

**Lucinda Meltabarger, Office of State Finance (OSF) – Communications**

**FBI – Forensic Accounting (invited)**

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Registration Deadline: November 3, 2009

Cost: \$130 (members or groups) \$150 non-member – includes lunch *(no fee for substitution)*

**Contact:** Vonna Anderson – AGA - 405-522-0164; [Vonna\\_Anderson@sde.state.ok.us](mailto:Vonna_Anderson@sde.state.ok.us)  
Carol McFarland – AGA – 405-522-7448; [Carol.McFarland@okhca.org](mailto:Carol.McFarland@okhca.org)

**2009 Fall Training Event**  
**Thursday, November 12, 2009**

**Registration Form**  
**(One form per person, photocopies accepted)**

Check Included for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or Govt PO No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_  
(E-Mail address will be used for registration confirmation)

Agency/Firm (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

City/State (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form with check or PO to:**

**AGA - OKC Chapter, PO Box 10672, Midwest City, OK 73140**

(registration can be emailed to: [AGAOKC@cox.net](mailto:AGAOKC@cox.net))

**FEI# 73-1413890; OK PeopleSoft # 0000060021; DUNS 828826417**