

AGA in Central PA

A Newsletter for Members and Friends of the Association of Government Accountants



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President's Message

Joseph C. Natoli, CPA

Hello again, everyone. It sure is great to be writing to you with Winter now officially over and Spring now upon us. Along with its warm weather, fresh flowers, and blossoming trees comes the realization that our program year is almost at an end. And as I reflect back on this year, I think about all of the great events that were held thanks to the hard work of so many of the good people of our Chapter.

We had a great group of speakers who provided a number of quality

continuing professional education credits to both members and non-members alike. To wrap up our year, we have another very distinguished and outstanding speaker, The **Honorable Michael S. Masch**, our Commonwealth Secretary of the Budget. More details of this special event are provided later in this Newsletter.

This year we also helped many outstanding charitable organizations such as the **Fisher House, DPW Holiday Family Wish Program,**

Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and Central PA Food Bank. Finally, we provided many great networking opportunities to many people within our local government accountability community.

In parting I thought it would be appropriate to talk a little bit about the research the Presidential Historian **Doris Kearns Goodwin** conducted in writing her recent book on Abraham Lincoln.

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Meet the April Speaker

Michael J. Masch Secretary of the Budget

Michael J. Masch was appointed Secretary of the Budget by **Governor Edward G. Rendell** and began serving in this position on January 21, 2003.

As the leader of the Office of the Budget, Secretary Masch has overall responsibility for preparation of the

Governor's budget and its implementation after legislative enactment. He is also responsible for maintaining the Commonwealth's accounting, payroll, debt issuance and financial reporting systems and programs.

Secretary Masch and his budget staff carry out special analyses on all aspects of fiscal policy for the Governor and provide

the other senior officials of the Commonwealth the information they need to evaluate the impact of current and possible new policies and programs on the finances of the Commonwealth.

Prior to his appointment as Secretary of the Budget, Mr. Masch served as Vice President for Budget and Management Analysis at the University

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April Training Seminar Announcement



Our Program Year ends with an exciting dinner speaker who is not to be missed!

- Speaker:** The **Honorable Michael S. Masch**
Commonwealth Secretary of the Budget.
- When:** Monday, April 18, 2007
5:00 to 6:00 – Registration and Cash Bar
5:45 Dinner
6:30 – 8:00 – Meeting
- Where:** **Holiday Inn West**
Carlisle Pike
Mechanicsburg
- Cost:** AGA Members **\$25.00** and Non-members **\$35.00**
Please make checks payable to “**Central PA AGA**”
Payment will be accepted at the door
REMEMBER – All Late Cancellations and No-Shows will
be required to make payment in full
- Reservations:** **Deadline** – Thursday April 12, by 4:00 PM
- Register:** [Click here](#) to register for the event. If the link does not
work you may register by calling **Brad Shover** at **787-
9264**. Group registration is encouraged
- CPE:** This is a **two-hour** training seminar in **Accounting and
Auditing**

Applicability of specific topics is subject to evaluation against a variety of certification requirements. The Chapter is registered with the State Board of Accountancy. A sign-in sheet and certificate of attendance will be provided.

Webcast Training Opportunity

The Central Pennsylvania AGA is pleased to announce another great training opportunity for our membership.

On **Wednesday, April 25th** we will be hosting a webcast entitled "XBRL: Improving Government

Communication" from **2:00 PM until 4:00 PM.**

The webcast is being sponsored by AGA National and will be worth 2 CPE credits.

The location of the webcast will be **Hearing**

Room 4 in the **Keystone Building.**

Anyone interested in attending this event should notify Jeff Rogers at jefrogers@state.pa.us by Friday, April 20th.

Executive Committee for Program Year 2007-2008

At the February 2007 program meeting, the Nominating Committee presented the nomination of **Don Uleau** for the President-Elect position and **Lisa Cressinger** for the Secretary position for the 2007-2008 Program Year.

Nominations were not required for the remaining officers since the President-Elect becomes President for the new program year and the Treasurer continues to fulfill the second year of her two-year term.

Donald Uleau is an honors graduate of **West Chester University** with degrees in Accounting, Business Management and a minor in Economics.

He is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Payroll Professional. Don is also a member of the **American Institute of Certified Public**

Accountants, American Payroll Association and the **Association of Government Accountants.**

Don has worked in both public and private accounting. He is currently the **Assistant Director for Quality Assurance at the Bureau of Commonwealth Payroll Operations.**

He initially decided to work with the State because he thought it was important to give something back to the community; however, he reports he has received so much more by working with the intelligent, dedicated and inspiring employees of the Office of the Budget.

One of his favorite quotes by **Bryant McGill** is "No time is better spent than that spent in the service of you fellow man." Don lives that quote and looks forward to an exciting and productive year.

Lisa Cressinger started her government career with the Department of the Auditor General. She has been with Comptroller Operations for over ten years and held various auditing and accounting positions within the Bureau of Commonwealth Payroll Operations, Pennsylvania Health and Human Services Comptroller Office and the Bureau of Financial Management.

In February 2005, Lisa was appointed as **Assistant Director for Financial Operations in the Bureau of Financial Management.** Lisa holds a Bachelor of Science, Comprehensive Program from **Villanova University.** She has been a Certified Public Accountant since 1997.

Lisa Serves on the **NACHA Electronic Benefit and Services**

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Council's State Forum, and the Audit and Fraud Subcommittee. She Co-Chairs the **National Association of State Auditors Controllers and Treasurers (NASACT) Ecommerce Information Sharing Group.**

Lisa has been a member of AGA since 2003 and she has served as the AGA Central Pennsylvania Chapter Newsletter Director from June 2003 through July 2005 and has been the Secretary since July 2005.

Independent nominations for President-Elect and Secretary were requested from the membership per an email to the chapter members on February 2, 2007 and at the February 2007 Program Meeting.

The March 15, 2007 deadline set by the Chapter By-laws for independent nominations has passed without additional nominations. Therefore, an election is not necessary.

We are pleased to present the Officers and Directors for the 2007-2008 Program Year.

Chapter Officers

President: **Gay O. McGeary**, Office of the Budget
 Past President: **Joseph C. Natoli**, Office of the Budget

President-Elect: **Donald J. Uleau**, Office of the Budget

Secretary: **Lisa L. Cressinger**, Office of the Budget

Treasurer: **Janell L. Reagan**, Office of the Budget

Directors

Awards: **Buff A. Carlson**, Ernst & Young

Certification: **Manuela G. Breinich**, Office of the Budget

Chapter Recognition: **Kathleen A. Fesig**, Office of the Budget

Community Service: **Steven D. Wilson**, Office of the Budget

Meetings & Publicity: ???

Membership Director: **Herbert A. Maguire**, Office of the Budget

Membership Co Director: **Michael V. Broda**, Auditor General's Office
 Newsletter: **Rita L. Warcholic**, Office of the Budget

Program & Education: **Harvey C. Eckert**, Office of the Budget

Scholarship: **Frank D. Buffington**, Auditor General's Office

Web Site: **Jeffrey J. Rogers**, Office of the Budget

We are still looking for one more good man or woman to fill the Meetings & Publicity Director's position for the coming program year. This position requires a dynamic individual who is interested in setting up the meeting locations and taking reservations for the meetings. It is an excellent opportunity to get to know the membership. Please contact **Gay McGeary** if you are interested in serving the Central Pennsylvania Chapter at gmcgeary@state.pa.us or at 717-783-9055.

--Gay O. McGeary

"Summing up, it is clear the future holds great opportunities. It also holds pitfalls. The trick will be to avoid the pitfalls, seize the opportunities, and get back home by six o'clock." ~Woody Allen, "My Speech to the Graduates," Side Effects, 1980

March Half-Day Session Included Three Exciting Presentations

We were pleased to welcome **Helena Sims**, the Managing Director for Public/Private Partnerships at the **National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA)**.

She spoke on "Joining the Electronic Payments Revolution." Ms. Sims provided us with an overview of the US Electronic Payment Networks such as Visa, MasterCard, Discover, Regional ATM Networks, Interlink, Plus, AFFN, Automated Clearing House Payments (ACH) and Quest, which is the network through which welfare clients gain electronic access to food stamps and cash payments.

A common aspect of all these networks are the operating rules which determine the rights and responsibilities, the liabilities, exception processing, error resolution, and the card specifications to be agreed upon by all the stakeholders. They build the foundation of these networks and ensure that organizations, which accept electronic payments, can trust the issuers of the payment vehicles. They must also

comply with government regulations and require government involvement and support.

Electronic payments are becoming increasingly popular. In the year 2003, electronic payments overtook check payments. ACH payments alone have ballooned from a mere 5 million in 1998 to over 13 billion in 2005. Among electronic payments, ACH payments are a low cost option because it is an overnight batch process, rather than a real time process.

Ms. Sims also stressed that three members from our local chapter have been influential in areas of electronic payment.

Harvey Eckert, Comptroller of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Program and Education Chair of our local chapter, played a role in the enactment of the Federal Cash Management Improvement Act, and ensured that states were fairly represented. Mr. Eckert, **Shirley McCormick**, Past-President of our chapter, and **Lisa Cressinger**, our current Secretary, all were instrumental in the implementation of the Electronic Benefits

Transfer and the Quest Network.

For anyone interested in learning more about electronic payments Ms. Sims referred us to the following websites: www.electronicpayments.org, and www.nacha.org, where many of the operating rules and implementation guides for the various types of electronic payments can be found.

The second topic "Extensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL), was presented by **Jennifer S. Moriarty**, a Senior Manager with **KPMG's National Office**.

She shared with us how data and business information can be made interactive through XBRL an Extensible Markup Language (XML)-based standard. This is not a new technology, it's a new standard in how information is created, stored, distributed and analyzed. It permits the reporting of financial information in accordance with GAAP and can be used for other types of business reporting, such as tax filings and regulatory reporting. XBRL has already been



Helena Sims



Jennifer Moriarty

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"The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life"--Plato

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Kevin Doyle

adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission and by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) here in the United States and is more widely adopted by government agencies and the securities markets in Europe and Asia. It simplifies disclosure and allows companies flexibility in reporting. XBRL is a royalty-free, open specification for software that benefits all members of the financial information supply chain.

An independent non-profit global consortium, XBRL International, manages the intellectual property of XBRL and promotes its use. XBRL US is the US jurisdiction of XBRL International. It is responsible for the development of taxonomies for use in the US, and develops promotional and educational materials and events.

If you are interested in this remarkable new standard, Ms. Moriarty, suggested that you visit the XBRL US website at: <http://www.xbrl.org/us/>.

The third topic "Internet Security" was presented by **Kevin J. Doyle**, Kevin is a Certified Information System Security Professional (CISSP), a certified Information Systems Security Management Professional

(ISSMP), Certified Information Security Manager (CISM), and a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), who is currently employed at **PSECU** as Compliance Officer.

He provided us with a brief history of the Internet and Information Security. Then he talked about the challenges of securing the Internet, and how these challenges are constantly changing. Information Security has basically become an area of risk management. Hacking has become a for-profit, organized venture, and computer crime is not easy to detect and enforce. Since big companies are getting more sophisticated in their defense against hackers, private individuals are becoming increasingly victims of cyber attacks.

Although today everyone can purchase security software, these products are not easy to use. Mr. Doyle stressed a number of tips that individuals should follow to protect themselves from Internet Fraud: Use different passwords for each business transaction and other private Internet activities. Don't share personal information in chat-rooms. If you have broadband access, turn your computer off when you are not at your computer. As long as the connection is open, your computer is a target.

In conclusion, Mr. Doyle challenged all of us to inform others about the importance of Internet Security.

As you may remember, our chapter participates for the second time in **Big Brothers Big Sisters** (BBBS)' major fundraiser, the **Bowl for Kids Sake** Event on March 25, 2007.

We were pleased to welcome and hear from a real Big Brother, **Thomas R. George**, Assistant Comptroller for Audits of the Labor, Education and Community Services Comptroller Office. He joined our meeting and shared his experience. He has been involved with BBBS since January 2003.

He has a Little Brother, who is now ten years old. So far they have met between 160 and 180 times. They share picnics, hayrides, the Kapona Festival in downtown Harrisburg, landscaping, work at the boy's mother's house, and of course, sports activities.

Of course in such a relationship there are highs and lows involved, but they happen in every relationship. Over time, the most

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Tom George

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important thing was to spend a significant amount of time with his little brother. If he had visited the boy only once per month, he would have never been able to establish the personal relationship, which resulted in real long term benefits for the youngster. He has improved in his work at school and is taking more responsibility at home.

Having a Big Brother brings advantages and opportunities to the Little Brothers, which they normally would not have. Most of these children are missing a parent due to death, or the parent is simply no longer involved in the child's life. Often they live with a single parent who would also appreciate if the child would have a Big

Brother or a Big Sister. In our local area, the Capital Region, there are currently 64 Little Sisters and 101 Little Brothers on a waiting list. Although volunteers can be found for the girls within about one to three months, boys remain on the waiting list for at least a year, sometimes two to three years. So there is a real need for volunteers. Mr. George offered that anyone interested in becoming a BBBS volunteer should feel free to contact him at tgeorge@state.pa.us. You can also contact the BBBS of the Capital Region directly at (717) 236-0199 or visit them at the web at <http://www.capbig.org>.

We again were able to introduce new members, **Catherine J. Kelly**, Division

Chief, General Accounting, and **Gretchen Garrity**, Audit Manager both from the Central Services Comptroller Office (CSCO), **Manuela G. Breinich**, Audit Specialist III, from the same office was their sponsor. Since our 2006-2007 Membership Drive is still underway, **Joseph Natoli**, President, awarded each new member with \$20, and the sponsor also received \$20 for each recruit.

And last but not least we would like to congratulate Suzanne Alese-Carraway, IES, as the winner of the 50-50 drawing! Yay, Suzanne!

--Manuela Breinich

LAST CHANCE FOR FREE MONEY!

You still have three weeks left to personally encourage a friend or fellow worker to join our local Chapter. Maybe you know someone who is interested in joining, but so far hasn't. Sometimes all it takes is to provide an interested party with the application form. Have them complete it and then bring the completed application and the new member to the April 18, 2007 Dinner Meeting.

This is the last chance for

you, the sponsor of a new member, and the new member, to each receive \$20.00 in cash. Plus don't forget, our Membership Director, Herb Maguire, promised if you sponsor ten new members during our 2006-2007 membership drive, and you are the highest recruiter in the Chapter, you would receive one free registration to any of the AGA's National Conferences.

For more details see the

December 2006 newsletter, or call/e-mail Herb Maguire at (717) 787-9895 or at hmaguire@state.pa.us. Applications are available at <http://www.agacqfm.org/membership/downloads/membershipapplicationinteractive.pdf>.

Your efforts can make our membership campaign for the Year 2006 – 2007 a great success.

--Herb Maguire



AGA Members Have a Striking Turnout for Big Brothers/Big Sisters' Bowl For Kids Sake Fundraiser!



AGA members put together 9 teams to participate in this year's Big Brother / Big Sisters' "Bowl For Kids' Sake" fundraiser. The event is about having fun to help kids and is the most important fundraising event for Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Funds raised go directly toward matching children with carefully screened, caring Big Brother and Big Sister volunteers.

The event took place at ABC West Lanes in Mechanicsburg on Sunday March 25, 2007.

Our nine teams raised a total of \$5759.50, surpassing last year's total by more than \$1000! Way to go!

The Chapter also made an additional donation of \$131, which was collected in the donation boxes at our February and March luncheon meetings.

The general donation of \$131 will be matched by AGA National. So an additional donation will be sent separately directly from National Headquarters to the Central PA's Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Participants received 2 games of bowling, free shoe rental, pizza, soda or beer, and snacks.

Depending on the amount of funds raised, participants were also awarded prizes such as Bon-Ton gift cards, Appleby's gift certificates, tote bags, and their choice of a sweatshirt, fleece vest or fleece blanket.

From all the yelling and laughter and general mayhem, a good time was obviously had by all!

Congratulations and thanks go out to this year's teams:

Alley Aces

Frank Buffington, Captain
Kyle Miller
Tyler Miller
Joe Weale

Burns' Bowlers

Steve Burns, Captain
Adrienne Burns
Joe Fry
Melissa Tomashunis

Holy Rollers

Katie Fesig, Captain
Eric Fesig
A. J. Sallusti
Aaron Neely
Matt Horne

Gutter Bums

Lisa Acey, Captain
Mike Acey
Suzanne Noll
Mike Noll

Huber's Hotshots

Connie Huber, Captain
Mary Jones
Steve Keel
Janell Reagan
Kelly Umstead
Nevin Wevodau

Lemon Slushies

Lu Ann Wilkinson-Doyle, Captain
David Harvath
Brad Shover
Sue Saunders
Andrea Maneval

Sugar-Free Auditors

Rita Warcholic, Captain
Manuela Breinich
Joe Natoli
Steve Swalm

The Team of Tom George

Tom George, Captain
Lynn Maines
Dawn Miller
Ted Lucsak

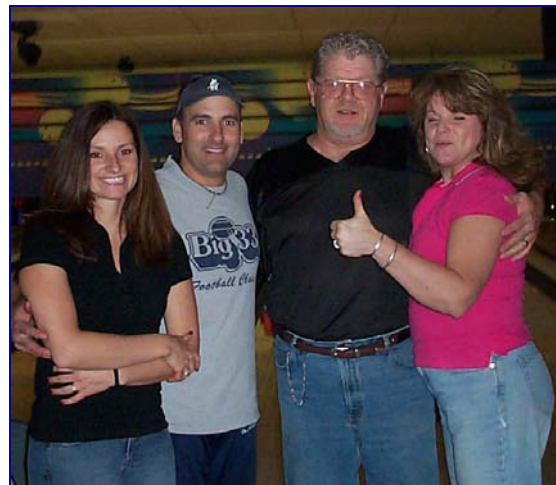
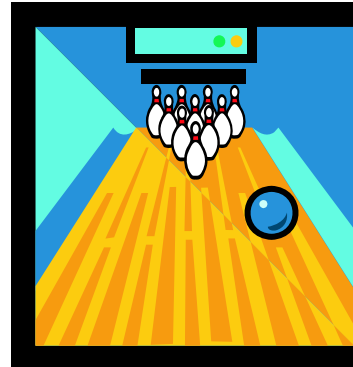
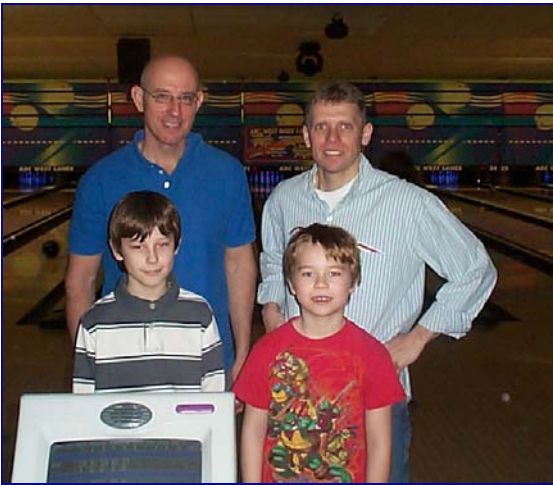
Three Guys and a Doll

Anita Gonzalez, Captain
Jonathan Hollenbach
Evan Doyle
Carl Rohr

Thanks again to all participants and we hope to see you all again next year!

"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live". ~George Bernard Shaw

Team Photos of AGA Members and Friends at the Big Brothers/Big Sisters' Bowl For Kids Sake Fundraiser!





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Ms. Goodwin learned that he had three principles when it came to leadership. First, when mistakes occur you must take full responsibility. Second, when good things happen you must spread the praise. Finally, always surround yourself with smart and talented people.

As we went through this

year, we went through some growing pains and mistakes certainly did occur every now and then but the great work of so many people far outweighed any such mistakes and certainly deserves many words of praise. I truly feel fortunate to have had the help of such smart and talented people as those that made up our Executive Committee this

past year.

In addition, how fortunate we were to have had the help of the unbelievably brilliant people at AGA National, people like **Relmond Van Daniker**, **Joe Jozefczyk**, **Jessica Jones**, **Julie Cupp**, our great AGA National President **Jeff Hart** who visited our Chapter back in

November, our equally awesome AGA Mid-Atlantic Regional VP **Janine Prybyla**, and all of the others in our Chapter who helped throughout the year. Thanks again to all of you for your efforts and thank you also for the opportunity I was given to serve as your President.

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of Pennsylvania, where he was responsible for the preparation of the University's annual operating budget, development of the University's five-year financial plan, and the effective integration of the University's operating budget with its capital program.

Mr. Masch continues to serve as a member of the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government, where he teaches courses on public budgeting and performance measurement. Prior to joining the Office of the President at the University of Pennsylvania in May 1996, Mr. Masch served under then-Mayor Edward G. Rendell as Budget Director for the City of Philadelphia from 1992 to 1996.

Prior to his service as Philadelphia budget director, Mr. Masch served as director of economic analysis for the Philadelphia City Council from 1983 to 1991.

Mr. Masch was named to the Philadelphia Board of Education in March 2000 by Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street and served as chair of the Board's finance committee until December 2001, when the Philadelphia school board was replaced by a new state-local School Reform Commission established by the Governor of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Legislature.

In January 2002, Mr. Masch was appointed by Governor Mark Schweiker and Mayor John F. Street to serve as one of five members of the new Philadelphia School

Reform Commission. As a member of the School Reform Commission, Mr. Masch participated in the development and implementation of the SRC's successful plan to rescue the local Philadelphia school system from insolvency.

He also participated in the SRC's bold and innovative first-year initiatives to dramatically improve safety, efficiency, accountability and educational effectiveness in the Philadelphia public school system.

As Secretary of the Budget, Mr. Masch serves on a number of boards and commissions, including the Pennsylvania School Employees Retirement System (PSERS), the Pennsylvania Employees Benefit Trust Fund (PEBTF), the

Commonwealth Financing Authority, the Tobacco Settlement Investment Board, the Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority for the City of Philadelphia, and the Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority for the City of Pittsburgh.

Secretary Masch is a native Philadelphian. He majored in Urban Studies as an undergraduate at Temple University and received his Master of Government Administration degree from the University of Pennsylvania.



**Central Pennsylvania Chapter
Association of Government Accountants
Executive Committee**



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