

The Philadelphia Penn

Association of Government Accountants – Philadelphia Chapter

Volume 32, Issue 26

April 2007

LUNCHEON MEETING

The next luncheon meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 18, 2007, at Maggianos. Albert Scaperotto, City of Philadelphia's Office of the Controller, will discuss pension fraud. See page 2.

SOCIAL OUTTING

A survey is posted soon on the Chapter's website regarding your interest in a dinner and a play scheduled for Spring 2007. See page 3.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The Professional Development Conference is scheduled for May 11, 2007. Sign-up early. We are expecting to sell-out as we did last year. The Conference will be held at the same location as last year. See page 3 for more information.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Chapter is looking for volunteers to serve in several positions. See page 3.

AGA AWARDS

For the latest AGA awards information go to National AGA web page (Membership/Award & Scholarship Section), by accessing our Chapter's web page at www.agaphil.com.

IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER NEWS

Because just about everyone is now connected to the world wide web, we are posting the monthly chapter newsletters to our web site www.agaphil.com. We will also email a copy of the newsletter to those individuals that provide their email addresses. If you want to have your copy of the newsletter e-mailed to you, send your e-mail address to coyle.robert@oig.dol.gov.

NATIONAL AGA NEWS

For the latest National AGA News visit our web site at www.agaphil.com and link into the AGA National homepage.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Annual membership renewals were due to be paid by March 31. Did you renew?

CGFM STUDY PROGRAM

Anyone interested in a local CGFM study program should contact Vince Gallo (215-814-5773 or via email at gallo.vince@epa.gov) or John Carlucci (215-861-4496 or via email at John.Carlucci@oig.hhs.gov).

ALERT OTHERS TO YOUR AGA MEMBERS VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

If you would like to share your volunteer efforts with other AGA members, email a summary of the efforts to coyle.robert@oig.dol.gov for inclusion in the monthly newsletter. Consider adding pictures.

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CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Executive Board Meetings

The Board met on March 21, 2007, to plan activities for the remainder of the year. The Board discussed: future potential luncheon speakers, various administrative items, potential social events, and plans for the upcoming Professional Development Conference on May 11, 2007.

Financial Position

Dennis T. Zawacki, Treasurer, reported the chapter finances for the current fiscal year from May 1, 2006 to February 28, 2007.

Balance Sheet

As of February 28, 2007

Cash in Bank	\$11,960.86
Accounts Receivable	(75.00)
Prepaid Expenses	<u>1,025.00</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$12,910.86</u>

Liabilities and Equity

Retained Earnings	\$11,848.23
Net Income	<u>1,062.63</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>\$12,910.86</u>

Luncheon Meetings

Mike Steen, the DCAA Mid-Atlantic Regional Director will be the luncheon speaker. He spoke on Your Tax Dollars at Work.

Audio Conference

On March 28, 2007, the Chapter hosted an audio conference on Procurement Fraud. The conference was well attended and extremely entertaining.

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Luncheon Meetings

The next luncheon meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 18, 2007, at Maggianos. Albert Scaperotto, City of Philadelphia's Office of the Controller, will discuss pension fraud. As usual, the luncheon meeting will be held at Maggiano's, directly across the street from Philadelphia's famed Reading Terminal Market at 12th and Filbert Streets. Please make your reservations by Friday, April 13, 2007, at our website <http://www.agaphil.com/>.

This luncheon will honor the Past Presidents of the Chapter.

Professional Development Conference

The 49th annual Professional Development Conference (PDC) to be held at the [Renaissance Philadelphia Hotel Airport](#) (formally the Radisson Airport Hotel) 500 Stevens Drive, Lester, Pennsylvania on Friday, May 11, 2007. We once again have a wide variety of workshops to select from to earn 8 CPE credits. For only \$100 for members and \$150 for non-members, it's one of the better CPE bargains around. Fee includes luncheon.

Depending on the workshops you attend, you will qualify for CPE hours in Taxation, Accounting/Auditing, or Professional Development. The State Boards of Pennsylvania (sponsor number PX-000052-L) and New Jersey (sponsor number 20CE00054700) have granted us approval as program sponsors to assign continuing professional education credits. No prerequisites or advance preparation is required. Level of knowledge is core. Teaching method is lecture and group discussion. The program level is overview. For record keeping and administrative purposes, the Philadelphia Chapter, Association of Government Accountants, serves as the program sponsor.

Register at <http://www.agaphil.com/PDC2007/PDC2007.htm> **Dress is business casual**

Social Event – Dinner and a Play

The AGA is planning a night out for dinner and theater for Saturday evening, **June 9, 2007**. Members will enjoy dinner at Maggiano's Little Italy and enjoy Camelot at the Merriam theater for only \$50 (or \$100 if you bring a guest).

If you are interested in joining us, please complete the form at <http://www.agaphil.com/NYC.htm> by **April 20, 2007**. We will contact you by email.

State Sponsor Numbers

Pennsylvania State Board of Accountancy Sponsor Number - PX-000052-L

New Jersey State Board of Accountancy Sponsor Number - CE-00547

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE

The Board needs volunteers to serve as the Webmaster Chair and the Chapter Recognition Chair. Please notify any chapter officer if you are willing to serve.

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER CGFM STUDY PROGRAM

Anyone interested in a local CGFM study program should contact Vince Gallo (215-814-5773 or via email at gallo.vince@epa.gov) or John Carlucci (215-861-4496 or via email at John.Carlucci@oig.hhs.gov.)

The chapter will acquire study guides to assist Chapter members who are preparing for the CGFM exams. The Chapter will have one study guide for each exam (Government Environment; Government Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting; and Government Financial Management and Control). For information, contact John Carlucci (215-861-4496 or via email at John.Carlucci@oig.hhs.gov). Study guides will be provided to Chapter members on a first come, first serve basis.

CGFM CPE REQUIREMENTS

In order to maintain their CGFM designation in an active status, CGFM's must adhere to the AGA's Code of Ethics, pay the annual renewal fee by March 31 and meet the following continuing professional education (CPE) requirements:

- complete at least 80 hours of CPE every two years in government financial management topics or related technical subjects.
- maintain and, if requested by AGA, provide detailed information on CPE hours completed.

The two-year CPE cycle is based on the year the CGFM was awarded. For a list of cycles, please visit http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/cgfm_calendar.aspx.

Determining if CPEs are applicable: continuing professional education hours that would satisfy the CGFM Program's requirement must be in government financial management topics or related technical subjects applicable to government financial management areas.

The CGFM is initially responsible for determining whether a topic or subject qualifies as acceptable CPE. To help one make that determination, the CGFM should consult the CPE Requirements booklet (available online at http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/cpe_requirements.aspx), including a listing of more than 50 topics and subject areas that could qualify for government financial management CPE hours. Additional questions should be referred to the Office of Professional Certification - 703.684.6931, ext. 305.

Maintaining proper documentation: CGFM's need to maintain documentation to substantiate their statements of completed CPE for a minimum of three years. This documentation may be requested by AGA as part of a CPE audit or a reactivation process.

The proper backup documentation must clearly state the individual's attendance or completion of the CPE activity. Examples of such documentation include: a certificate of attendance or completion, a certificate of CPE hours earned, a grade report or an official letter from the event sponsor or employer stating that the CGFM has attended the event.

The documentation must include the following information:

- sponsoring organization,
- location of the activity,
- title of the program,
- individual's name,

- completion date (or dates attended), and
- number of CPE hours earned.

For more information on the requirements to maintain a CGFM in an active status, please visit <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/>

Intensive Review Course

Don't miss this opportunity to take the CGFM exams

Have you applied for the CGFM Program, but are having difficulty committing time to study and take the exams? Would you like to save on exam fees?

Then consider AGA's Intensive Review Course! Already a staple at two of AGA's conferences, it was just offered before the National Leadership Conference (NLC) in Washington DC and once again was sold out.

After attending the two-day review course on February 9-10, the candidates tackled the CGFM Examinations over the next two days (with some taking all three exams in one day!). As a result, 19 of the participants passed all three (or finished up their remaining) CGFM Examinations at this event. Several others passed one or two examinations and are on their way to completing the CGFM process.

While this "intense" experience is not for everybody, participants were attracted to the idea of completing the CGFM process in a short period of time, having a set deadline to take the examinations and saving money (the cost of CGFM Examinations is included in the Intensive Review Course fee and this fee is less than the cost of the three examinations). Holding an Intensive Review Course and CGFM Examinations in conjunction with AGA National Leadership and Professional Development Conferences gives the candidates one more way to reinforce the material and take the CGFM Examinations (candidates can also take the exams at Prometric testing centers anytime).

The extra reinforcement of the material is exactly what some people wanted and needed. The Intensive Review Course is not a substitute for the six days of regular instructor-led training courses. On the contrary, this course is designed as a supplement to previous preparation for the CGFM Examinations. In fact, the majority of the participants have either attended the CGFM training courses or purchased the CGFM study guides before participating in the Intensive Review Course.

AGA plans to continue offering this course and CGFM Examinations at its upcoming conferences. The next Intensive Review Course is scheduled for June 21-22, 2007 (with exams on June 23-24, 2007) in conjunction with AGA's Professional Development Conference (PDC) in Nashville, TN.

For more information or to register, visit http://www.agacgfm.org/pdc2007/cgfm_exam.htm. Space is limited - if you are interested in participating, sign up now!

CHAPTER OFFICERS		
Office	Officer	Phone Number
President	Lisa Ferraro, HHS	215-861-4501 x 2006
1 st Vice President	Harry Snyder*, DCAA	215-597-7462
2 nd Vice President	Danielle Brown-Buzan, DOL	215-446-3705
Treasurer	Dennis T. Zawacki, U.S. Attorney	215-861-8576
Secretary	Janet Ward, DOL	215-446-3726
Past President	Paul C. Teti, HHS	215-861-4505 x 2027
COMMITTEE DIRECTORS		
Committee	Director	Phone Number
Bylaws and Procedures	Jennifer Varvel, DOL	215-446-3725
Web Master	Bob Peterson, DCAA	215-597-7457
Public Service	Rosemarie Mariebello*, TIGTA	215-516-3120
Research	Paul Sager*, City of Philadelphia	215-686-1149
Education	Vince Gallo*, EPA	215-814-5773
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Recognition	Fred Warren*, EPA	215-814-5154
Historian	Charles Hoeger, DoD (Ret)	215-322-7190
	* CGFM	

UPCOMING FEDERAL HOLIDAYS

May 28, 2007: Memorial Day
 July 4, 2007: Independence Day