

The Philadelphia Penn

Association of Government Accountants – Philadelphia Chapter

Volume 32, Issue 25

March 2007

LUNCHEON MEETING

The next luncheon meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 21, 2007, at Maggianos. Mike Steen the DCAA Mid-Atlantic Regional Director will be the speaker.

AUDIO CONFERENCE

An audio conference on Procurement Fraud Controls will be held on March 28th. It will be free to members and the cost to non-members is \$20. See page 3 for additional details.

SOCIAL OUTTING

A survey will soon be posted soon on our website regarding your interest in a Philadelphia venue scheduled for Spring 2007.

CHATPER SCHOLARSHIP

The chapter is providing a \$1,500 scholarship for an interested candidate. See page 4 for additional details.

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 are 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 February 20, 2007, to plan activities for the upcoming year. The Board discussed: future potential luncheon speakers, various administrative items, potential social events, and plans for the upcoming Professional Development Conference in May 2007.

Financial Position

Dennis T. Zawacki, Treasurer, reported the chapter finances for the current fiscal year from May 1, 2006 to January 31, 2007.

Balance Sheet

As of January 31, 2007

Cash in Bank	\$13,354.87
Accounts Receivable	(75.00)
Prepaid Expenses	<u>1,050.00</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$14,329.87</u>

Liabilities and Equity

Retained Earnings	\$11,848.23
Net Income	<u>2,481.64</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>\$14,329.87</u>

Luncheon Meetings

Rich Furlong, Stakeholder Liason from the IRS's Small Business/Self-Employed Division spoke at the February 20, 2007 luncheon. Rich provided a Personal Income Tax update for interested attendees. As usual, Rich's presentation was well attended and much appreciated.



Rich doing his intro



Rich with a prop



An exciting sight – accountants getting tax tips

Audio Conference

On February 28, 2007, the Chapter hosted an audio conference on risk and internal control issues confronting auditors and management. The conference was sold out and appreciated by the attendees.

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Luncheon Meetings

The luncheons for the remainder of the Chapter's year will be held on:

- March 21, 2007
- April 18, 2007

Mike Steen, the DCAA Mid-Atlantic Regional Director will be the luncheon speaker. 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, March 16, 2007, at our website <http://www.agaphil.com/>.

Professional Development Conference

The Chapter's annual Professional Development Conference is scheduled for May 11, 2007. Details on the conference will be provided closer to the scheduled date.

Audio Conferences

March 28, 2007 – Procurement Fraud

Details on the Next Audio Conference

The Philadelphia Chapter is hosting the Audio Conference on March 28, 2007 at 2:00 PM in Suite 415 of the Public Ledger Building. It will be free to members and the cost to non-members is \$20. This is the same location where we have the Tax Seminar and have held other Audio Conferences. Register before noon on March 23rd at www.agaphil.com. The audio conference, worth 2 CPE

hours, is designed to heighten your awareness of fraud prevention and detection. Refreshments will be served. Please Call Dennis Zawacki at 215-861-8576 for late reservations or to cancel reservations. Specific details on the background and topics covered follow:

March 28, Audio Conference: Procurement Fraud – A Cost of Doing Business We Can Live Without.

AGA, in conjunction with the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT), and the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA), is offering a March 28 audio conference, "Procurement Fraud - A Cost of Doing Business We Can Live Without". Speakers include **Bruce N. Crandelmire, CPA**, Senior Consultant, EAM, Inc./Mosley & Associates and Former Acting Inspector General, U.S. Agency for International Development; **Russell W. Hinton, CGFM, CPA**, State Auditor, State of Georgia; and **Janet McHard, MBA, CPA, CPE, CFD**, Manager, Meyners & Company, LLC. Earn 2 CPE hours at the audio conference, set for 2 - 3:50 pm EDT, March 28.

Football coach legend Vince Lombardi said, "Practice does not make perfect. Only perfect practice makes perfect." The same can be said for getting your money's worth from procurement. Quality procurement systems result in quality execution of your procurement dollars. Procurement systems should have quality controls built in from the start. Fraud prevention is the result of good control systems and fraud detection brings to light those situations that slip through the system. Strive to protect your procurement dollars.

To discuss fraud detection and prevention to protect your procurement dollars are three industry experts: Bruce N. Crandelmire, CPA, Senior Consultant, EAM, Inc./Mosley & Associates and Former Acting Inspector General, U.S. Agency for International Development; Russell W. Hinton, CGFM, CPA, State Auditor, State of Georgia; and Janet McHard, MBA, CPA, CPE, CFD, Manager, Meyners & Company, LLC. All three speakers are excellent lecturers, trainers and discussion leaders for government agencies at all levels, government and private associations and firms.

Please join us for two hours of lively discussion about this important and timely topic. In addition to the speakers' commentary, there will be approximately 20 minutes for Q & A so that the participants can ask the speakers questions and share their own experiences.

State Sponsor Numbers

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

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

\$1,500 SCHOLARSHIP

Each year, the Philadelphia Chapter awards a scholarship to a high school senior/college student who is sponsored by a Philadelphia Chapter member "in good standing." This year, the scholarship amount was raised from \$1,000 to \$1,500. The member does not have to be a parent of the student.

Scholarship candidates wishing to apply should meet the following criteria:

1. The student can be enrolled in any major.
2. The student must be a freshman, sophomore, junior or a senior undergraduate for the upcoming academic year.
3. The scholarship must be used for college tuition only (no room/board, books, fees, etc.).
4. The student must be classified as a full-time student as determined by the college or university regulations.
5. The student's current GPA must be, at a minimum, 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
6. The application package must include a certified high school (for current high school seniors) or college (for current undergraduates) transcript.
7. The student must submit an essay describing the "Benefits of a Public Service Career."

The Chapter Executive Committee will review all candidates and select the best-qualified applicant.

DEADLINE: All materials must be received by April 1, 2007.

Mail all application materials to:

Association of Government Accountants
Philadelphia Chapter
ATTN: College Scholarship Application
P.O. Box 17584
Philadelphia, PA 19105-7584

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.

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!

ANNUAL CGFM RENEWAL TIME

It is time to renew your CGFM designation and/or AGA membership! Below you'll find answers to frequently asked questions about CGFM renewal:

Q: How often do I have to renew my CGFM designation?

A: CGFM certification is renewed on an annual basis. A renewal invoice is sent out in February and the payment is due by March 31st. If you do not receive an invoice by mid-March, please call AGA at 1.800.AGA.7211.

If your address has recently changed, please be sure to update your contact information with AGA and pay your dues in the "Members only" section of AGA website (www.agacgfm.org).

Q: What are the requirements for maintaining the CGFM certification in an active status?

A: To maintain the CGFM certification in an active status, CGFMs are required to:

- Pay the CGFM renewal fee by the due date every year.
- Complete at least 80 hours of continuing professional education (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.

To retain the CGFM certification, all CGFMs must adhere to the AGA's Code of Ethics. By submitting their annual renewal payment, CGFMs affirm that they have and will continue to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics and that they have fulfilled the minimum CPE Requirements.

Q: How do I determine my CPE cycle?

A: Your first two-year CPE cycle starts on January 1st of the year following the one when your CGFM was awarded (for example, if your CGFM was awarded in 2001, your first CPE cycle was 1/1/02-12/31/03). The award date is listed on your CGFM certificate. Your current CPE cycle is listed on your renewal invoice. For a table of all CPE cycles visit www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/cgfm_calendar.aspx.

Q: My two-year CPE cycle just ended on December 31, 2006, but I did not complete 80 CPEs in 2005-2006. Can I make up the deficiency?

A: Yes. CGFMs who have not completed the 80 CPE hours in 2005-2006 cycle have until March 31, 2007 to make up the deficiency. Any CPE hours completed toward a deficiency in one period must be documented in the CPE records and may not be counted toward the requirements for the next two-year period. More information on CGFM CPE requirements can be found on www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/cpe_requirements.aspx.

Q: I just retired. Do I need to do anything to adjust my CGFM status to "retired"?

A: Yes. Individuals who are retired from AND are no longer substantially working in the government financial management community can request an adjustment of their status to "retired" by contacting AGA's Office of Professional Certification (by mail or e-mail at agacgfm@agacgfm.org <<mailto:agacgfm@agacgfm.org>> - please provide the date of retirement and confirm that you are no longer substantially working in the government financial management community). CGFMs in retired status are not required to remit the CGFM renewal fee or earn the 80 CPE hours.

If retired CGFMs return to work (substantial employment or contracting) in the government financial management community, they must contact AGA to change their status back to "active."

More information on CGFM renewal policies can be found on www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/.

Katya Silver

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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
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Recognition	Fred Warren*, EPA	215-814-5154
Historian	Charles Hoeger, DoD (Ret)	215-322-7190
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UPCOMING FEDERAL HOLIDAYS

May 28, 2007: Memorial Day

July 4, 2007: Independence Day