

President's Message

By Dana Lamson

I hope everyone had a wonderful time at Thanksgiving with family and friends while eating turkey and watching football. Now it is time to start shopping and trimming the tree for Christmas!

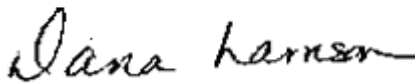
We had an excellent turn out of 34 attendees for our half-day seminar at the Naval Reserve. Richard Moore spoke about his experiences with detecting and prosecuting white-collar crime and also about tips for testifying as an expert witness. Beth Moore spoke about complying with unclaimed property laws.

This month's meeting will be held at the Downtown Grill with Betsy Foxx, Human Resource Director for Blount County Government, speaking about "12 Ways to Stress Free Holidays".

Our fund raising/service project event for November was the Samaritan's Purse boxes. We received enough toys, crayons, pencils, paper, markers, socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, candy, etc., to fill ten boxes for needy children around the world. Thank you so much for your generosity toward this project.

Our project for December is the Angel Tree. We receive 50 angels each year to buy one gift for each. At the November seminar, all of the names were chosen except for five of them. If you would like to help with these five, please contact me.

Have a wonderful holiday season and please let me know of any ideas or comments you may have.

 President

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December Meeting

Tuesday, December 14, 2004
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Betsy Foxx

Presentation Topic: 12 Ways to
Stress Free Holidays

Agenda

- 11:30 Registration/Networking
- 12:00-12:30 Lunch
- 12:30 – 1:00 Presentation

Downtown Grill and Brewery

424 S. Gay Street

This location is the old Woodruff's department store in downtown Knoxville. Please see page 3 for more information and directions.

Menu Choices

- Chicken Cordon Bleu Sandwich w/Fries
- Lunch-sized Kabob on a Bed of Rice
- Loaded Baked Potato w/Side Salad or Soup
- Lunch-sized Quesadillas (plain, chicken or steak)
- Dessert includes chocolate kahlua mousse or cheesecake

Cost \$7.00 per member

Please contact Barry Justice at bljustice@tva.gov with your reservation by December 10th.

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AGA National News

Does AGA National Have Your Email Address? AGA wants to keep you informed about CPE events, conferences and the latest industry news. Follow the links at www.agacgfm.org to update your email address.

Did you know that you could earn CPE credits by taking *Journal CPE* Quizzes online? At AGA's *Journal CPE Online*, they offer an interactive CPE program for government financial management professionals on the move. By reading an issue of *The Journal of Government Financial Management*, and taking the relevant quiz, you can earn Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits.

Exciting Job Opportunities Await at the U.S. Treasury Department —Treasury Agency Services (A Franchise Fund within the U.S. Treasury Department – Financial Management Service) is announcing two job opportunities which close on 12/29/04: **GS 11/12 Accountant AS-05-006** and **GS 11/12 Systems Accountant AS-05-004**. See detailed information on the OPM website at <http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov>. For key word search enter "Accountant". For pay grade range enter from "11" to "12".

December Issues of the TOPICS and CGFM TOPICS are now available - You can access the TOPICS Newsletter at www.agacgfm.org/publications/topics/topics_index.aspx and the CGFM TOPICS Newsletter at www.agacgfm.org/publications/cgfm/cgfm_issues.aspx.

Not sure about your Membership Perks? Visit www.agacgfm.org/store/affiliates.aspx to find out how you can receive discounts on insurance and other benefits.

Check out www.agacgfm.org for the latest in National AGA information and news. You can also access the member's only section of the site to update your personal information, renew your membership, report membership news and view how we are doing on points in the chapter recognition program.



A Primer on Internal Controls and Auditing: Crucial to Government and the Economy **By: Wanda A. Wallace, Ph.D., CPA, CMA, CIA**

Internal control has never been optional, and now an easy-to-read resource directed to a wide audience is available to understand both what is meant by "internal control" and how an "audit" is conducted. Order onsite at AGA's website.

2004-2005 National Events Calendar

December 16-17, 2004	Getting 10X Value	Washington, DC
January 12-14, 2005	Cost Management in Government	Dallas, TX
January 12, 2005	GASB Statement No. 40	Audio
February 7-8, 2005	National Leadership Conference	Washington, DC
	Theme: Improving Government Performance: Financial Managers Take Center Stage	
July 10-13, 2005	National PDC and Exposition	Orlando, FL

For more information on these national events, go to the AGA calendar at www.agacgfm.org/events.

Chapter News

Meeting Directions/Parking: Pay parking is available on the street or in parking lots on State Street at the back of the building (around the promenade) about a block south of Summit Hill Drive. This is a one-way street so you should go a block east on State Street to Central, go south on Central, turn right on Union and right again on State Street.

Mike Blair reports that our chapter checking account balance is \$3,169.99 as of October 31, 2004.

Member and officer newsletter submissions for the November newsletter are due December 22nd.

Don't forget to visit our chapter website at www.kornnet.org/etaga for all the latest news and information!

2004-2005 Chapter Events Calendar

(Tentative)

Meetings

December 14	11:30 am	Downtown Grill	Betsy Foxx
January 11	11:30 am	Riverside Tavern	Tonya Davis
February 8	11:30 am	Patrick Sullivan's	TEMA
March 2-4	8-5 pm	Park Vista - Gatlinburg	PDC*
April 5	11:30 am	Tennessee Grill	Matt Murray
May 10	11:30 am	UT Faculty Club	Awards Ceremony

*Southeastern Region PDC – To be discussed throughout year

Service Projects**

November	Samaritan's Purse
December	Angel Tree
January	Food Drive
February	Bowl for Kids Sake
March	Public TV Telethon
April	Beta Alpha Psi

**We will be doing service projects with the Ronald McDonald house at various times throughout the year.

Looking for a new job?
AGA provides job listings for the accounting professional. Visit <http://aga.careerbank.com>

Do you need more CPE hours? There is a variety of downloadable CPE courses offered on the AGA website at www.agacgfm.org/education/onlinecpe.aspx

Points Update

Through 11/30/04

Leadership	3075
Education	350
Certification	825
Communication	775
Membership	600
Community Service	0
Awards	200
Total Points YTD	5825

Chapter Goal = 10,000

Have a safe and happy holiday season! Remember to give back to your community and help those who might not have the things they need...

December Speaker Biography

Betsy Foxx, Director of Human Resources for Blount County Government

Betsy Foxx is currently the director of Human Resources for Blount County Government. Betsy graduated from UT with a degree in Communications. She has worked in Human Resources for the last 15 years with most of them at US Foodservice. She also worked in corporate training for US Foodservice out of their Baltimore office where she conducted training throughout the US on topics such as Supervisory Skills, Customer Service, and Sexual Harassment. She is a Dale Carnegie Course instructor where she teaches classes on Effective Speaking and Human Relations Skills. She lives in Maryville with her two daughters.

Aldena Phillips shares her findings from the Seminar Experience

The Fall Seminar was a success with 34 in attendance and two very informative speakers! Richard Moore, TVA's Inspector General, gave us insights into white collar crime and what to expect if we are called upon to be 'an expert witness.' With that he certainly had our undivided attention! Since we all prefer **not** to be an expert witness or to be otherwise involved with a case of that magnitude, Mr. Moore then tuned us in to preventing and the early detection of white collar crime and offered some tools to help.

From white collar crime we turned to complying with unclaimed property laws. Beth Chapman, the state's Director of Unclaimed Property, presented the how to's on identifying unclaimed property, due diligence in locating owners, resources available and reporting unclaimed property to the state.

Everyone received a copy of the law and information on how to contact her and her staff. She also addressed the question on everyone's mind, "Do I have unclaimed property and how can I claim it?"

November Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Susan Gennoe

The third meeting of the 2004-05 AGA group was held on November 19, 2004 at the Naval Reserve from 11:15 - 4:15. This was the AGA Fall Seminar, worth 4 CPE credits. Lunch was provided by The Lunch Box.

President Dana Lamson opened the meeting and announced the annual Professional Development Conference (PDC) will be held in Gatlinburg in March. Tentative agendas were passed out. She also referenced the drop off area for Samaritan's Purse items as well as Coats for the Cold and passed out Angel Tree names for the December community service project. She announced that door prizes would be drawn during the seminar breaks. She then introduced the first speaker for the Fall Seminar, Richard Moore. Mr. Moore is the Inspector General for TVA and his topic was "Testifying as an Expert Witness," "White Collar Fraud," and "Bribes to Public Officials." Mr. Moore gave a wealth of useful and interesting information on his subjects, including rules for testifying as an expert, qualifications for an expert, the *Daubert* checklist, types of fraud, and a case study of a well-publicized fraud lawsuit.

Ms. Lamson then introduced Beth Chapman, Director of the Tennessee Treasury Department's Unclaimed Property Division, as the second and final speaker for the afternoon. Ms. Chapman gave a wealth of information for reporting unclaimed property to the State, including a definition of unclaimed property, when it becomes reportable, due dates for reporting, and a website to check to see if you may have unclaimed property (www.treasury.state.tn.us/unclaim).

Ms. Lamson closed the meeting by thanking everyone for participating and noted the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 14 at Downtown Grill. The speaker will be Betsy Foxx, Blount County Human Resource Department.

The PDC planning committee needs your help! Speakers are still needed for the Regional PDC to be held in March 2005.

Do you have technical topics that you would like to see addressed by a speaker? Have you heard a great speaker lately that you think would benefit our group? If so, please contact either Dana Lamson or Dave Bennett with your ideas. The committee, of course, will continue to need your help with additional planning, securing door prizes and setting up the conference. Please let any board member know if you are interested in assisting with this conference.

Your help and time is greatly appreciated!

CGFM Celebrates 10 Years of Success *Information from AGA Website*

When Jeffrey C. Steinhoff began planning for his 1993-1994 term as AGA National President, a new certification program was not on his priority list. Steinhoff, who is managing director of the Financial Management and Assurance Team at the Government Accountability Office, testified quite often before congressional committees at that time. One particular hearing stands out. "During the hearing, Senator James Sasser, the chairman, really asked a lot about my professional credentials and made a pretty big deal about me being a CPA, and that added a sense of greater reliability, and greater reliance on whatever I was saying," Steinhoff recalled. "I really didn't think those skills and that exam I passed quite some time before that was all that applicable to the issues I was discussing at the hearing." Chairman Sasser had unknowingly planted a seed that would bloom into AGA's CGFM Program, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Steinhoff saw a strong need to recognize the "very rich portfolio of knowledge and skills" that are unique to government financial managers, who are dealing with complex issues that are quite different than those of the private sector.

Steinhoff looked at the many previous discussions and studies AGA had spearheaded on the subject. In 1992, a task force recommended dropping the idea, but he found the sentiment to be split nearly 50-50, so he began planning to introduce the concept to the National Executive Committee and AGA's chapters. Before he even started, though, he was warned by his colleagues at GAO that he already had a strong plan in place for his presidential term. They said he didn't need to take the risk of launching an initiative that was destined to be rejected by the membership. "I felt strongly that we were viewed as second-class citizens by some in the profession. We have special and unique skills and we shouldn't be second to anyone," Steinhoff said. "There was really nothing that recognized government financial managers out there at all."

He introduced the program at the 1994 Professional Development Conference. He hoped 4,000 would apply for CGFM status during the initial certification period, when the CGFM was granted based on education and experience. "There were those who said I'd have trouble getting 500," he said. Then began the deluge of mailbags to the AGA National Office. More than 13,000 became certified. Also, AGA's membership shot up by 7,000 over a few short years, and attendance at the annual PDC skyrocketed. The CGFM is considered AGA's most successful undertaking. AGA developed a training program of three courses that help prepare CGFM candidates for the three examinations. The exams were computerized from the start, and the board has gone through the rigorous process of updating them to keep the material fresh and relevant to the issues financial managers face every day. Board members, who are experts in state and local government, federal accounting standards, the Yellow Book and more, have dedicated hundreds of hours of volunteer time to the CGFM Program. Many board members who serve today, including Steinhoff, helped develop the program 10 years ago.

2004-2005 Chapter Leadership

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