

Monthly Footnotes

A monthly publication of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants

2004

Vol. V, No. 2

Luncheon Meeting

SPEAKER: Jay Heck, Common Cause in Wisconsin

TOPIC: "The 2004 Elections—More Expensive and Negative than Ever--Why?"

DATE: September 23, 2004

COST: \$8.00 Members

\$10.00 Non-Members

REGISTRATION: 11:30 a.m.

LUNCH: 11:45 a.m.

PLACE: J.T. Whitney's Pub & Brewery – 674 S. Whitney Way, Madison, WI (In Marshall's parking lot; across from West Gate Mall)

MENU: All meals include fries and fountain soda.

Portabella Mushroom Cap Sandwich – Large marinated mushroom cap topped with grilled zucchini, roasted red pepper and Swiss cheese

Cheesehead Burger - 1/2 pound burger with cheddar cheese served with lettuce, tomato and pickle (can be ordered low-carb: no bun and side of veggies)

JT's Pulled Pork – Slow roasted pork in a rich barbecue sauce served with lettuce, tomato and pickle

Beer Battered Chicken Filet – Deep fried chicken breast topped with cheddar cheese and served with lettuce, tomato and pickle

RESERVATIONS: Please contact the office of Sherri Voigt by **10 a.m. on Monday, September 20, 2004** with your name, menu selection, and membership status, 267-9818 or e-mail: sherri.voigt@dnr.state.wi.us

NEW MEMBERS FIRST LUNCHEON MEETING

If you are a new member and this will be the first luncheon you are attending, please note that when calling in your reservation. Your first chapter luncheon meeting is FREE!

BRING YOUR SUPERVISOR TO LUNCH ON AGA

One of the benefits of belonging to our Chapter is that you can bring you Supervisor to lunch once annually to show your appreciation for his/her support of your participation in AGA. Why not invite them for this months meeting. When making luncheon reservations be sure to mention you are bringing your Supervisor to lunch on AGA.

About This Month's Speaker

Jay Heck

"The 2004 Elections--More Expensive and Negative than Ever--Why?"

Mr. Jay Heck has been Executive Director of Common Cause In Wisconsin (CCW) since 1996. CCW is an affiliate of national common cause and has 4,000 WI members. The Capital Times called CCW, "the single most effective force in the fight for campaign finance reform in WI." Mr. Heck previously served as Public and Governmental Affairs VP and Chief Lobbyist for the WI Association of Independent Colleges & Universities, top assistant to WI Senate Majority Leader Joseph Strohl, Communications Director for the Senate Majority Caucus, Treasurer of the State Senate Democratic Committee, Legislative Director and Campaign Manager for a Pennsylvania Congressman. In 1980, he served on the national campaign staff of Independent U.S. Presidential candidate, U.S. Representative John Anderson. Jay is a 1979 honor graduate of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

From the National Office

From the National President, Bobby A. Derrick, CGFM

A couple of weeks ago I had the opportunity to visit one of my favorite cities, Madison, WI. If you have never been there, you are missing out on a hidden treasure. My first trip to Madison was about eight years ago, and since then I have visited the city every year. Fortunately, I have been there during late spring, summer, or early fall. I have been told it gets quite cold in the winter. Every time I visit the city, I always stay at the same hotel downtown Madison across the street the state capitol building. What a beautiful structure and testimony to those who planned its structure and have maintained the property. As many of you know or will soon know, photography is my passion whether for business or pleasure. One of my favorite subjects is the state capitol of Madison, WI, as can be seen in the photo (click on the link below). Another reason that I enjoy Madison, WI, from year after year is the farmer's market which is held every Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning throughout the growing season. On Saturday, the market is aligned on the city block, which encircles the capitol building. Click here to read more thoughts from President Derrick: <http://www.agacgfm.org/publications/topics/083004/derrick.aspx>.

In Memory of R. Schuyler Leshner Jr., CGFM

AGA regrets to report the passing of R. Schuyler Leshner Jr., CGFM, a member of the Washington, D.C. Chapter. Leshner, deputy chief financial officer and director of the Office of Financial Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, died August 23 after a nearly two-year battle with cancer. An active AGA supporter, Leshner served most recently as the vice-chairman of the Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) Board. He was one of the architects, with John "Jack" Carson, CGFM, of the Best Practices program, which was featured for many years at the AGA Professional Development Conference & Exposition. He also served for many years as a member of the PDC Technical Committee. In June, Leshner received the 2004 Frank Greathouse Distinguished Leadership Award, which is conferred upon individuals in government service who have provided sustained, outstanding leadership in financial management over a period of years, resulting in notable contributions to the profession.

Nominations for National Officers Due October 29

You Are Invited to Accept the Challenge of AGA National and Regional Leadership – Nominations must be received by Friday, October 29, 2004

AGA's National Nominating Committee is now accepting nominations for volunteer leadership positions as:

- National President-Elect
- National Treasurer-Elect
- Senior Vice President for Regional Services – Section III
- Senior Vice President At-Large
- Regional Vice Presidents-Elect

Click here for complete nomination information: <http://www.agacgfm.org/about/governance/default.aspx>

Nominations for Federal and State & Local Government Leadership Awards

Awards are presented at the National Leadership Conference and nominations are due October 29, 2004.

Click here to find the Word documents with the criteria for each award: <http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/awards/>

Here is the list of awards:

Federal Government Leadership Awards

- Distinguished Federal Leadership Award
- Elmer Staats Award
- Andy Barr Award

State & Local Government Leadership Awards

- Excellence in Government Leadership Award
- William R. Snodgrass Distinguished Leadership Award
- Distinguished Local Government Leadership Award
- Private Sector Financial Excellence Award

All nominations should be submitted to Rosanna Ortiz, AGA National Awards Committee staff liaison.

Fax: 703.519.0039

Mail: 2208 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301-1314

Phone: 800.AGA.7211, ext.131

Photos of nominees must accompany nomination packages!

Raymond Harris, CGFM, a member of AGA's New York Capital Chapter, will join the AGA National Office staff Sept. 13 as the director of education. He is retiring from the New York State Comptroller's Office where he served as the internal control officer and executive assistant to the deputy comptroller. Formerly, Harris was the audit director for the New York State Office of Mental Health for nine years. As vice president for education and programs, Harris directed his chapter's successful professional development events. The chapter has been recognized as the best education provider in AGA for Group A chapters for the past two years. He plans to bring to the National Office the same enthusiasm for high-quality education at the national and chapter levels. Harris has also served in several AGA national and chapter positions, including the National Executive Committee, chairing the Regional Governance Task Force and chairing the Chapter Assistance and Development Committee. He has served as Northeast Regional Vice President and chapter president, as well as various other chapter officer and director positions for the past 15 years. He has received numerous national and chapter awards for his AGA volunteer work. He received his MBA from Adelphi University with a major in marketing and his BBA from Hofstra University with a major in accounting. In addition to being a CGFM, Ray is also a Certified Fraud Examiner. He resides in Glenville, NY, with his wife, Dr. Doreen Harris, a psychologist, and their two Siberian huskies, Anik and Kia.

Spotlight on AGA Corporate Partner Accenture

Accenture is a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company. Committed to delivering innovation, Accenture collaborates with its clients to help them become high-performance businesses and governments. With deep industry and business process expertise, broad global resources and a proven track record, Accenture can mobilize the right people, skills and technologies to help clients improve their performance. With approximately 90,000 people in 48 countries, the company generated net revenues of US\$11.8 billion for the fiscal year ended Aug. 31, 2003.

David Petersen, Partner

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Education Corner

Now Accepting Online Registrations for Free Early Career Conference Connect – Become a Government Financial Manager

Whether you are graduating from college or in the early stages of your career, consider the many exciting opportunities in government financial management. Join AGA for a new conference geared to help you build a successful and lasting career as a government financial manager, set for October 6 at the Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel. No other entity in the world compares to the size and scope to the US government. Public attention is increasingly focused on improving the performance and accountability of government programs. As a result, governments are fully recognizing the importance of professional financial management and are looking to fill positions with employees who possess extensive knowledge in a wide variety of functional areas.

Sessions Include: Obtaining Professional Certifications, Continuing Professional Development, Handling A Government Interview, Getting the Government Job That You Want. Registered attendees also have the opportunity to submit their resume and participate in on-site interviews with exhibitors and sponsors. [Please check the website regularly for information updates pertaining to the conference.](#)

Improving Government Performance: Financial Managers Take Center Stage

Make Plans Now to Join Us for AGA's Third Annual National Leadership Conference, February 7- 8, 2005, in Washington, DC

Sound financial management is more important than ever. Governments are grappling with a growing list of homeland security issues – how to keep our cities and our nation safe, and how to pay for it. In this environment, financial managers will take center stage, confronting these challenges and the difficulties of balancing the many competing demands on taxpayers' money. At the same time, governments are focusing more intently on performance to ensure that every dollar is spent wisely, and can be accounted for later. These developments are bringing financial managers into the spotlight.

The National Leadership Conference (NLC) will bring together the top leaders in federal, state and local government financial management, all of whom are struggling to make ends meet while providing an unprecedented level of services to the citizens they serve. This conference is a must for top government leaders - chief financial officers, inspectors general, state auditors, state comptrollers, state treasurers, city auditors, city finance directors and those who work with these top leaders to keep our governments fiscally sound.

The NLC offers unparalleled opportunities to make valuable professional contacts, discuss challenges, discover creative solutions and gain the tools you need to become more effective. Don't miss this opportunity to network with your peers and learn from the best in the government accountability business.

Registration opens on Friday, September 3, 2004. Advance registration discounts apply to all forms received before January 14, 2005. [Stay tuned to the website as more details become available.](#)

2005 Conference Marketing Opportunities Are Now Available

Become an exhibitor, sponsor or advertiser at AGA's conferences - the ideal time and place to meet key decision-makers! If you are interested in becoming an advertiser, exhibitor or sponsor for the 2005 Professional Development Conference & Exposition or the National Leadership Conference, now is the time to act. Every year, thousands of government financial management and accountability professionals make their buying decisions on the Exhibit Hall floor at AGA conferences and special events. Opportunities exist at every budget level. And, AGA can customize sponsorship programs to meet your goals. For more information, you may contact Ada Phillips (exhibits & sponsorship) at aphillips@agacgfm.org or 703.684.6931, ext. 204, or Marie Force (advertising) at mforce@agacgfm.org or 401.682.2752.

What is the Best Way to Study for the CGFM Examinations?

The best way to study depends on your knowledge, experience, time and location constraints and individual preferences. Start by reviewing the contents of each examination in the "[What Do Exams Cover?](#)" section of the AGA website.

The "[How Do I Prepare?](#)" section of AGA's website provides detailed information on different ways to prepare for the CGFM examinations, including:

- [Instructor-led courses](#)
- [an online course](#)
- [self-study guides](#); and
- [a list of resource materials](#)

Review each choice to determine what would work best for you. In addition, AGA's National Office has a list of mentors who can share their experience of studying for the CGFM Examinations. You can find a partial listing of mentors on AGA's website at www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/whyeam/developments.aspx or call the Office of Professional Certification for more information at 1.800.AGA.7211, ext. 313.

AGA SEA Program

Momentum is building for the Implementation Phase of the SEA Program. Over 70 have signed up as reviewers! Check out the Pilot Phase Summary and Draft Review Guidelines. (Implementation Phase guidelines released mid-September.) Click here to learn more: <http://www.agacgfm.org/performance/sea/>

CGFM Exam 3 Study Guide Now Available!

Be sure to order the new Study Guide for *CGFM Exam 3: Governmental Financial Management and Control* to help in your preparation for the examination. Click here to download the order form: <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/downloads/CGFMExam3OrderFormWeb.pdf>

AGA and Management Concepts

Three comprehensive courses in government financial management. – Each course has been designed from the content specifications for AGA's Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) examinations and can provide in-depth preparation. Courses are not just limited to potential CGFM's. These courses have been designed as high-quality continuing professional education (CPE) in government financial management for all interest professionals.

Developed by experts in the field of financial management, you can expect that each course will:

- be presented by leaders in the field;
- be accompanied by quality training materials;
- provide thorough coverage of both basic concepts and the latest developments; and
- link to the core competencies for government financial professionals' set forth by the Joint Financial Management Improvement Project and the Human Resources Committee of the Chief Financial Officers Council.

Course 5601: Governmental Environment

This course looks at the organization and structure of government, public accountability, ethics in government, the governmental financing process and other legal and environmental aspects of government. Worth 8 CPE, this is a one-day course.

Course 5602: Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting

This course looks at the general principles of governmental financial accounting and performance reporting, and budgeting, as well as the unique aspects of both federal and state and local financial accounting and reporting. Worth 24 CPE, this is a three-day course.

Course 5603: Governmental Financial Management and Control

This course looks at internal and management control, auditing, performance measurement and reporting, financial and managerial analysis and techniques, concepts and controls. Worth 16 CPE, this is a two-day course.

Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) Roundtable

Announcing, the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency (PCIE), Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) Roundtable, in conjunction with the Mid-Western Intergovernmental Audit Forum, is presenting the first PCIE Roundtable to be held in Chicago, Illinois, 10:00-11:45 AM on Wednesday August 25, 2004 at 77 West Jackson Blvd, Room 328. All members of the Chicago area Federal OIG community, State and Local government audit staffs are invited to attend this event providing 2 CPE units at **no charge**, on a space available basis. All attendees must register in advance.

The Topic will be: GPRA 10 Years Later: Successes, Progress, Challenges - Henry Wray, Associate, Government Accountability Project, Mercatus Center, George Mason University: The Mercatus Center's Fifth Annual - Report Scorecard: Rating and Ranking the Agencies on Performance Reporting - Patricia Dalton, Director, GAO Strategic Issues: "Results Oriented – Government GPRA Has Established a Solid Foundation for Achieving - Greater Results" recently released on the 10 year history of GPRA Highlights Page of the GAO Report available at: www.gao.gov/highlights/d0438high.pdf

Executive Leadership in a Changing Environment

When was the last time you stopped to reflect on your role as a public leader? To examine the responsibilities and rights that came along with that role? For most busy senior government executives, it has been too long. This hallmark Brookings Executive Education program will help you to not only reflect on your career and role in the government but will also give you a rare opportunity to recharge and recommit to the path you have chosen. An intensive week at the historic Boars Head Inn in Charlottesville, VA provides the perfect opportunity to examine your commitment to democratic values and your obligation toward promoting a strong and active democracy. The program focuses on approaches to running government programs with 21st century competencies grounded in the founding ideals of our country.

REGIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Association of Certified Fraud Examiners

Learn More or Register Today

www.CFEnet.com

September 23 & 24, 2004 – Investigating by Computer – This 2-day course will teach you how to use the computer and the Internet to effectively conduct fraud examinations, as well as how the computer is used as a tool to perpetrate fraud. Learn legal issues affecting computer investigations, how to do public records searches online, how to use data analysis tools, and how to develop and preserve computer evidence.

NEED CPE!

130 New CPE Courses Added to AGA Website - When you visit the updated AGA website you'll find more than just aesthetic improvements. You will find an additional 130 MicroMash CPE courses at the Online CPE Center. AGA selected MicroMash based on its 20-year reputation for delivering the kind of training this industry demands-relevant, engaging, up-to-date content in a user-friendly format. And as a leading training partner of the Big 4 and other major government and corporate entities, MicroMash brings a selection of topics specific to the needs of AGA members. Members can now fulfill their *Yellow Book*, CPE and training requirements from the comfort of their home or office. MicroMash courses can be downloaded to a PC or taken online via the Internet. CPE certificates print immediately at course completion, or after each chapter. Visit www.agacgfm.org today!

Have you checked out our Chapter's website? There is information on our Chapter and the opportunities it offers as well as a link to the National website. Check it out!

Information on our Chapter, meetings, and other events can

Be found on our website at:

www.aga-wis.org

A wealth of information can be found on the North Central Region Website at:

<http://www.adpc.purdue.edu/NCREGAGA/NorthCentral.html>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sherri Voigt, Chapter President

Welcome back to a new AGA program year! I look forward to seeing everyone at the lunches. Our first lunch is set for Thursday, September 23. Upcoming dates can be found in the calendar of events. We will be continuing the free lunch drawing this year! Every person who attends the lunch is placed in the drawing and one lucky winner will win a certificate good for one year.

We have a fall training this year: a half-day session on Reporting Performance Information. Mark your calendars now for November 4! The brochures will be sent in the next couple weeks. The spring symposium planning is solidly underway and April 28 (for those who really plan ahead) is reserved.

We have a new community service event for the fall. We will collect business clothes for the Community Action Coalition to distribute to persons needing attire for interviews and the workplace. Please take a look at the announcement later in the newsletter and consider bringing items to the lunches. Our usual food drive will take place starting in January.

I look forward to serving you this year. If you ever have ideas, suggestions, or comments about our chapter, feel free to get in touch with me.

CHAPTER RECOGNITION PROGRAM (CRP)

2004-2005 National Points

CRP 1st Quarter Results

Chapter	Goal 2004-2005	% of Goal	Total Points	Chapter Leadership, Planning and Participation	Education & Professional Development	Certification	Communications	Membership	Community Service	Awards
				3000 Credits	4,000 Credits	4,000 Credits	3,000 Credits	3,000 Credits	2,000 Credits	1,000 Credits
Southern Wisconsin	10,000	37.47 %	3,747	875	750	675	1,347	100	0	0

CGFM Corner



The Mark of Excellence in Government Financial Management

Earning the CGFM Certification

The Rutgers University created a scholarship program for AGA members interested in earning the CGFM certification. All courses are available online. Candidates for the scholarship certificate program should hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and submit unofficial copies of their transcripts along with a resume and two letters of recommendation. For more information, contact Lin Latham at 800-AGA-7211, ext. 209, or llatham@agacgfm.org. Additional information is also available at www.agacgfm.org/education/educationdefault.aspx

Become a Certified Government Financial Manager

Visit our website at www.agacgfm.org or send an email to ksilver@agacgfm.org to start on the pathway to CGFM certification. The Chapter will reimburse the exam fees for first four chapter members each year who pass all parts of the CGFM exam. Contact Eric Busse for details.

Why Become a CGFM?

Frequently Asked Questions About CGFM Examination Procedure

Q: What is the procedure for taking the CGFM Examinations?

A: You must first apply for the CGFM Program (for more information on CGFM application requirements, please visit our website at <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/start/>). After your application is processed, you will receive a letter confirming your eligibility to sit for the examinations. This letter will include your candidate ID number. The eligibility letter will provide detailed instructions for purchasing your examinations on the AGA website. You can purchase one, two or all three examinations at this time. Once you purchase your examinations, you can print the authorization letter. This authorization letter provides you with detailed instructions for scheduling your testing appointment with Prometric.

Q: Do I have to take all three examinations at the same time or in any particular order?

A: No. You may take up to three years to complete all three examinations. You can take the examinations in any order.

Q: How often are the examinations offered?

A: They are offered six days a week all year round. Some centers may even offer evening hours for testing. After registering and purchasing the exams, you may contact Prometric for exact times and availability.

Q: How often can I retake the examinations?

A: You may retake an exam as often as you like. If you do not pass the exam the first time, you must wait 30 days before taking the exam again. If you don't pass a second time, there is a three-month waiting period between retakes. You have three years to pass all three exams. Otherwise, you need to reapply and begin again, and all exams that were passed will have to be retaken.

Board Meeting Minutes

July 26, 2004

In attendance: Carrie Ferguson, Sheri Voigt, Rita Klawitter, Lillian Radivojevich, Eric Busse and Dennis Dombrowicki

Planning 2004 - 2005 Luncheon Topics

Board members discussed possible topic and speakers for the coming year luncheons. Various board members will contact speakers to determine availability.

The board discussed whether to hold an April luncheon because of the Annual Spring Symposium. More discussion to take place before a final decision to be made.

AGA Training

AGA sponsored a two day training session on leadership for board members August 6 and 7 at the Inn on the Park. The training was for the North Central Regional Chapter Officers and four board members from the Southern Wisconsin Chapter plan on attending.

Board members discussed the upcoming Chapter training that is schedule for November 4 at Union South. The training will be a half-day with 4 CPE for the session. Further information will be forthcoming.

Newsletter Articles

Bisnow on Business Interviews AGA Executive Director

An interview with AGA Executive Director Relmond Van Daniker, DBA, CPA, has been featured on www.bisnow.com, the website of Bisnow on Business, a radio show that focuses on the views of policy and business leaders in the Washington, D.C. area. Van Daniker discusses performance reporting at the state and federal levels, and AGA's involvement in evaluating the reports. AGA reviews federal performance and accountability reports through its Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting program, which attracted a record number of participants this year at 18. AGA also recently started a Certificate of Excellence in Service Efforts and Accomplishments Reporting Program reviewing state and local reports, funded through a grant by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Find out more about AGA's Performance and Accountability programs at www.agacgm.org/performance/performancedefault.aspx

Federal Accounting Appropriation Corrections in the Journal and on the SF-224 (Part I)

With continuing resolutions lasting longer and longer, many agencies get taken by surprise when the appropriation finally gets passed. Not only do the amounts vary, but the funding structure itself may differ from what they had anticipated and, more important, loaded into their financial system. What can you do if you thought your funding would come in on a single-year fund but Congress moved it to a multi-year fund? I will give two possible scenarios. It is important to note, though, that making the change in your agency's accounting system may not be sufficient; if other agencies disburse on your behalf you will also need to make special postings to fix Treasury's records on their cash balance statement (TFS-6653). Read the entire article at www.agacgm.org/publications/agatoday/articles/050304.aspx

States Expected to Benefit from Homeland Security Merger

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Tom Ridge will soon announce a merger of offices that aid state and local governments in an effort to better administer billions of

dollars in grants to first responders, officials said Wednesday. The department will consolidate the Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) and the Office of State and Local Government Coordination into a new Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness, ODP Director Suzanne Mencer told House lawmakers. "The consolidation will enable the department to evaluate programs more accurately, exercise greater federal oversight, and ensure that government-provided resources are dispersed quickly and used to maximum efficiency," she said. "This decision will benefit states and localities by providing them with a unified and coordinated means of assistance and support." The merger will provide a "one-stop shop" for state and local governments to access grants by placing 25 state and local assistance programs and initiatives into a single office. It is expected to eliminate duplication and link funding to strategic plans that states recently submitted to DHS. —Chris Strohm, Government Executive. Read more at www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0404/042804c1.htm

Overtime Rules Likely to Have Little Effect on Federal Work Force

Proposed new rules from the U.S. Department of Labor on overtime policy likely will have relatively little effect on the federal work force, where overtime policy is set by a separate set of rules and, in some cases, by statute. The Labor rules, which will go into effect in four months unless blocked by Congress, are aimed at the private sector and guarantee overtime eligibility for certain lower-income workers while changing definitions of who is ineligible for overtime pay for various reasons. The final version adds some protections not in the earlier version for certain categories of employees, including firefighters and law enforcement officers. In the federal sector, changing overtime policy for those employees would have required legislation in any event. The main effect in the federal workplace may be to make certain higher level wage grade supervisors ineligible for overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act. However, those employees could remain eligible for overtime under separate law. —FedWeek. Read more at www.fedweek.com.

Recruiters Hunting for MBA Grads in Finance, Accounting

Improvement in the economy has allowed more companies to hire new MBAs, especially in finance and accounting, according to the 2004 Corporate Recruiters Survey just released by the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC). The top jobs for which recruiters are hiring are the same as in the previous years—finance, marketing and accounting, in that order. On a worldwide basis, 62 percent of recruiters indicated they are hiring for jobs in finance, 49 percent for marketing positions and 30 percent for accounting. Hiring activity in marketing increased more than in any other job category over the past two years, jumping 15 percent over last year and a total of 18 percent since 2002. Accounting and finance, while still popular areas of specialization, saw more moderate growth in hiring activity over the same two-year period. "Clearly, the economic recovery is beginning to open up more opportunities for MBA graduates," said David A. Wilson, president and CEO of GMAC. "In fact, companies plan to hire more people for every job category we tracked. These results are very encouraging." The top characteristic employers seek in new MBA hires are strong communication and interpersonal skills, a proven ability to perform, and a cultural fit with the company. A total of 1,300 recruiters representing 1,004 companies worldwide participated in the survey. —SmartPros. Read more at <http://accounting.smartpros.com/x43345.xml> .

Do you have some interesting news that your fellow chapter members may be interested in? If so, please submit an article to the Newsletter Editor at radivl@dhfs.state.wi.us. Deadline for submission of articles is the 25th of the month.

AGA Chapter Financial Status as of 6/30/04

Revenue:

Lunch Meetings	2,547.00	
OMB A-87 Training	7,560.00	
Symposium	<u>9,405.00</u>	
Total Revenue:		19,512.00

Expenditures:

Lunch Meetings	3,152.58	
Board Meetings	537.46	
Internet	119.40	
OMB A-87 Training	4,311.41	
Symposium	3,868.59	
PDC Attendance	1,969.39	
Community Service	50.00	
Other Expenses	<u>91.70</u>	
Total Expenditures:		<u>14,100.53</u>

Net Income for Program Year:

5,411.47

Cash Balance at 6/30/04:

18,399.66

Other News of Interest

Southern WI Chapter Receives Award

At the June Professional Development conference, our chapter received recognition for achieving the *Highest Overall Membership Growth - Group C* - for the 2003-2004 **Back to Basics, Back to Benefits** Membership Campaign. Dave Mellem, CGFM, membership chair, accepted the award (see photo). This award recognizes membership recruitment and retention efforts for our chapter.



National President, Jullin Renthrope, presents Membership Award to David Mellem

Our chapter also received the Platinum Award for the Chapter Recognition Program, the highest chapter award possible. Sherri Voigt accepted on behalf of Carrie Ferguson, Chapter President. A brief presentation will take place at the September luncheon. A special thank you goes out to both Carrie Ferguson for an outstanding program year, and to Rita Klawitter for her meticulous records of the chapter recognition points earned.



Have You Been Thinking About Applying for the CGFM Certification?



AGA national wants to help! From September 1 until November 30, 2004 they'll give a discount of \$20 to CGFM applications received with the assistance of AGA chapters.

In order to receive the \$20 discount:

1. Submit the complete CGFM application (application form, \$85 application fee and proof of a bachelor's degree) must be received by AGA Office of Professional Certification during the period of September 1 through November 30, 2004.
2. The CGFM application form must have the promotional phrase: "**CGFM chapter promotion – Southern WI**" written at the bottom of the form (under the source code). If the application is submitted online, the applicant should send a same-day email to ksilver@agacgfm.org with his/her name and a promotional phrase above.

Important notes:

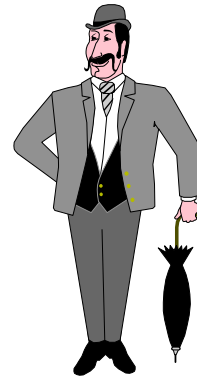
- ✓ A full application fee of \$85 must be paid at the time of application. The \$20 check will be sent to the applicant by mail in December.
- ✓ Applications must be submitted by the applicant and not by the chapter. The applicant does not have to be a chapter member in order to receive the discount.
- ✓ Be sure to include the chapter name on the application form to receive the discount.

The CGFM application at <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/start/> or pick one up at any luncheon or training session. Contact Eric Busse, CGFM chairperson, with any questions:
Eric.Busse@dpi.state.wi.us

You Deserve a new suit...
and so does someone else

Do you have a closet full of suits or business attire you no longer wear?

Bring them to an AGA luncheon! Our new service project is collecting clothing for the Community Action Coalition (CAC) to aid individuals who are in need of clothes for interviewing and the workplace. They would be happy to accept other clothing donations, too. At this time of year, winter coats, hats, and mittens are in great demand.



Use this chance to clear your closets of gently used items that can be put to good use. Create space for yourself (or an excuse to shop for more) and make a difference in someone else's life.

The clothing drive will run through December.

ARE YOU MOVING?

If you are moving, or have already moved, please be sure to advise AGA National of your change of address. You can update your address online at: www.agacgm.org/membership/form_address.htm. Also, don't forget to notify your local chapter.

Southern Wisconsin Chapter Calendar of Events for 2004-2005

September 23, 2004 – Luncheon Meeting, Jay Heck, WI Common Cause - "The 2004 Elections--More Expensive and Negative than Ever--Why?" (J.T. Whitney's)

October 12, 2004 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

October 28, 2004 – Luncheon Meeting, Carol Brown, Indian Gaming Compact

November 4 2004 – Half-day Training Session, *Reporting Performance Information*, Wilson Campbell, CGFM, Union South

November 9, 2004 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

November 18, 2004 – Luncheon Meeting, Topic and speaker to be determined

December 14, 2004 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

No December Luncheon Meeting

January 11, 2005 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

January 27, 2004 – Luncheon Meeting, *Annual Tax Update*, Speaker to be determined

February 8, 2005 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

February 24, 2005 – Luncheon Meeting, Topic and speaker to be determined

March 8, 2005 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

March 17, 2005 – Luncheon Meeting, Topic and speaker to be determined

April 12, 2005 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

April 14, 2005 – Luncheon Meeting, Topic and speaker to be determined

April 28, 2005 – *Annual Spring Symposium*, Various speakers and topics to be determined, Tripp Commons, UW-Madison Memorial Union

May 10, 2005 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

May 19, 2005 – Luncheon Meeting, Topic and speaker to be determined

June 14, 2005 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

Note: Community service, VITA and social events will be announced during the year.

2004-05 Chapter Officers & Board Members

President – Sherri Voigt, CPA, DNR, sherri.voigt@dnr.state.wi.us, 608-267-9818

President Elect – Vacant

Immediate Past President – Carrie Ferguson, CPA, LAB, Carrie.ferguson@legis.state.wi.us, 608-259-9839

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Treasurer - Roger Birkett, CPA, jabirk@charter.net

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CGFM Chair – Busse, Eric A. DPI [[mailto: Eric.Busse@dpi.state.wi.us](mailto:Eric.Busse@dpi.state.wi.us)]

Awards Chair – Vacant

Early Careers Chair – Vacant

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