

# Monthly Footnotes

Monthly Publication

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA)

March 2006

Vol. VI, No. 6

## Luncheon Meeting

Welcome to all Members and Non-Members

**SPEAKER:** Todd Berry, Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance

**TOPIC:** The Wisconsin State Budget – Priorities and Problems

**DATE:** March 23, 2006

**COST:** \$ 5 CGFM Holders  
\$ 8 Members  
\$10 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  
(Across 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 peppers and Swiss cheese

**Cheesehead Burger** - 1/3 pound burger with cheddar cheese served with lettuce, tomato and pickle (can be ordered low-carb: no bun and side of veggies)

**Grilled Chicken** – Grilled chicken breast with cheese served with lettuce, tomato and pickle

**RESERVATIONS:** Please call **Sherri Voigt** by **11 a.m. on Monday, March 20, 2006** with your name, menu selection and membership status, (608) 267- 9818 or e-mail: [sherri.voigt@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:sherri.voigt@dnr.state.wi.us). If you need help getting a ride to the lunch, please contact Sherri for car-pooling information.

### 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?

### ABOUT THIS MONTH'S LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Todd A. Berry has been President of the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance (WISTAX) since 1994. WISTAX is a privately funded and widely respected nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving government through public policy research and citizen education. Prior to that, he combined private business experience with service in state and local government. For 10 years, he was a marketing executive for one of the state's oldest food manufacturers. In the late seventies and early eighties, he was Wisconsin's Assistant Secretary of Revenue and Executive Director of the Tax Reform Commission.

Berry has served on a number of gubernatorial, legislative and agency commissions or task forces. He also served on the Dane County Board, the Jefferson School Board, and the CESA ("see-sah") #2 Board of Control. He is currently a member of the North Central College Board of Trustees, Naperville, Illinois. An honors graduate of UW-Madison, Berry holds master's degrees from Harvard University and the University of Chicago-Graduate School of Business. Todd, and his wife, Margaret Lewis, have 3 children and reside in Middleton, Wisconsin, where their lives are run by their Welsh Corgi.

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** **Sherri Voigt, CGFM, Chapter President**

The February luncheon featured Harry Webne-Behrman from the UW-Office of Human Resources and Development. He discussed conflict management in the workplace. It was too short a time for extended discussion, but there was some lively interaction. He promised to forward a link to their conflict resolution website. Here are those links:

Here's the link to the Conflict Resolution Skills site:

<http://www.ohrd.wisc.edu/onlinetraining/resolution/index.asp>

Within that site, you may access this self-assessment:

[http://www.ohrd.wisc.edu/onlinetraining/resolution/tools/conflict\\_styles\\_assessment.pdf](http://www.ohrd.wisc.edu/onlinetraining/resolution/tools/conflict_styles_assessment.pdf)

**March is Certified Government Financial Manager month!** Governor Doyle has signed a proclamation declaring March, 2006 as CGFM Month. A .pdf file of the proclamation follows. This action gives recognition to those who have earned this certification and those who are studying to pass the exams. In honor of this special month, CGFMs can attend the March 23 lunch for a discounted price.



**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) is a professional organization, belonging to the Association of Government Accountants which has more than 15,000 members in 90 chapters in the United States and around the world and approximately 140 active members representing state, federal, municipal and private sector accountants, auditors, and financial managers in Wisconsin; and

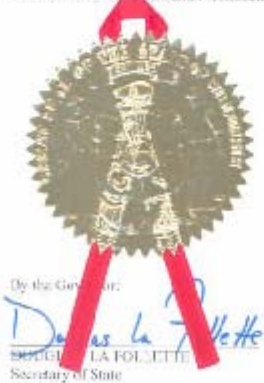
**WHEREAS**, AGA Southern Wisconsin Chapter members have responded to AGA's mission of Advancing Government Accountability, as it continues its broad educational efforts, with emphasis on high standards of conduct, honor, and character in its Code of Ethics, and are making significant advances both in professional ability and in service to the citizens of Wisconsin by mastering increasingly technical and complex requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) program of AGA provides a means of demonstrating professionalism and competency by requiring CGFM candidates to have appropriate educational and employment history and to pass a 3-part examination requiring expertise in The Government Environment, Governmental Financial Management and Control, and Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting, and requires each CGFM holder to maintain certification by completing comprehensive training sessions totaling 40 hours over a 3-year period;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin do hereby proclaim the month of March, 2006

**CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGER MONTH**

of the State of Wisconsin and I recommend this observance to all citizens.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this twenty fourth day of January in the year two thousand six.

  
JIM DOYLE

The annual symposium program is just about finalized. We have a great lineup of topics and speakers. Mark down May 4 on your calendar! Brochures will be sent electronically in early March.

We are fast approaching the end of our program year. I hope everyone has enjoyed the wide range of learning opportunities offered this year. If you would like to become involved in the planning process, consider joining the chapter board of directors. General board members and

committee members are needed now and for this fall. Your involvement can be as little or great as you want: from attending monthly board meetings to serving as an officer or committee chair. See the back page of the newsletter for the various roles available. Contact me or any other board member for information. Feel free to attend a board meeting to just try it on for size. Meetings are held at the Old Country Buffet and meals are paid by the chapter. Dinner offers a chance to socialize and network before the business meeting begins. Please help us continue to deliver quality training opportunities.

### **Board Meeting**

No meeting of the Board was held in February 2006. The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2006.

### **From The National Office**

From the National President

Sam M. McCall, MPA, CGFM, CPA, CIA, CGAP



I'd like to begin this month by taking a moment to thank each of you for supporting AGA, the professional government financial management organization involved in advancing government accountability at all levels of government.

It does not seem possible that this year as National President is more than halfway over. I have met so many dedicated chapter members and leaders in the profession. In January, I attended the Dallas - Ft. Worth Professional Development Conference. The program was excellent and the attendees represented a cross section of federal, state and local government, as well as the private sector.

Last week was a big week for our Association. [Click here to find out more.](#)

### **See You in San Diego!**

Make plans now to attend AGA's 55th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC). With the theme "Navigating the Way to Citizen-Centered Government," the PDC promises to be an excellent learning and networking opportunity for government financial managers and accountability professionals.

Education sessions will provide technical training, emerging trend snapshots and leadership secrets from the best in the business. Speakers will explain current regulations, describe future challenges, and share lessons learned in disaster recovery and finance, among many other topics. Concurrent sessions will be organized around the following six tracks:

- Envisioning 2015: The Future of the Accountability Profession
- Building and Sustaining Strong Internal Controls
- State and Local Governments – Challenges, Strategies and Innovations
- Improving Public Performance: Transforming Data into Results

- Intergovernmental Financial Management: Collaboration or Frustration?
- Technology, Tools and Techniques for the 21st Century

In addition to an outstanding technical program, AGA's PDC provides unparalleled opportunities to network, exchange ideas with your peers and meet new friends. The Exhibit Hall connects you with the industry's leading suppliers, eager to showcase cutting-edge technologies, products and services to help you to become more effective.

Register today and secure your place at the government financial management education event of the year!

- [Register online now and save.](#)
- [Click here to print the registration form \(PDF\).](#)
- [Click here to visit the conference website.](#)
- [Click here to reserve your room online.](#)

### **2006 Call for National Awards Nominations**

AGA's National Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for our 10 National Awards to recognize the leaders advancing our profession and setting the standards of excellence:

- Robert W. King Memorial Award
- Einhorn-Gary Award
- Frank Greathouse Distinguished Leadership Award
- Achievement of the Year Award
- Educator Award
- Cornelius E. Tierney/Ernst & Young Research Award
- Special Achievement Award
- Chapter Service Award
- Chapter Education Award
- Community Service Award

These awards will be presented during AGA's Professional Development Conference and Exposition in San Diego, CA, June 18-21, 2006. In many cases, individuals do not have to be members of AGA to be eligible. All nominations are due by Friday, March 3, 2006. [Click here for all nomination forms](#) or for more information contact Rosanna Ortiz at [rortiz@agacgfm.org](mailto:rortiz@agacgfm.org)

### **AGA Now Accepting 2006 Scholarship Applications**

Are you or a family member pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in disciplines such as accounting, auditing, budgeting, economics, finance, information technology, public administration, etc.? If so, consider applying for an AGA National Academic Scholarship today!

Each year, AGA National awards:

- Up to six \$1,000 full-time merit scholarships to AGA members and their family members,
- Up to two \$500 part-time merit scholarships to AGA members and their family members, and
- One \$1,000 community service scholarship

The **deadline for receipt of applications is March 31, 2006**. Apply now and take full advantage of your AGA membership. [Click here to download a copy of the scholarship application](#) or contact [Rosanna Ortiz](#).



### **AGA's SEA Reporting Program Announces Two Recipients**

AGA is pleased to present the first two 2005 SEA Certificates of Achievement in Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA) Reporting Program have been awarded to Maricopa County, AZ, and Bellevue, WA. Congratulations to these two governmental entities! Watch for more announcements coming soon. Certificates will be presented at the Second Annual National Performance Management Conference, October 30-31, in Chicago, IL. More details coming soon about the conference.

### **Members Vie for Top Recruiter in the Member-Get-A-Member Recruitment Campaign**



**Jose Lebron**, Puerto Rico Chapter, is in the running for Top Recruiter with having recruited 13 new members in this year's Member-Get-A-Member campaign—**Go For Growth!** Not far behind is **Daniel Towle**, New York Capital Chapter, with 10 recruits.

Each year, the Top Recruiter and the next two top sponsors are awarded a complimentary national meeting registration and are honored at the Awards Ceremony at the annual AGA Professional Development Conference (PDC). This year the PDC takes place in San Diego, CA, June 18–21.

### **Register Today for the Southeastern Region PDC**

Join AGA members in Nashville on March 16-17, 2006 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center. With the theme “**Open Government – Public Trust and Accountability**” the PDC will provide 16 CPE hours. The brochure and on-line registration information are available at the Nashville Chapter website at [www.nashvilleaga.org/2006/PDCBrochure.pdf](http://www.nashvilleaga.org/2006/PDCBrochure.pdf).

## **CGFM Corner**

### **Intensive Review Course and CGFM Examinations a Success Once Again**

The Intensive Review Course is again a big hit! Offered now for the second time at the National Leadership Conference (NLC) in Washington DC on February 1 and 2, 2006, it was once again sold out at 50 participants.

After attending the two-day review course, the candidates tackled the CGFM Examinations over the next two days (with some taking all three exams in one day!). As a result, 23 of the participants passed all three (or finished up their remaining) CGFM Examinations at this event - even more than at the similar event in July of last year! 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, which 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 (such as attending the courses and/or using study guides). In fact, the majority of the participants have 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 15-16, 2006 (with exams on June 17-18, 2006) in conjunction with AGA's Professional Development Conference (PDC) in San Diego, CA. For more information or to register, please visit [http://www.agacgfm.org/pdc2006/cgfm\\_exam.htm](http://www.agacgfm.org/pdc2006/cgfm_exam.htm).

### **Become a Certified Government Financial Manager**

For information about the CGFM program, visit our website at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org) or send an email to [ksilver@agacgfm.org](mailto: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.

March is CGFM Month! More information is available at:  
[http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/proclamations\\_06.aspx](http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/proclamations_06.aspx)

### **SHARE YOUR NEWS**

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 [ravidl@dhfs.state.wi.us](mailto:ravidl@dhfs.state.wi.us). Deadline for submission of articles is the 25th of the month.

### **ARE YOU MOVING?**

If you are moving, or have already moved, please notify AGA National of your address change. You can update your address online at: [www.agacgfm.org/membership/form\\_address.htm](http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/form_address.htm). Don't forget to notify your local chapter.

## Southern Wisconsin Chapter Calendar of Events for 2005-2006

September 13, 2005 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison  
September 16, 2005 – Audio Teleconference, “The Causes of Ethical Collapse in Individuals and Organizations (8:00 – 11:30 A.M. at DHFS)  
September 21, 2005 – “Red, Blue or Purple? Political Parties Then and Now,” John Colemean (Gino’s Restaurant)

October 11, 2005 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison  
October 27, 2005 – Unfunded Mandates, Craig Thompson, Wisconsin Counties Association (Babe’s American Grill & Bar)

November 8, 2005 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison  
November 17, 2005 – Medicare’s New Prescription Drug Benefit, Gregory Chesmore, CMS (Dayton Street Café)

No December Luncheon Meeting

January 12, 2006 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison  
January 19, 2006 – Audio Teleconference “Ethics, How it Impacts an Organization” (8:00-11:30 a.m. at WI DHFS)  
January 26, 2006 – Luncheon Meeting, Annual Tax Update (Imperial Garden)

February 14, 2006 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison  
February 23, 2006 – **Luncheon Meeting** (Dayton Street Café)

**March 1, 2006 – Audio Teleconference “Implications of Sarbanes-Oxley for the Future of the Auditing Profession (1:00 – 3:00 P.M. at WI DHFS)**

**March 7, 2006 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison**

**March 23, 2006 – **Luncheon Meeting****

April 11, 2006 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison  
April 20, 2006 – Audio Teleconference, “Identity Theft, What is being done to Prevent It?” (11:30-2:00 at Rocky’s Pizza East)  
April 27, 2006 – Luncheon Meeting

May 4, 2006 - *Annual Spring Symposium*, Tripp Commons, UW-Madison Memorial Union

May 9, 2006 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

May 18, 2006 – Luncheon Meeting

June 13, 2006 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

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

## **2005-06 Chapter Officers & Board Members**

**President** – Sherri Voigt, CPA, DNR, [sherri.voigt@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:sherri.voigt@dnr.state.wi.us), 608-267-9818

**President Elect** – Vacant

**Past President** – Carrie Ferguson, CPA, LAB, [Carrie.ferguson@legis.state.wi.us](mailto:Carrie.ferguson@legis.state.wi.us), 608-259-9839

**Chapter Recognition** – Rita Klawitter, CPA, LAB, [rita.klawitter@legis.state.wi.us](mailto:rita.klawitter@legis.state.wi.us), 608-266-2818

**Secretary** - Dennis Dombrowicki, CGFM, DHFS, [dombdrh@dhfs.state.wi.us](mailto:dombdrh@dhfs.state.wi.us), 608-266-3057

**Treasurer** - Roger Birkett, CPA, [jabirk@charter.net](mailto:jabirk@charter.net)

**Historian** - David Mellem, CGFM, CIA, CISA, US DHHS OIG, [david.mellem@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:david.mellem@oig.hhs.gov), 608-264-5415  
ext 25

**Membership Chair** - David Mellem, CGFM, CIA, CISA, US DHHS, OIG, [david.mellem@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:david.mellem@oig.hhs.gov),  
608-264-5415 ext 25

**Newsletter Editor** - Lillian Radivojevich, DHFS, [radivl@dhfs.state.wi.us](mailto:radivl@dhfs.state.wi.us), 608-267-7306

**Education Chair** – Carrie Ferguson, CPA, LAB, [Carrie.ferguson@legis.state.wi.us](mailto:Carrie.ferguson@legis.state.wi.us), 608-259-9839

**Webmaster** - Scott Thornton, [scott@goochpages.com](mailto:scott@goochpages.com)

**Community Service Chair** - Dolly O'Laughlin, [dollyo@mcr.com](mailto:dollyo@mcr.com), 608-242-6314

**Research Coordinator & Liaison w/Other Profession Organizations** – Vacant

**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

**Directors** -

Thomas A. Scheidegger, CPA, Virchow Krause, [Tscheidegger@virchowkrause.com](mailto:Tscheidegger@virchowkrause.com), 608-240-2303

Connie Wali, CGFM, DHFS, [walicm@dhfs.state.wi.us](mailto:walicm@dhfs.state.wi.us), 608-261-7785

**RVP North Central Region** – Noreen Poorman, Noreen.Poorman@DFAS.MIL



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