



SOUTHERN
WISCONSIN
CHAPTER

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DECEMBER, 2008

VOLUME IX, ISSUE 5

January Luncheon Meeting Welcome Members and Non-Members

TOPIC: Annual Tax Update

SPEAKER: Mardee L. Blattner, CPA, MST
Manager, Virchow Krause & Company

DATE: Thursday, January 22, 2009

REGISTRATION: 11:30 a.m. **LUNCH:** 11:45 a.m.

COST: \$6 for Members, \$12 for Non-Members

PLACE: Imperial Gardens

MENU: Traditional Banquet served family style,
includes egg roll and hot tea

- ◆ Shrimp with Pea Pods ◆ Beef with Broccoli
- ◆ Hunan Pork ◆ Vegetable Fried Rice
- ◆ Governor's Chicken

RESERVATIONS

Please call **Sherri Voigt** by **10 A.M. on Monday, January 19, 2009** with your name and membership status, (608) 267-9818 or e-mail: sherri.voigt@wisconsin.gov. 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 to this months meeting?

ABOUT THIS MONTH'S LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Mardee L. Blattner, CPA, MST, Manager with Virchow Krause & Company, LLP has been with the firm since 2001. She specializes in serving manufacturing and/or distribution companies and their owners with accounting, tax and consulting services.

Specific Experience

- Experience with all areas of tax preparation, including corporations, partnerships, and individuals.
- Broad experience with tax planning for companies and individuals.
- Tax planning and preparation for multi-state companies and individuals.
- Assists clients with off and on site bookkeeping services.

Industry Involvement

- American Institute of Certified Public Accounts
- Wisconsin Institute of Certified Public Accounts
- American Women Society of Certified Public Accounts

Education

University of Wisconsin, La Crosse – Bachelor of Science in Accounting

University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee – Masters of Science in Taxation

Who says there's no free lunch?

Members who attend 3 Training Sessions September to February

Earn a Free Lunch

Coupon Valid at the March, April, or May Lunch

Happy Holidays!



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Sherri Voigt, CGFM, CPA

As we approach 2009, I want to note a few training reminders.

We are working hard to get the annual Symposium set up. Be sure to set aside Tuesday, May 12, for this event

In case you missed the last offering of the *Governmental Cost Allocation Plans and Indirect Cost Rates* course, it will be

offered Monday, April 13 in the Milwaukee area.

In early 2009, we will conduct a member satisfaction survey and it will include an opportunity to suggest other topics you would like to see offered.

Happy new year, and hope see you at the Annual Tax Update lunch!



CHAPTER NEWS

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) season coming soon! Please contact Sherri Voigt if you might be interested. TaxWise training is required in order to volunteer. No training calendar is available yet, but usually several Saturdays in January are set up.

For tax season, shifts available for preparers and greeter assistants. The site is open M/W from 12-6 and Sat 9-3. Shifts are about 3 hours each. They ask for a 30 hour commitment over the season.



National News



From the National President

By: Samuel T. Mok,
CGFM, CIA, CICA



The fundamentals of AGA are implicit in our name. We are an organization dedicated to the promotion of accounting and accountability in the federal, state and local sectors. We are also a membership organization and founded by government financial professionals for government financial professionals.

History is littered with examples of successful institutions that collapsed because they lost sight of their founding principles. Companies like Pan American World Airways, Railway Express Agency, F.W. Woolworth, Wang Computer, W.T. Grant, etc. serve as examples. Financial giants like Drexel Burnham Lambert; Ing Baring; E.F. Hutton, Riggs Bank,

Lehman Brothers, etc. are more recent models. Like AGA, these companies achieved initial success by providing valuable services to their clients and constituents. Too frequently however, arrogance, complacency, internal management discord and overbearing executive power have caused organizations to stray from their core values and to lose touch with their client base. Corruption and fraud set in when the organizations became weak and poorly managed with inadequate checks and balances. In no time, former household names became classic business school case studies on failure. [Read more.](#)

Registration and Accommodations Now Open for AGA's National Leadership Conference

Make plans now to attend AGA's Seventh Annual National Leadership Conference to be held **February 19–20, 2009** in Washington, D.C.

Government financial managers are deeply committed to producing timely, reliable and useful financial information, with the goal of running government programs more efficiently. At AGA's National Leadership Conference (NLC), those sentiments are more than just words.

The NLC brings together the top minds in the industry to share best practices, leadership secrets, the newest management techniques, and the most recent information on always-changing standards and regulations. Sessions will cover important topics and issues facing government financial managers, such as leadership, transparency, accountability, and the effects of political transitions and what the future holds.

The NLC also features an exposition filled with the latest resources, products and services available from your partners in the private sector. Visit the Exhibit Hall to find pace-setting tools and technology that will help you do your job faster, more efficiently and more effectively. The Exhibit Hall is a hub of activity and offers an environment dedicated to networking and the sharing of ideas. This is the perfect place to mix, mingle, and connect with industry professionals from around the country. Some companies will conduct raffles—stop by and you may become a winner!

As you can see, AGA's National Leadership Conference offers outstanding technical training, dynamic speakers and plenty of opportunities to network with colleagues and friends.

Information about the conference agenda, speakers and sessions is coming soon. Stay tuned to the website, www.agacgfm.org/nlc, for more information. But don't wait. Show your commitment to excellence—register today!

[Register Online and Save!](#)

[Download Registration Form](#)

Why wait? Reserve your room today! We have reserved a block of rooms at the JW Marriott Hotel for NLC attendees. The JW offers a celebrated address near the city's best monuments, museums, restaurants and cultural venues. The hotel is adjacent to the National Theater and just one short block away from the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. The AGA room rate is \$209 (plus tax) for single and double occupancy. Rates are guaranteed until **Jan. 31, 2009**, or *until the block is sold out*. We encourage you to make your hotel reservations early, for the best price and availability.

- **To make a reservation, please call the hotel at 800.393.2503 and mention you are attending the “AGA NLC” to receive the discounted rate.**
- Or, for your convenience, you may also [reserve a room online](#).

AGA to Host Seven Radio Shows on WFED AM 1500

First Show to Air Dec. 9

Beginning on Dec. 9 at 12:05 p.m. EST, AGA will host a series of seven radio shows focusing on the importance of government transparency and accountability. Called, "Your Money, Your Government," the show will be hosted by AGA Executive Director, **Relmond Van Daniker, DBA, CPA.**

The show features discussions about government performance, accountability and management with a variety of government executives who are working to advance government accountability. The government leaders discuss their experiences, the management challenges facing their organizations and their successful practices. Guests include: congressional representatives, chief financial officers, inspectors general, chief information officers, chief operating officers, controllers, directors, auditors and treasurers.

[Listen to the shows online](#) and check out the upcoming show and speaker schedule. Tune in on Tuesday, Dec. 9 to listen to Van's first interview with two former Office of Management and Budget controllers, **Linda Combs** and **Linda Springer**, who is also former director of the Office of Personnel Management and current executive director with Ernst & Young, as they discuss "**Government in Transition.**" Stay tuned!

Make Plans Now to Attend the PDC in New Orleans—Register Today and Reserve Your Hotel Accommodations

Join us in the "Big Easy" June 21–24, 2009, for AGA's 58th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC)—*the* premier education and networking event of the

year!

The PDC attracts more than 1,700 government financial management and accountability professionals to hear from the best minds in the industry at education sessions, in the Exhibit Hall and at daily social events.

The PDC is the authoritative source for the knowledge and contacts you need to succeed in today's constantly changing environment. At the PDC, you can hear from dynamic speakers, make new contacts, learn about the latest research, discover innovative management techniques and see the technological tools that can aid efficiency and improve effectiveness.

In addition to an excellent technical education program, the PDC is packed with opportunities to network with colleagues from around the country and make new friends. While you're here, please be sure to experience all the music, culture, history and fine dining New Orleans has to offer. Laissez Bon Temps Roulez! Register today!

- [Register Online and Save!](#)
- [Download Registration Form](#)

Hotel Accommodations: This year's conference activities will take place at two hotels, the Marriott New Orleans and the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel. For your convenience, both hotels are located on Canal Street and are directly across the street from each other.

We have reserved a block of rooms at the New Orleans Marriott and the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel to accommodate PDC attendees. The AGA room rate is \$120 per night (plus tax) for single and double occupancy. Rates are only guaranteed until **May 29, 2009, or until the block is sold out.** We encourage you to make your hotel reservations early, for the best price and availability.

Member Spotlight Members Making a Difference: Anita Santiago

Anita Santiago joined AGA in 2007 and has already risen to the position of St. Louis Chapter President and director of programs. After hearing about the Association in 2006, Anita decided to join for the networking opportunities. At the time her local chapter was inactive, which inspired her to get involved.

“I wanted to meet other local, state and federal employees working in the field of government financial management,” said Anita, a graduate of the University of Phoenix. “Once I found out the St. Louis Chapter was inactive, I felt compelled to jump in and try to make a difference. AGA is an important resource for those working in government financial management.”
[Read the full story.](#)

Encourage your friends and colleagues to join today as part of our ongoing **BIG EASY** Member-Get-A-Member Campaign.
[Read more.](#)

AGA Examines PAR Pilot Program Results

AGA has issued a report evaluating a possible alternative to federal Performance and Accountability Reports (PARs) at the request of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB). OMB started a pilot program in FY 2007 for agencies that wanted to report on their performance and accountability in a more concise form than the lengthy PAR. The three reports required by the pilot program are the Agency Financial Report, the Annual Performance Report and a Highlights Report. OMB asked AGA to evaluate the Agency Financial Report of nine pilot program agencies. AGA concluded that

the pilot program has the potential to correct the weaknesses of the PAR, but that several changes should be made in the program to meet reporting objectives. The report was authored by **Harold I. Steinberg, CGFM, CPA**, technical consultant for AGA’s Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting Program. [Read the full report.](#)

CGFM Corner



Questions?

Check out our [CGFM FAQs](#) or contact the Office of Professional Certification at 800.AGA.7211 ext. 306 or [by e-mail.](#)

Take the CGFM Examinations before the NLC

Don't miss the opportunity to take the CGFM Examinations and earn your CGFM before the annual National Leadership Conference (NLC) in Washington D.C. AGA is offering a two-day Intensive Review Course on Monday, February 16, and Tuesday, February 17, 2009 and an opportunity to take CGFM Examinations on February 18-19, 2009. The cost of the course is only \$249 for qualified participants, and it offers 18 CPE hours. Special Bonus: the CGFM Examinations are offered at no cost to course attendees. This course is designed as a supplement to previous preparation for the CGFM Examinations, so this is a perfect opportunity for those individuals who have already attended GFM training courses or have been preparing by using the CGFM Study Guides.

Enrollment is limited and participants must first apply and be accepted into the CGFM Program, so don't delay.

More information and a registration form for this event are available on [AGA website](#).

It's Time for Annual CGFM Renewals

You should have already received your annual renewal invoice for your CGFM certification and/or AGA membership. If your address has recently changed, please be sure to update your contact information with us and pay your dues in the "[Members Only](#)" section of the AGA website or by calling 800.AGA.7211.

[Click here for answers to frequently asked questions about CGFM renewal.](#)

Where to Find Information on CGFM CPE Requirements

AGA's [Interpretation of Continuing Professional Education \(CPE\) Requirements](#) booklet provides excellent CPE guidance, including examples of topics and subjects that qualify, criteria for CPE programs and measuring CPE hours.

Intensive Review Course a Success at NLC

The Intensive Review Course was again a big hit! Offered now for the second time at the National Leadership Conference (NLC) in Washington D.C. on February 1–2, it was sold out at 50 participants. After attending the two-day review course, the candidates tackled the CGFM Examinations over the next two days. As a result, 23 of the participants passed all three 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. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Articles

FMSB Sends GASB Additional Information on SEA Reporting

AGA's Financial Management Standards Board (FMSB) has sent the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) the answers to follow-up questions posed to FMSB member Eric S. Berman, CPA, who testified at a Nov. 14 GASB public hearing on *Suggested Guidelines for Voluntary Reporting of SEA Performance Information*. [Read the letter.](#)

AGA Report: State and Local Governments Can Use Data Tags

State and local governments could take advantage of the interactive data-tagging technology that the Securities and Exchange Commission plans to require public companies to begin using for their financial filings. A research study by the Association of Government Accountants examined the feasibility of developing and using Extensible Business Reporting Language, or XBRL, taxonomy to tag data in a state's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The pilot project, which occurred in Oregon, is one of the first actual pilot implementations of XBRL in the governmental sector in the U.S. — *WebCPA*. [Read more.](#)

Federal CFOs Could be Key Players in Obama Administration

Chief financial officers could play a significant role in shaping agency missions during the next administration. But first, they'll need to learn the ins and outs of federal financial management, which is very different than in the private sector, where most incoming CFOs are likely to have been schooled. " President-

elect Obama has talked about wanting to bring a scalpel to programs and to really look at places in the federal government where we can take money from certain things that are no longer effective and apply it to other things," said Patricia Healy, who served nine years as deputy chief financial officer at the Agriculture Department before retiring from federal service in January 2008. To help bring incoming CFOs up to speed, Healy led a group of current and former federal executives working as advisers to the Council for Excellence in Government, a nonprofit organization in Washington that works to improve public sector management, to produce the "[Federal CFO Roadmap](#)." —Katherine McIntire Peters, *Government Executive*. [Read more.](#)

Massachusetts Leads in 'New Economy'

Massachusetts once again leads all other states in moving its economy away from the old industrial "smokestack-chasing" model to one based on technology, creativity and innovation, a new report released Nov. 18 said. Washington, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey round out the top five states, while Mississippi and West Virginia ranked lowest in making the transition to the new economy, according to [The 2008 State New Economy Index](#). —Pamela M. Prah, *Stateline.org*. [Read more.](#)

Interim Guidance Posted to GAO's Yellow Book Web Page

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has posted the document "[Interim Guidance on Reporting Deficiencies in Internal Control for GAGAS Financial Audits and Attestation Engagements \(November 2008\)](#)" on the Yellow Book Web page. Call Michael Hrapsky at 202.512.9535 with questions or send e-mail to yellowbook@gao.gov.

Nonprofits Urge Obama to Focus on Program Performance

A coalition of good government groups, including AGA, will add its wish list to a growing pile of advice for President-elect Barack Obama and the 111th Congress, ranking performance measurement and improvement as top priorities.

"Performance must be paramount if governing for excellence is to be attained and replicated," the Government Performance Coalition stated in draft recommendations. "Good policies and sound investments will fall short of the mark if anything less than exceptional performance is the predominate mode of operation." The advocates for a more effective government urged Obama and Congress to set standards and demand accountability through a performance-based framework at executive and legislative branch agencies. This should include linking agency budgets with annual performance plans, developing outcome measures that focus on critical priorities, and applying an objective system to evaluate program and individual successes, the groups said. They also recommended issuing short reports that give the public a better understanding of the government and fuel a more meaningful debate about fiscal priorities, performance results and future challenges. —Brittany R. Ballenstedt, *Government Executive*. [Read more.](#)

FASAB Releases Exposure Draft on Social Insurance

The Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) is seeking input on the exposure draft *Social Insurance Accounting, Revised*. Social Insurance comprises five programs; however, two programs, Social Security and Medicare, are of special significance because of the high rate of participation among citizens,

the fiscal challenges related to the programs, and the challenges associated with incorporating estimates of future cash flows of this magnitude in financial statements.

From the outset, members have agreed on the objectives of financial reporting for social insurance programs but have had different views about how best to achieve the objectives and about the timing of the recognition of expense and liability for social insurance programs.

Chairman Tom Allen says, "this exposure draft represents a compromise. It proposes enhanced reporting but does not resolve the two strongly held views regarding when the obligating event occurs for social insurance programs and, thus, when the liability and expense definitions are met within those programs." Comments on the [exposure draft](#) are due by **Feb. 9, 2009**.

FASAB Releases ED on Estimating the Historical Cost of General Property, Plant and Equipment

The FASAB is seeking input on an exposure draft, *Estimating the Historical Cost of General Property, Plant, and Equipment—Amending Statements of Federal Financial Accounting Standards 6 and 23*. This Statement proposes to clarify that reasonable estimates of original transaction data historical cost may be used to value general property, plant, and equipment. Comments on the [exposure draft](#) are due by **Jan. 30, 2009**.

FASAB Reminder: Comments Needed on Fiscal Sustainability Reporting

In September 2008, the FASAB released an exposure draft titled, *Reporting Comprehensive Long-Term Fiscal Projections for the U.S. Government*. Since that time, the government has reported new deficit figures. According to the Treasury's

monthly statement the FY2008 deficit hit \$454.8 billion. The deficit for the month of October—the first month in FY2009—was \$237.2 billion. These figures highlight the need to ensure that financial reporting addresses a key federal financial reporting objective—the stewardship objective. This objective includes enabling readers of federal financial reports to determine whether future budgetary resources will likely be sufficient to sustain public services and to meet obligations as they come due. The proposed reporting will include information about projected trends in the federal budget deficit or surplus and the federal debt and how these amounts relate to the national economy. Comments on the [exposure draft](#) are requested by **Jan. 5, 2009** and a public hearing will be held on **Feb. 25, 2009**.

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 radivojevich@co.dane.wi.us. Deadline for submission of articles is the 25th of the month. Feel to send in topic suggestions or features to include.

COMMENTS

We would love to hear feedback on the newsletter changes. Let us know what you like, what you hate, what we can do better! Contact the Newsletter Editor at radivojevich@co.dane.wi.us or the Chapter President at sherri.voigt@wisconsin.gov.

ARE YOU MOVING?

If you are moving, or have already moved, please notify both your chapter and AGA National of your address change. You can update your address online at the national website:

www.agacqfm.org/membership/form_address.htm.



Southern Wisconsin Chapter Calendar of Events for 2008-2009

August 4, 2008 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

September 8, 2008 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

September 25, 2008 – “The Elections of 2008: More Money Than Ever Before and Why is it Ruining Politics?” Jay Heck, Common Cause in Wisconsin (Concourse)

October 6, 2008 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

October 23, 2008 – Identity Theft Prevention, Susan Schilz, DATCP (Coliseum Bar)

November 11, 2008 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison (note date change)

November 13, 2008 – luncheon topic and location to be determined

December 2, 2008 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

January 8, 2009 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

January 22, 2009 – Annual Tax Update (Imperial Garden)

February 3, 2009 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

February 26, 2009 – luncheon topic and location to be determined

March 3, 2009 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

March 26, 2009 – luncheon topic and location to be determined

April 7, 2009 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

April 13, 2009 – A-87 Class: *Cost Principles and Cost Allocation Rules and Regulations for Federally Funded Grants and Contracts* (Concordia University-Mequon)

April 23, 2009 – luncheon topic and location to be determined

May 3, 2009 – MS Walk

May 5, 2009 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

May 12, 2009 - *Annual Spring Symposium – topics to be determined, UW-Madison Memorial Union*

May 21, 2009 – luncheon topic and location to be determined

June 2, 2009 – Board Meeting, Old Country Buffet, Madison

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

AGA Southern Wisconsin Chapter 2008-2009 Officers and Directors

President – Sherri Voigt, CGFM, CPA, DNR, sherri.voigt@wisconsin.gov, 608-267-9818

President Elect – Vacant

Past President – Eric Busse, DPI eric.busse@dpi.state.wi.us, 608-267-9199

Chapter Recognition – Dolly O'Laughlin, olaughlin@co.dane.wi.us, 608-242-6314

Secretary – Vacant

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

Historian – David Mellem, CGFM, CIA, CISA, US DHHS OIG, david.mellem@oig.hhs.gov, 608-264-5415 ext 25

Membership Chair – Eric Thornton, ethornton@bus.wisc.edu, 608-265-2006

Newsletter Editor – Lillian Radivojevich, Dane County, radivojevich@co.dane.wi.us, 608-284-4801

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Mary Laufenberg, CGFM, CPA, DOR, mary.laufenberg@revenue.wi.gov, 608-266-1670

Webmaster – Scott Thornton, scott@goochpages.com

Community Service Chair – Sherri Voigt, CGFM, CPA, DNR, sherri.voigt@wisconsin.gov

Research Coordinator & Liaison w/Other Profession Organizations – William Rafferty

CGFM Chair – Eric Busse, DPI eric.busse@dpi.state.wi.us, 608-267-9199

Awards Chair – Vacant

Early Careers Chair – Vacant

Directors -

Julie Gordon, CPA, UW System, jgordon@uwsa.edu, 608-263-4395

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RVP North Central Region – David Mellem, CGFM, CIA, CISA, US DHHS OIG,

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SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER