

The Indy Observer

~For the Indianapolis Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants~



August 2010

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As your new AGA President, I am excited to begin the New Year and I look forward to the many events we have planned to support your educational training and professional development needs. Last years results were extremely successful with our chapter being recognized with a "Platinum" rating and we received the highest reward for overall membership growth for large AGA Chapters across the country. With this success, our Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) met in July to identify priorities and goals to map out our game plan for the coming year.

We will continue providing many of the same opportunities for professional development and networking that has made being a member of AGA a valued experience for you. We are planning monthly luncheon events, professional development training and other group activities. To date, we have begun lining up informational speakers to enlighten us on important issues affecting government financial management and our Chapter. We are also planning a cookout to provide a social networking opportunity to introduce members and non-members to our chapter leadership and discuss our goals for the year.

AGA is here to support our members' educational needs by providing professional educational conferences, audio conferences and professional speakers that allow you to earn continuing professional education credits. We are also planning to assist in training those members interested in obtaining their Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) certification. Another area of focus for our chapter this year will be "Audit Readiness" and what that means for the financial community in the Department of Defense.

We also plan to provide a focus on member wellness this year. Many of us actively pursue health and wellness by investing time and effort into a fitness program which I believe enhances our career, life and mental well-being. I want to challenge each and every one of you to make a commitment to improving your own health and wellness during the next year.

I encourage all of our members to become actively involved in our activities, whether it's attending an event or supporting a committee and I look forward to getting to know all of you and hope to see you at an upcoming AGA event!

Greg Schmalfeldt, CPA
President
AGA, Indianapolis Chapter

AGA VS. ASMC WELLNESS CHALLENGE

Your AGA Wellness Committee is challenging ASMC to a program-year wellness challenge and we need your help for AGA to win. The AGA wellness committee has some really FUN health-smart activities lined up to help you succeed. Challenging ASMC to a year long competition will keep us involved and working as a team to achieve our goals, not to mention improving our most important asset, our health.

Visit the website for more information: <http://againdy.com/wellness.aspx>



The deadline for submitting articles and updates for the next newsletter is:

August 31

Please email submissions to
Anne Ulrich at
anne.ulrich@dfas.mil.

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SURVEY: CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT FINANCE PERSONNEL EARN SIGNIFICANTLY MORE

Finance personnel who hold Certified Government Financial Manager designations earn as much as 55 percent more than those who don't, according to a new survey.

The 2010 [compensation survey](#), sponsored by the Association of Government Accountants, found employees with CGFM certification earned an average annual salary 34 percent higher than employees without it -- \$105,815 compared with \$78,905.

When the salaries of CGFM-designated employees were compared to those holding no professional designations, such as a certified public accountant license, the difference was 55 percent.

The survey showed that holding a CGFM certificate correlated more strongly to salary than other factors, such as education, age, the number of years respondents have been in their current position, the number of employees they supervise, or whether they held a CPA license. The only factor that had a higher correlation to salary was respondents' number of years in government financial management.

The survey was conducted between February and April by Insights Inc., an independent research firm. Of 14,000 AGA members contacted, 3,537 completed the survey for a response rate of 25 percent. One-third of respondents were from federal agencies; half worked in state and local government. The two most common designations held by those surveyed were CGFM (44 percent) and CPA (38 percent); 25 percent had no certifications or licenses.

Twelve percent of respondents said they had received special consideration for hiring as a result of their

CGFM credentials.

The most common job title among survey respondents was accountant. The average salary of accountants was \$71,028. But the average salary of accountants with CGFM designation was \$89,769, while the average salary of accountants without such designation was \$64,548, a difference of 39 percent.

"In addition to pay raises and bonuses, employers recognize the CGFM certification in a number of ways," the survey said. "When asked about the benefits that their employers offered to CGFMs in general and for their position, the most common benefits selected were being a preferred credential or reimbursement of fees."

AGA has long advocated the value of CGFM designation for government finance personnel.

Certification "can be a valuable addition to your resume and a significant factor in your professional development," Relmond Van Daniker, AGA's executive director, said in a statement.

Not surprisingly, the survey also showed that government financial managers have not been immune to fallout from the economic downturn. Sixty percent reported vacant positions in their organizations left unfilled. More than 40 percent reported a moratorium on new hires and salary freezes. While the average salary increase in the last 12 months was 2 percent, 46 percent said they had received no increase and 2 percent had taken pay cuts.

By Katherine McIntire Peters
(Government Executive,
www.governmentexecutive.com, July 9, 2010)



Operation Gratitude seeks to lift morale and put smiles on faces by sending care packages addressed to individual Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines deployed in harm's way. **Operation Gratitude** care packages contain food, hygiene products, entertainment items and personal letters of appreciation, all wrapped with good wishes of love and support.

Through Collection Drives, Letter Writing Campaigns and Donations of funds for shipping expenses, **Operation Gratitude** provides civilians anywhere in America a way to express their respect and appreciation to the men and women of the U.S. Military in an active, hands-on manner.

For more information, visit: www.opgratitude.com

AGA "Bring A Recruit" Cookout

Place: Courtyard of the Bean Center Cafeteria

Date: August 25, 2010

Time: 11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

Join AGA to ring in the new program year and bring a recruit to celebrate with you!

Menu: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Cold Salads, Chips, Cake & Sodas/Water

Tickets:

Member and Non-member: \$6

Silver Member: \$5

Gold Member: \$4

President's Circle: \$3

Ticket Sellers:

Mary Aurtrey 231W, x0887;

Ernie Bell 114G, x1709;

Shane Douglas 313Y, x1933;

Jennifer Henn 313W, x2369;

Bob Matejka 342S, x7566

Ticket sale cutoff 3:00 PM

Thursday, August 19

Bring a recruit and be entered in a drawing to win 2 tickets to see the Colts play the Cincinnati Bengals in final preseason game





NOW - DECEMBER 31, 2010

- ⇒ Recruit 1 member, get an AGA sponsor pin.
- ⇒ For every 2 members recruited, receive an entry into a drawing for a \$50 gift card to Olive Garden and start earning AGA dollars!
- ⇒ Recruit 6 members, receive free membership dues!

For more information and to report new recruits, contact:

Kelly Wagenmaker—317-510-3487— Kelly.Wagenmaker@dfas.mil

Camille Schultz—317-510-4153— Camille.Schultz@dfas.mil

CGFM CORNER

CGFM Study Group for Module 3

A study group for the third test of the CGFM will begin October 7, 2010 from 4-5 pm in the third floor training rooms. Study guides purchased by the AGA Chapter can be checked out by AGA members. Please contact Tom Spahr (510-6880) or Dan Neumann (510-3120) for more information or to join the group.

More than 14,000 individuals have received the designation so far. Now it's your turn. Experience the benefits of certification first hand—the CGFM is the mark of excellence in your profession.



CEC MINUTES - AUGUST 5, 2010

OPENING REMARKS- President – Greg Schmalfeldt Reviewed budget and advised it is on track. Greg met with the President of the Washington, DC chapter at the National PDC in July who has significant corporate sponsorship support to their chapter. We have scheduled a meeting to speak with their President and gather intel on what contributes to their success to help us launch our program. Community businesses can also help support what we do and provide donations, etc. to our members during educational meetings and the awards banquet that is a win/win for both (members get donations and business receive name recognition and business from our 300+ members).

TREASURER NOTES – Maranda Summers Propose and vote on 2010-2011 Budget. If approved in the budget, the committee is free to spend without asking additional permission from the CEC. Greg motioned to pass the budget, all approved, none opposed. Jim is ironing out a few issues from the annual audit before he gets the paperwork to Sam Friedman, our auditor. Due out: What happens if we miss the 90 day limit on the audit?? Jayme will check. Burman Award not in last year's budget – last year no one nominated anyone for the award. Will consider if we get a nomination this year. Jose and Maranda got into the bank account yesterday successfully. Last PDC was only about \$3,000 of net revenue. Much less revenue that was budgeted for last year. Recommend not dropping PDC prices again because it really hurts our budget. Circumstances supported our actions for last year. All agreed to maintain normal education pricing this year unless similar circumstances impact our main customer.

COMMITTEE NOTES

Programs Committee – Meg Hart/Shane Douglas/Jeannie Allen

Picnic last year was very successful in the courtyard; Michele spoke about goals for upcoming year, created committee signs, etc. Greg agreed that he'd like to do the cookout again this year. Shane would like to make it a recruiting event where we have members bring non-members. Will have a Cake and a drawing for 2 Indianapolis Colts preseason tickets – would add \$200 to the budget – did not previously budget for it because didn't anticipate the budget being ready this early in the year. Shane moved, Tamra seconded. All approved. Greg has a closet in his office that he can store AGA banner in – or really anything AGA needs to store. Due Out: Find the AGA banner!! Jayme will find. Cookout costs are in the Meeting arrangement budget. \$6 for a meal and then get a discount based on incentive points status. Non-member fee will be \$6.

Meeting Arrangements – Tamra Vincent

Preferences for meeting locations – keep it close to the building. August 25 will be cookout. Planned for four venues. Oct, Mar – off site meetings. Oct: Emmanuel Lopez Indianapolis Comptroller. Use Garrison. April with other chapters at TBD offsite location September in house in auditorium Josh Bilo is speaker; Marine who lost his legs in Iraq, works for the Colts now, 90% chance he will speak. Invite ASMC to join. Advertise at front door for non-members. Good way for people who work here to meet a customer. Dec, Jan, Feb with ASMC on-site. Christmas party at the Garrison (Dec 9). Jan & Feb in auditorium. Joe Quinn, Director of FIAR will be coming to one. Always been a benefit of AGA to go offsite instead of having luncheons in the building. Meetings with the sister AGA chapters. No real preferred date for Greg – it was April 29th last year. We'll keep that timeframe around April 29th. Morty's was good but the start time was tough to get there at 5:00.

Membership Committee – Kelly Wagenmaker
Discussed recruiting flyer and lunch & learn.

Early Careers – Jamie Whitman

Event for new members with Membership Committee. Sept 16: Early Careers fall cookout (for those in their first 3 years of government work). Everyone is encouraged to attend to put forth a good AGA face and provide networking opportunities for the new folks. Joint with membership committee will hold quarterly new member meetings. Traditionally new members get an email with information welcoming them and a folder, but never a face to face meeting telling them about how they can get involved and what committees are available. Sept 14th for the first quarterly meeting – a breakfast event with bagels. Get with Edie Keesling to get these events on Greg's calendar and he will try his best to get to these events. Jim asked if contractors would be eligible to join as well – yes, and early careers would apply to them as well. Kim Farrington, DC chapter president, stated that draw for their chapter is that they provide a lot of CPEs for members – that's how we could market ourselves to the contractors.

Sponsorship Committee – Jeannie Allen/Jamie Whitman/Andrew Tyler

Meeting today at noon about the committee. Big goal this year is to get a defined plan in order and get a couple sponsors. Do legwork to benchmark against other chapters and their good ideas
Status of sponsors: Gold, Bronze etc – perks for each different status level. Chris Philips, CSCI, a contractor recently joined AGA and wanted to be on the committee as well as hoping to have his company make a donation. Mary stated that some contractors don't renew membership when their company doesn't pay for it. If we provide

CEC MINUTES (CONT).

(Continued from page 5)

enough value for the dollar then hopefully this won't be an issue.

CGFM Coordinator – Tom Spahr/Dan Neumann

Dan is co-chairing and Tom introduced him and thanked him for all his hard work on the committee. Two people passed the module one exam last month. Four people still scheduled to take the exam. Module 3 study group will begin in October. Based upon current study group members availability they will start the study groups; advertise to the community and adjust as necessary. Want to speak to LIM meetings about CGFM. Need to provide equal time for each certification. Sam asked if they still hold the organization introduction to LIMs and Jamie stated they do not. Can't get around speaking specifically about AGA or CGFM officially Jamie works for Liz and will speak to her about it. We need to stay in compliance with current rules. Greg will add to his announcements updates for what each committee is doing to attach more interest and advertise the committee work. Touch base with Learning and Development division to see about their future CGFM support – we may end up being the only support. Suggest that perhaps L&D require that they show that they've registered for the exam before DFAS will allow them in the class; give preference to those who are actually taking the exam. Mary asked if AGA members get a discount for taking the exam. No, they don't. ASMC does get a discount if they take the CDFM. Tom will talk to Katya Silver about it. Sam said it won't make much difference if you offer someone \$10 back. Question on the audio conferences – Andrew Tyler. Allow non-members to come for free so we can get more attendance, don't see non-members going through all effort to get the training dollars approved. Perk of AGA that you can go to them for free
Have had several non-members attend in the past

Community Service – Katie Crist (Jayme VanHorn reported)

1st event will be the state fair – email with more info to come

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTES - Melissa Jacobs – Was out sick for meeting but provided follow up notes in response to minutes:

If we miss the 90 day audit mark, we won't get points. That is the major of getting it done by 8/31 - another advantage is having a clean set of books to hand off from the old treasurer to the new, to include some feedback from the auditor that could be incorporated into the new program year. Our trophies are not DFAS trophies, they are AGA trophies. Recommend Shane keep the membership trophy since he was the membership chair for the period that won the trophy. Greg should keep the platinum trophy.

ABOUT THE OBSERVER

The Observer is AGA-Indianapolis Chapter's monthly newsletter which covers member and association activities on both the chapter and national levels. *The Observer* features developments within the profession, chapter news, and articles of interest to members. Opinions and beliefs expressed in *The Observer* are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the association. We welcome and encourage members to send us original or reproduced articles that may be of interest to our members for publication in our newsletter.

AGA MEMBER TYPES

AGA members form a diverse group of individuals—from students to entry-level employees to senior executives and elected officials—working for local and state governments, school districts and retirement systems, colleges and universities, federal agencies and public accounting firms.

Full Government Member

This class of membership requires three or more years of government experience, involving the professional performance of financial management activities in an operational, administrative and/or supervisory capacity. This class is also available to individuals with similar experience outside the government who are engaged in educational activities having the same objectives as the Association, or who have made a contribution toward the improvement of government financial management. \$90/year

Private Sector Member

This class of membership is available to individuals working for commercial activities/ventures that are actively engaged in and support AGA's purpose and objectives. \$150/year

Early Career Member

This class of membership is available to government employees with less than three years experience. \$45/year

Student Member

This class of membership is available to college/university students. \$30/year

Retired

Call the AGA Customer Satisfaction Center at 800.AGA.7211 to find out about our retired membership category.



Indianapolis Chapter Directory

2010-2011 Officers, Board Members, & Committee Chairs

Position	Name	Term	Phone	Email
President	Greg Schmalfeldt	2010-2011	317-510-5858	greg.schmalfeldt@dfas.mil
President-Elect	Laura Jankovich	2010-2011	317-510-7084	laura.jankovich@dfas.mil
Treasurer	Maranda Summers	2010-2011	317-374-7471	maranda.summers@dfas.mil
Treasurer-Elect	Jose Munguia	2010-2011	317-510-5659	jose.munguia@dfas.mil
Secretary	Jessica Wisler	2010-2011	317-510-2647	jessica.wisler@dfas.mil
Previous President	Michele Gomez	2010-2011	317-510-7493	michele.gomez@dfas.mil
3 Year Board Member	Donna Cox	2010-2013	317-510-3022	donna.cox@dfas.mil
3 Year Board Member	Nate Pierce	2010-2013	317-510-3892	nate.pierce@dfas.mil
3 Year Board Member	Sam Graham	2008-2011	317-510-7851	sam.graham@dfas.mil
3 Year Board Member	Edmie Castillo	2008-2011	317-510-1398	edmie.castillo@dfas.mil
3 Year Board Member	Neil Anderson	2009-2012	317-510-7697	neil.anderson@dfas.mil
3 Year Board Member	Melissa Jacobs	2009-2012	317-510-1901	melissa.jacobs@dfas.mil

Position	Chair	Co-Chair	Phone	Email
Awards Committee	Shane Douglas		317-510-1933	shane.douglas@dfas.mil
Citizen Centric Reports	Terri Droeger		317-510-3875	terri.droeger@dfas.mil
Community Service Com- Corporate Sponsorship	Katie Crist / Rob Duncan	Brandi Hobson	317-510-6520	katie.crist@dfas.mil
	Jeannie Allen	Jamie Whitman	317-510-7830	jeannie.allen@dfas.mil
Early Careers Committee	Jamie Whitman		317-510-0066	jamie.whitman@dfas.mil
Education Committee	Megan Nethery	Audra Pera; Camille Schultz	317-510-3264	megan.nethery@dfas.mil
Meeting Arrangements Committee	Tamra Vincent	Katherine Dal- las	317-510-6138	tamra.vincent@dfas.mil
Membership Committee	Kelly Wagenmaker		317-510-3487	kelly.wagenmaker@dfas.mil
Newsletter Committee	Anne Ulrich		317-510-7370	anne.ulrich@dfas.mil
Programs Committee	Meg Hart	Shane Douglas	317-510-4233	meg.hart@dfas.mil
Social Committee	Amanda Illg	Sarah Pank	317-510-1412	amanda.illg@dfas.mil
Wellness Committee	Charlie Pollis	Marilyn McGee	317-510-7404	charles.pollis@dfas.mil
CGFM Coordinator	Tom Spahr	Dan Neumann	317-510-6880	thomas.spahr@dfas.mil
Chapter Recognition Pro- gram Coordinator	Kim Mitzner		317-510-5025	kimberly.mitzner@dfas.mil
Historian	Brooke Tabor		317-510-7403	brooke.tabor@dfas.mil
Incentive Points Coordina- Photographer	Melissa Jacobs	Erika Williams	317-510-1901	melissa.jacobs@dfas.mil
	Andrew Tyler	Nate Pierce	317-510-3892	nate.pierce@dfas.mil
Publicity Coordinator	Mary Jelev		317-510-6604	mary.jelev@dfas.mil
VITA Coordinator	Jayne VanHorn	Sylvia Cornelius	317-510-6369	jayne.vanhorn@dfas.mil
Website Administrator	Chris Crews		317-510-8885	chris.crews@dfas.mil