



Topeka Chapter 2004 – 2005 History Report

MEETINGS

We have traditionally held a meeting monthly. This meeting would begin with a networking period where members and potential members could have a refreshing drink while networking with colleagues. These meetings included a speaker that would discuss a topic for 20 – 30 minutes, after which an Executive Committee Meeting would be conducted. Meetings were shifted from luncheon to breakfast to dinner so that persons that were unable to attend one time period would be able to attend another.

Professional Lecture Series

For 2004/5, the Chapter modified its monthly meeting process. The Chapter Meeting and the monthly lecture were separated onto different days. The lecture was extended from 20 minutes to 50 minutes to provide a full CPE for each person in attendance. The longer time also allowed us to bring in a different type of speaker, one that could provide more depth on a subject. The lecture meeting was established as a luncheon so members and non-members could better anticipate the format, cost, location, and date. The Chapter adopted the title “Professional Lecture Series” to better reflect the intent of the new program format. The Professional Lecture Series provided 173 hours of CPE credit.

Professional Lecture Series – Speakers

September 9, 2004

Dennis Moss, Director of Internal Audit; University of Kansas
Internal Controls: A Practical Guide to Help Ensure Financial Integrity

October 14, 2004

Bryan J. Brown, Asst. Attorney General
Identity Theft: What You can do to Protect Yourself Against It

November 19, 2004

Jerry Langham, Professor of Accounting
The Collapse of Enron and Arthur Anderson – How the Accounting Profession is Responding

January 13, 2005

Duane Goossen, Secretary; Kansas Department of Administration
The Governor’s Budget for FY 2006 and an Update on Activities Within the Department of Administration

March 23, 2005

The Honorable Steve Morris, President; Kansas Senate
An Inside View of the Legislative Session; Its Objectives, Its Hurdles, and Its Triumphs

April 14, 2005

David Sollars, Dean of Business; Washburn University
The Accreditation of the Washburn School of Business

June 9, 2005

Glenn Deck, Executive Director; Kansas Public Retirement System
Your Retirement System, and How This Year’s Legislative Changes May Affect You

Monthly Chapter Executive Committee Meetings

The monthly meetings were moved to evenings, generally from 5:30 to 7:30. The Chapter financed a sandwich and drink so it was possible to get officers and directors to attend over a mealtime. This format moved us from attendance by 4 – 5 persons to an attendance of 10 – 12 persons on a consistent basis. Meetings were held on a weekly basis initially to provide for Chapter planning of the year. Discussions continued through the year as to where meetings should be held and whether or not the Chapter should finance any expense for meals. Our Chapter contacted the Regional RVP for suggestions and guidance based on what other Chapters were doing.

Chapter Meetings

August 23, 2004
August 30, 2004
September, 9, 2004
September 13, 2004
October 12, 2004
November 15, 2004
December 1, 2004
January 13, 2005
February 17, 2005
March 14, 2005
April 11, 2005
May 12, 2005

HOLIDAY PARTY

In December, the Chapter held its annual holiday get-together. Although no fee was charged, a donation of \$5 per person was requested for Toys for Tots, our annual holiday public service function. Donations were solicited from local merchants for prizes to be given out to attendees during the party. The Chapter also allotted approximately \$200 for party gifts for those persons attending. During the party, tickets were given to each attendee. A drawing was made and all the gifts were presented.

The Party provided a deli sandwich tray with assorted meats and breads, and, numerous snack items including chips, peanuts, and pretzels. The Chapter also provided a full bar for mixed drinks, beer and soft drinks.

AGA MIDWEST REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The Chapter's Annual "Midwest Regional Professional Development Conference" was conducted May 13 and 14. The conference was organized by a committee headed by Scott Alisoglu, President-Elect. This year's attendance was 70 registered persons, which included 33 members and 37 non-members. The two-day conference was entitled, "*Accountability Challenges in an Interdependent World.*" The cost was \$220 for members and \$250 for non-members. A \$20 discount was offered for early registration.

AGA President Bobbie Derrick was on hand to *kick-off* the Conference. Roberta Reece of GASB was on hand to update everyone on the latest information from the Board and Janet Kasper attended from the GAO Domestic Workgroup for an update from her area. Other lecture topics included Sarbanes – Oxley; Fraud Investigations, Ethics, and Diversity in the Workplace. JD Williams spoke on behalf of Oracle, giving a perspective on Government finance gained from his years of experience. The Conference provided 14.5 CPE for each registered individual for a total of 1,015 CPE granted over the two days.

The Legacy Bluegrass Band provided the evening entertainment. The music, dancing, appetizers, and drinks were all provided in the registration cost for attendees and spouses. Persons not attending the conference could attend the entertainment portion for a \$10 fee.

The conference raised \$17,583, primarily from registrations. However, \$2,250 was raised from vendor donations. Vendors for this year included Oracle, Solbourne, and ImageNow. Expenses for the conference totaled \$10,728, providing a net income of \$6,854. Income from the conference provides the revenue used to support the organization throughout the following year.

AGA NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The annual national conference was attended by two members of the Topeka Chapter. Chapter President Walt Darling and Newsletter Director Brandi Baer attended the Orlando Conference. During the conference, the Chapter was recognized for 25 years of service and for being elevated to the Platinum service level. The Platinum level is the highest service level that AGA has for recognition of the work completed by individual Chapters. The elevation of the Chapter is a reflection of very hard work by several individuals. Particularly, the list included:

- a. Walt Darling, who chaired the PDC committee under 2003/2004 President Randy Bailes, and strove as President to encourage changes within the Chapter to recognize and respond to a decreasing membership;
- b. Nickie Roberts, who directed a particularly successful Community Service Program for the Chapter;
- c. Rhonda Mings, who directed the Professional Lecture Program and was responsible for finding those speakers so critical to attracting persons to our events; and
- d. Randy Tongier, who managed the Chapter Recognition Program to ensure we received the credit for activities organized and completed;
- e. Scott Alisoglu, who as President-Elect provided a critical sounding board and sage advice while chairing the PDC Committee for the 2005/2006 Chapter year;
- f. Shirley Hollis, who as Membership Chair was able to make sense of all the membership quirks in the national system to ensure corrections could be made to the roster of members, and find those members that occasionally were misplaced;
- g. Marsha Pappen, who as CGFM Chair provided advice on recruiting and ensured her own agency played a major role in registrations for activities;
- h. Debbie Fitzhugh, who took on the role of Treasurer and dug deep to help the Executive Committee understand how to provide the oversight of the activities

- and of the flow of finances and investments that the Committee was responsible for;
- i. Carolyn Brock, who as Secretary made sure all the minutes were presented on time and in good order, and provided an extra signature to ensure that investments were tracked and recorded properly; and
 - j. Shirley Moses, who as Bylaws Chair provided advice on language and methods of modifying the bylaws and for providing insight into the IRS guidelines for non-profit corporate practices.

THE TOPEKA REGISTER

The Topeka Chapter renewed publication of the Chapter's newsletter, the Topeka Register. With many thanks to Brandi Baer, newsletter chair, writer and editor, publication has been on a monthly basis since March of 2005.

NEW WEB SITE

Under the guidance of Debbie Fitzhugh, the Chapter took on the development of a new web site. Debbie obtained technical expertise from the Information Network of Kansas, who also agreed to host the site. The Chapter purchased the site name "AGAKS." The Information Network of Kansas provided James Adams of their staff for the technical development. The Chapter is responsible for maintaining the web site. The new site gives the Chapter a much more professional appearance, and the flexibility to provide new types of information for its members. The new site can be accessed at www.agaks.org

GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Governor Kathleen Sebelius proclaimed the month of March as Certified Governmental Finance Manager Month. The proclamation was signed in the Governor's office by the Governor and Secretary of State Ron Thornburg on March 7, 2005.

25TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR 2005

The Topeka Chapter was recognized at the AGA National Professional Development Conference for 25 years of service. The Chapter was organized on July 30, 1980.

AGA CHAPTER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The Topeka Chapter was elevated to Platinum status for the 2004/2005 year. This program requires extensive computation of points for the conduct of certain activities as set out by the national organization. Randy Tongier directed the collection of information and the computation of points to ensure the Chapter was recognized for the activities it performed.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Under the able direction of Nickie Roberts, the AGA Topeka Chapter once again excelled in its community service efforts. The following is the report for the 2004/2005 year.

Race Against Breast Cancer September 18, 2004
Walt and Pam Darling, Carolyn Brock, Carol Sprague,

Don Wilson: The President's Award was presented to Don Wilson for his significant contribution to the planning and operation of the Regional Professional Development Conference. Don's efforts reflected a major sacrifice on his part to ensure a smooth transition of activities during the conference and a flawless technical operation for all the speaker's PowerPoint presentations.

Janet Hawkins: The President's Award was presented to Janet Hawkins for outstanding work in maintenance of the Chapter website. Janet is not an AGA member, but sacrificed numerous hours of labor to ensure that the web site was kept updated in an accurate and timely manner. Janet was introduced and recognized in front of the conference attendees at a special luncheon reception.

ANNUAL AUDIT

This year's audit was conducted by Pamela Simecka. Pam works for the City of Topeka and took time out of her schedule (studying for the CPA exam; caring for young children; working full time; and helping her husband build a new house) to ensure that the financial records of the organization accurately presented the transactions of the previous year.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

This year the Executive Committee decided to expand the amount of money set aside in scholarship programs established to aid accounting students, and to initiate a new scholarship program. An amount of \$2,000 was added to scholarships previously established at Washburn University in Topeka, and at Kansas State University in Manhattan. In addition, the Executive Committee authorized the creation of a new scholarship program at Allen County Community College to assist students involved in governmental finance in affording advanced courses in accounting and business. This new scholarship was to be funded with an initial amount of \$7,500. This amount will be matched with a like amount from a challenge grant that the College has obtained.

