

Topeka Register

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Holiday Social Enjoyed by All

This year's holiday social was held on Friday, December 10, 2004. The organization provided food, drinks, and door prizes, and our members provided lots of holiday cheer.

The social was organized this year with the help of several members. They included Karen Keehn, Kathryn Wade, Nickie Roberts, Rhonda Mings, and Walt Darling.

This year's social included a holiday gift swap where everyone got to pick a gift from under the tree. However, as each person's turn came up, they could take a present that another had opened, thus forcing that person to select a new gift. Our selections started with **RITA BARNARD (1984)** in recognition as her being the longest serving member in attendance. The gifts included picture frames, DVD movies, candles, a down throw, teddy bears, gift certificates, and many others. The gift traded most often was the DVD player. Everyone went home with a gift.



The social was again held at the White Lakes Plaza Apartments Club House. It was fully decorated in holiday attire, complete with a Christmas tree. **PAM DARLING** provided a CD player and **NICKIE ROBERTS** provided the latest musical releases by Mannheim Steamroller.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Merchants Help Holiday Social

Businesses from around the city provided gifts and gift certificates to help our members enjoy the holiday. The following merchants provided items for AGA:

Olive Garden; Longhorn Steak House; Hallmark (Kansas Avenue); Quizno's; Wolfe's Camera; Bella Solon and Day Spa; Flowers by Bill; Field of Greens; Personally Yours; Maximus Fitness and

Wellness; Goodyear Service Store (21st & Fairlawn); All about You Designs Floral and More; Merchant Value Kards.

Special recognition goes to **NICKIE ROBERTS** and **RHONDA MINGS** for working with the merchants. Please remember these merchants when you need something.



TOPEKA
CHAPTER

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President's Message

A Change is Coming

The last two years have been hard on AGA. The rise in national dues, reduced local revenues, and the change in policy by Accounts and Reports have greatly impacted this local chapter. However, nationally, some of the greatest financial disasters of all time have demanded greater attention, assistance, and dedication by all financial managers. With this renewed attention to the importance of "bean counters," comes new laws, new responsibilities, and new opportunities.

Enhancing Government Accountability

We are responding to the call. Participation in our PDC was up nearly 30% over the prior year. AGA's Topeka Chapter membership has grown by 18% in the last six months of this year. We have created the "Professional Lecture Series" with a focus on job-related skills, knowledge, and responsibilities. We have assisted in the development of opportunities for college-level courses for local agency staff. Our next PDC, scheduled for May 12 & 13, 2005, is being designed to reflect today's new reality of interdependent and interrelated financial systems—greater demands by management for relevant information — and growing demands for training, both before and after staff are hired.

Perhaps most importantly, we have geared our focus toward continuing education. The CGFM is now recognized by federal, state, and city agencies as a critical tool for ensuring continuing education by critical staff and as a basis for promotional opportunities.

I hope you will join with us to help provide the training our colleagues need to ensure the financial health of their government agency. The change has already arrived in the expectations of our customers. Our challenge now is to adapt and change quickly enough to meet those expectations.



Upcoming Events

January 13, 2005

We start off the new year with the latest assessment of the State's financial picture by the Secretary of Administration and Director of the Budget, Duane Goossen.

For those of you affected by State Revenues, this is a chance to hear the latest outlook on state resources and the budgetary forecasts used to develop the Governor's Budget Recommendations to the 2005 Legislature.

Join us on the 13th for a great discussion.



Is there a silver lining in the latest State Revenue Forecast?