

Topeka Register

Volume Year 2005, Issue 8

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City Government

Recently, the City of Topeka changed its form of government from a Strong Mayor to a Council-Manager form of government.

On August 18th the Topeka Chapter was honored to be able to provide an opportunity for members to attend a Professional Luncheon Lecture Series dedicated to understanding the Council-Manager form of government. Neil Dobler, Acting City Manager of the City of Topeka, took time to enlighten attendees of the August Professional Luncheon Lecture Series about the hierarchy of the new form of government.

Mr. Dobler discussed how the new form of the City of Topeka's government compares to the old form, and how the new form of government should work.



Mr. Dobler's presentation allowed attendees to better understand the Council-Manager form of government and to know what to expect from this new government.

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Hurricane Katrina

Hurricane Katrina has devastated the Southern region of the U.S. AGA has several large Chapters in this region and has been struggling to find out about the safety of its members and has established a web site at <http://www.agacgfm.org/katrina.aspx>. Please, visit the site to see how your fellow AGA members have faired throughout this ordeal.

As a result of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina AGA National Office is coordinating a campaign to assist those in need.

AGA members are encouraged to make donations to the Hurricane Relief Fund, which will directly benefit AGA members in need.

If you are interested in donating money or supplies please contact Nickie Roberts at 296-7917 or nickie.roberts@da.state.ks.us.



2005 Fall Seminar

The AGA Lincoln Chapter is conducting a Fall seminar, Sept. 21, 2005, worth 6 hours of CPE.

AGA National President, Sam McCall, will be presenting on “Government Auditing Standards, Internal Auditing Standards, and Fraud Prevention & Internal Controls.” An audio conference on “Ethics” is also included

The seminar will be held from 8:30 AM-3:00 PM at the Villager Courtyard & Gardens in Lincoln Nebraska.

Schedule:

Sam McCall—8:30 to 12:00
Lunch—12:00 to 1:00

Audio Conference—1:00 to 3:00

Cost:

AGA Member—\$60.00 includes lunch

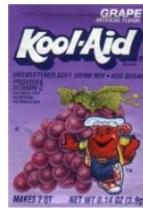
AGA Member—Audio Conference only - Free

Non-Member—\$100 includes lunch

Non-Member—Morning presentation, includes lunch - \$80.00

Non-Member—Audio Conference only - \$25

For additional information please contact Syed Hassan at shasan@notes.state.ne.us.



CBO Outlook of Hurricane Katrina

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has issued a report on the estimated effects Hurricane Katrina will have on the national economy, federal receipts, and federal outlays.

The report issued September 6, 2005 predicted that in the coming months Hurricane Katrina will result in a loss of nearly 400,000 jobs, a reduction of economic growth by 0.5% to 1% for the second half 2005, and will increase gas prices by 40% from their midsummer levels. The CBO described these impacts as “significant but not overwhelming.”

The report also stated that the effects of Katrina will influence the nation’s economy more than previous major hurricanes because of greater devastation, the long-term flooding of New Orleans, and the destruction of energy and port infrastructure. The coming months will play a key role in determining the total impact of Katrina. A more

serious blow may be dealt to the economy if energy distributions along the Gulf Coast last longer than expected, and reconstruction does not occur quickly. Often after a natural disaster a boom is seen in clearing and reconstruction helping to stabilize the economy. However, because of the flooding in some areas of the Gulf Coast reconstruction may be delayed.

It is difficult to say what effect Katrina will have of federal spending. Already \$10.5 billion has been appropriated for emergency assistance and more funds are expected to be provided. The effect on tax receipts is also unclear at this time. Federal receipts will be influenced by immediate reductions in national income and gasoline consumption, and in the future we can expect to see some form of temporary tax relief for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The complete Congressional Budget Office Report can be found online at www.cbo.gov.

COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES

AGA Midwestern Regional Professional Development Conference

President-Elect (Chair)
Immediate Past President
President
Member from Federal Agency
Member from University
Chair of Education and Training Committee
Chair of Professional Lecture Series Committee
Student

Membership Committee

Committee Chair
Member from Federal Agency
Member from Manhattan
Member from Lawrence
Member from Wichita
Chair of Professional Certification
Student
Retired Member

Topeka Chapter History Committee

Committee Chair
Director of Communications
Student
Retired Member

Education and Training Committee

Committee Chair
Member of Federal Agency
Member of University
Member from Wichita Area
Program/Technical Committee Chair
Chair of Professional Certification
Retired Member
Chair of Professional Lecture Series
Student

Chapter Recognition Committee

Committee Chair
Immediate Past Committee Chair
Director of Communications
President
Immediate Past President
President-Elect
Student

Entertainment and Awards Committee

Committee Chair
Director of History
Director of Facilities
Director of Membership
Director of Communications
Student
Retired Member

Early Careers Committee

Committee Chair
Member from Federal Agency
Member from KU
Member from KSU
Member from Washburn
Member from WSU
Member from A&R
Member from Revenue
Member from SRS
Student

Community Service Committee

Committee Chair
Member from Manhattan Area
Member from Lawrence Area
Member from Topeka Area
Member from Wichita Area
Student

Professional Lecture Series

Committee Chair
Member from KSU/Manhattan Area
Member from KU/Lawrence Area
Member from WSU/Wichita Area
Member from Washburn/Topeka Area
Member from/student of ACCC
Student
Retired Member
Education and Training Committee Chair

There are still plenty of committee opportunities available. To make the organization successful it is necessary that members play an active role in the planning of events.

Serving on a committee is an excellent networking opportunity allowing participants

to form valuable relationships.

Serving on a committee also allows participants to have a voice in the governance of the Topeka AGA Chapter, and is an opportunity to institute new ideas and direction into the organization.

Topeka Chapter Audit

Each year, with the passing of Officer duties, the Topeka Chapter requests that an audit be conducted on the treasurers financial reports. This year's audit was conducted by Pam Simecka.

The Executive Committee would like to thank Ms. Simecka for conducting this year's audit and several prior year audits and for playing a vital role in the effective-

ness and efficiency of our organization.

Scott Alisoglu, President, and Walt Darling, Immediate Past President, will be taking Ms. Simecka to lunch in recognition of her dedication.

Please, contact one of the Topeka Chapter Board members if you are interested in learning more about the audit.

Recruiters Romance Number Crunchers

Aug. 15, 2005 (The Washington Times)—Accounting students graduate today to some of the highest paying jobs. They are courted by firms that offer a challenging work environment replete with office happy hours and corporate perks.

Accounting is cool....and young accountants say it's even fun.

"It's much more dynamic than it used to be, said Seamus Bresnahan, 24, an audit senior accountant at Deloitte & Touche LLP's McLean office. "It used to be you showed up and counted what was there. Businesses are more complex now."

Mr. Bresnahan has enjoyed the puzzles of complex business arrangements, access to chief financial accounting firms and coveted experience. There is more than just fulfilling workload. Recruiters are selling a renewed image of an accounting firm.

Jennifer Busse, a corporate recruiter at Clifton Gunderson LLP, highlights her office's "fun group," which puts together happy hours, bowling events and baseball outings, when she pitches potential recruits on college campuses.

Accounting firms across the District have recognized the value of breaks from the office. "We're always doing things to keep morale and spirit up. You'll want to work hard if you're having more fun doing it," Mrs. Busse said. The "work hard, play hard" mentality surprised Laura Connors, 22, when she began as an associate at Clifton. "I knew it would be a timely job, you spend a lot of time on your work. But I didn't realize there would be a cookout on Friday," Miss Connors said.

Even the physical office is updated.

Meyners and Co.'s office building in Albuquerque, N.M., is filled with natural light and leather features. A flat-screen television shows CNN.

Bamboo plants and water fountains, more likely to be found in a day spa than an accounting office, provide a positive atmosphere.

Mrs. Busse attributes the changes in accounting to the people coming into the field.

"[This] generation now is big into quality of life. If you take that, you deter them from giving 130 percent at their job," she said.

Mrs. Busse and other recruiters are hiring well-rounded people with business development skills, people skills, savvy and spirit, she said.

Even though Ryan Hauck has "never heard cool and accounting in the same sentence," the senior accountant at Beers & Cutler PLLC in Tysons Corner said the people with whom he works don't fit the stereotype.

During the two years he has been at the firm, he has met smart, ambitious and interesting people of all ages, he said.

Some thought the profession would get a permanent black eye from its link to the huge frauds and bankruptcies at Enron, WorldCom and other companies.

"I don't think it will deter anyone from the profession. If anything, it will bring more. It kind of adds a level of excitement," said Stephen Coppelino, a 23-year-old associate at KPMG LLP in the District.

The Enron and WorldCom scandals prompted Congress to pass the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which created tougher accounting and oversight standards to bolster the accuracy and integrity of corporate financial statements at public companies.

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act and general economic growth prompted extra work, and a bull market for accountants.

Competing for graduates are large public accounting firms such as Grant Thornton and KPMG, smaller public-accounting firms and countless private companies. Also in the picture are national players such as IBM, the Gap, and Lockheed Martin.

Public-accounting firms provide audit, tax and financial assurance services while industry uses accountants for internal financial work.

"It's still a candidate-driven market," Mrs. Busse said. "If you have talent, you can name your price. Everybody is hiring, everybody is busy."

The money is good. Entry-level accounting jobs in the Northeast average about \$40,000 per year. Ten to 15 years later, accountants can be making \$65,000 a year.

This article is by Jen Haberkorn and can be found at <http://accounting.smartpros.com/x49345.xml>.

RABC & Golf Tournament

The Topeka Chapter is encouraging members to participate in several upcoming community service events.

The Race Against Breast Cancer is seeking volunteers for September 15th through 17th for the following events:

- Sept. 15th— stuffing packets, 6:30 to 8:30 in room 114 of Washburn Law School
- Sept. 16th—Registration and packet pickup, 3:30 to 6:30 South area of Laws School.
- Sept. 17th—Registration & other activities 7:00 to 9:00.

- You may also participate by walking or running in this event on Sept. 17th.

AGA will also be hosting a golf tournament at Cypress Ridge on Oct. 15th, tee time start is 8:30. Teams will be composed of four people and will cost \$60 per person. Proceeds will go the Battered Women's Task Force.

Members are encouraged to volunteer for this worthy cause. If you would like to participate in either of these events please contact Nickie Roberts at Nickie.Roberts@da.state.ks.us or (785) 296-7917.



TOPEKA
CHAPTER

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS
PO BOX 206
TOPEKA, KANSAS
66601-0206

Enhancing Government Accountability



Suffering isn't ennobling, recovery is.



President's Message

2005-2006 Year



How does one even begin to focus on matters that previous to Hurricane Katrina seemed so important to us while thousands in the affected Gulf States have died, been left homeless, or lost loved ones? As relief efforts continue, I encourage everyone to do whatever they can to assist our fellow Americans in getting back on their feet. As we concern ourselves with the loss of a favorite sports team to a rival foe or a glitch in our high-speed Internet connections, our brothers and sisters to the south search for lost children and ponder how to go about rebuilding shattered lives.

On a much lighter note, eschewing our Chapter's previous tradition of beginning the program year in September, and instead commencing activities in July has allowed us to sponsor two professional lecture series luncheons on Activity Based Budgeting and Topeka's change in government by Friends University Professor Jeff Ehrlich and Topeka City Manager Neil Dobler, respectively, as well as provide a host site for a recent audio conference on Homeland Defense grants. And we're just now moving into September!

There are many more educational opportunities ahead, including a two-hour session on Economic Trends in Kansas, a two-hour session on the basics of government debt financing (both in September) and a four-hour session on government auditing to be held on October 27th.

On the community service front, AGA volunteers, led by Nickie Roberts, will once again assist with the Race Against Breast Cancer on September 17. The Chapter will also host a charity golf tournament on October 15 at Cypress Ridge Golf Course, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the Topeka Battered Women's Task Force.

In simplest terms, the Chapter Executive Committee has decided that a program year should actually last a year. The change in philosophy has already paid dividends, allowing the chapter to hit the ground running and provide members and non-members alike a bigger bang for the buck and a wider array of professional development opportunities. Let's keep the momentum going. I encourage you to get involved and stay involved. In today's competitive marketplace, those who demonstrate a willingness to move beyond the safety and predictability of a "day job" and seek out volunteer and leadership opportunities will stand out when it comes time to seek new employment. There is no such thing as standing still. If you are not moving forward, you are moving backward.

Upcoming Events

- September 14, 2005—Professor Charles Krider lecture on national economic trends from 8:30 to 10:30.
- September 17, 2005—Race Against Breast Cancer
- September 21, 2005—Lincoln Chapter Fall Seminar, 8:30 to 3:00
- September 28, 2005—Linda Wood, Basics of Bonds and Debt Financing
- for Governments
- October 15, 2005—Golf Tournament at Cypress Ridge, tee time 8:30
- October 27, 2005—Nick Kramer, 8:30 to 12:30
- October 2005—Community service project for the Rescue Mission.

