

# Topeka Register

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## 2005 Officers and Directors

### OFFICERS

Scott Alisoglu, President-  
 Salisoglu@topeka.org

Brenda Adkins President Elect  
 Brenda.Adkins@da.state.ks.us

Walter Darling, Immediate Past President  
 & Web Site Director  
 Wdarling@mail.khp.state.ks.us

Debbie White, Treasurer  
 debbie@drckansas.org

Debby Fitzhugh, Secretary  
 Debbyf@ksinc.state.ks.us

### DIRECTORS

Sabrina Wells, Professional Lecture Series  
 sabrinamw@cox.net

Rhonda Mings, CGFM &  
 Technical Meetings  
 Rmings@topeka.org

Nickie Roberts, Community Service  
 Nickie.Roberts@da.state.ks.us

Marsha Pappen, Awards  
 Marsha.Pappen@kbi.state.ks.us

Shirley Hollis, Membership  
 Shirley\_Hollis@kdor.state.ks.us

Shirley Moses, Bylaws  
 Smoses@ci.grandview.mo.us

Brandi Baer, Communications &  
 Technical Meetings  
 BBaer@khp.ks.gov

## Economic Trends

On September 14, 2005 the Topeka AGA Chapter hosted a special lecture session that focused on Economic Trends and What They Mean For Kansas. The session was presented by Dr. Charles Krider of Kansas University.

Dr. Krider's presentation allowed attendees to gain insight into economic factors and indicators. Dr. Krider presented his outlook on the current economy in Kansas and what people can expect in the future.

Dr. Krider also presented a national and international economic perspective to attendees. Attendees were given the opportunity to discuss the key players in international economics and what the U.S. will need to do in order to remain

a strong economic power.

The current economy is changing drastically and these changes affect government budgets and strategies. In the future, AGA hopes to be able to provide more discussions on this exciting and influential topic.



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## Bond Basics

Linda Wood, City of Topeka Comptroller, presented a special session on Bonds and Government Debt Financing on September 28, 2005.

Attendees discussed the key players involved in issuing bonds and the bond issuance process.

Ms. Wood's presentation also reviewed common bond terms, and the strategic timing of critical factors and events within the bond process.

Bonds play a key part in government financing, and Ms. Wood's presentation provided an opportunity for finance personnel to obtain insight from other agencies on the bond process.



# Performance Management Conference

Make plans now to attend AGA's First National Performance Management Conference (PMC), Service Efforts & Accomplishments Reporting: The Cornerstone for Building Trust and Enhancing Management in Portland, Oregon. The Conference is set for November 14-15, 2005, at the Marriot Portland Downtown Waterfront Hotel, and features presentations by state and local government officials who have been recognized for preparing top-quality Service Efforts & Accomplishments (SEA) Reports.

Full conference attendee registration package includes the opportunity to earn up to 14.5 CPE hours, entrance to all education

sessions, two continental breakfasts, four refreshment breaks, two luncheons, one reception and a registration tote bag.

Register by October 21, 2005 for the early rate:

- Members—\$350
- Non-members—\$395

After October 21, 2005 the registration rate is:

- Members—\$425
- Non-members—\$490

Registration information can be found online at:

<http://www.agacgfm.org/pmc/index.htm>

## Race Against Breast Cancer

September 17, 2005, marked the date for Topeka's Race Against Breast Cancer this year. AGA members volunteered to participate in numerous events over the time period of Sept. 15 to 17. Volunteers did numerous activities, such as, stuffing packets, registration and packet pickup, and running in the race.

This year over 900 individuals participated in the Race Against Breast cancer. The net profit for this year's Race is \$34,000 and more donations are expected. For every

\$100 dollars raised one mammogram can be provided for a woman in the local community.

The CEC would like to thank and congratulate everyone who participated in this worthy cause.



## AGA Members Get Involved



# 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.

## National Award Nominations

Acknowledge someone for their contributions to the financial profession!

Everyone knows someone who has helped shape the financial profession at the federal, state and local level or private sector.

AGA is now accepting nominations for Federal Leadership Awards, State and Local Leadership Awards and Private Sector Leadership Awards.

Awards will be presented at the 4th Annual National Leadership Conference February 2-3, 2006 in Washington, D.C.

The following Federal Leadership Awards are cur-

rently under consideration:

- Distinguished federal Leadership Award
- Elmer Staats Award
- Andy Barr Award

The following State and Local Leadership Awards are currently under consideration:

- Excellence in Government Leadership Award
- William R. Snodgrass Distinguished Leadership Award
- Distinguished Local Government leadership Award
- Private Sector financial Excellence Award.

For more information go to [www.agacgfm.org/membership/awards/](http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/awards/). Nominations due Oct. 28th.

# Another Government Recruiting Challenge: Accountants

With more than 30% of the accounting work force eligible to retire in the next five years, the federal financial community is focusing on the challenge of attracting accounting graduates to government work.

Two problems complicate the effort: Most universities don't offer classes in government financial management; and accounting graduates can get higher paying and training in the private sector.

"It's a very serious issue," said Relmond Van Daniker, executive director of the Alexandria, Va.-based Association of Government Accountants. "And it's going to get worse when people retire."

AGA, on August 18, issued a white paper about the top issues facing the government financial management community. The paper outlined issues discussed at a July meeting of more than 100 federal, state and local financial leaders.

Van Daniker, who taught government financial management at the University of Kentucky for 31 years before retiring in 2001, said not many universities offer government financial management classes because there is no demand for them. Also, universities have few teachers who specialize in the issue. And as these few teachers start retire, the problem is

only going to get worse.

AGA is working to raise awareness among universities to help them develop financial management classes or plug a government accounting section in an existing accounting class.

Also, federal agencies need to provide training to their employees if they want to attract new workers, Van Daniker said. But training programs are typically threatened when budgets are tight, as they are now, he added.

Besides recruiting and training, agencies need to work on the way they produce financial reports, the AGA white paper says. Agencies' financial statements are usually 200 to 300 pages long and difficult for the average citizen to understand. What is needed, the white paper says, is a two-to four-page report that answers questions regarding use of taxpayer dollars, such as, 'Are we better off this year than last year?'

"What [agencies] believe is they've got to make sure they cover themselves. So many people believe that more information is better than less information, but more information may just crowd the picture," Van Daniker said.

This article is by Tichakorn Hill and may be found on page 16 of the September 5, 2005 *Federal Times*.

## National Leadership Team Nominations

AGA is requesting nominations for National and Regional Leadership Team.

If you or someone you know is interested in shaping Association programs, advancing your profession, and representing members' interests in the government accountability community then submit your nomination TODAY for these National Board Director positions:

- National President-Elect
- National Treasurer-Elect

- Senior Vice President for regional services-Section I and IV
- Regional Vice Presidents-Elect

The Deadline for nominations is October 28, 2005.

Those elected will take office on July 1, 2006 and serve a three-year term of office.

Contact Rosanna Ortiz for more information at [rortiz@agacgm.org](mailto:rortiz@agacgm.org)



# Charity Golf Tournament



**Saturday October 15, 2005  
8:30 Tee Time Start**

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- The event will be a 4 – person scramble format
- Entry fee will be \$60 per person or \$240 per team.
- Entry fee will include green fees, range balls, cart lunch, and prizes.
- A portion of this entry fee will go to the Topeka Battered Women’s Task Force.

**Contact Information:**

RSVP by e-mail to Scott Alisoglu at [salisoglu@topeka.org](mailto:salisoglu@topeka.org) or by phone at 785-368-1611 no later than **October 10**. Include name, phone number, and e-mail address of Team Captain and each team member. Payments should be mailed to the following address (preferable) or brought the day of the tournament.

Association of Government Accountants  
Topeka Chapter  
PO Box 206  
Topeka, KS 66601-0206

**Make checks payable to: AGA.**

\* For additional information call the Golf Shop @ 272 – 0511.

\* In the event of inclement weather, the tournament will be held on the following Saturday, October 22.

***Hosted by AGA to Benefit the  
Topeka Battered Women’s Task Force***



**TOPEKA  
CHAPTER**

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

*Enhancing Government Accountability*



The purpose of life is a life of purpose.  
**Robert Byrne**



## *President's Message*

### 2005-2006 Year



Well, the big news is that we have dates for the 2006 Midwest Regional Professional Development Conference: February 23 – 24. The event will once again be located at the Topeka Holiday Inn-Holidome. Based on a variety of factors, including comments from attendees, the Chapter Executive Committee decided to move the Conference up to February. There were positives and negatives associated with the May and February dates, so we chose to take the road less traveled and give it shot. Mark

your calendars now!

The AGA educational train keeps speeding down the tracks. In September, City of Topeka Comptroller Linda Wood presented a two-hour training session on “Basics of Bonds and Debt Financing for Governments” that was well attended and well received. I saw several new faces at the event, an indication that our educational endeavors are reaching more professionals than ever.

On the Professional Lecture Series front, we have two exciting events scheduled for October and November. On October 13 at Washburn University's Student Union, lecturers from Washburn University, the University of Kansas, and Premier Personnel will be discussing the following topic: “Trends in the Accounting Profession: What do Employers Want?” Whether you are a young professional or seasoned veteran, keeping a finger on the pulse of employment trends is vital. On November 10, KU Internal Auditor Dennis Moss will be returning to give a one-hour presentation called “A Practical Guide to Ensure Financial Integrity” (also at the WU Student Union). For those wanting a more comprehensive training on auditing, the Chapter will host a four-hour training session on October 27 in Room 106 at the Landon State Office Building.

It's not all seriousness though. We do have fun activities too. The Chapter's Holiday Social will be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at a location to be announced. I hope to see you there. That's all for now. Have a great October!

## Upcoming Events

- October 13, 2005—Professional Luncheon Lecture series, Recruitment in the Accounting field, Washburn Union.
- October 15, 2005—Golf Tournament at Cypress Ridge, tee time 8:30
- October 27, 2005—Audit Lecture, Nick Kramer, 8:30 to 12:30
- October 28, 2005—Nominations for Leadership Team and Leadership Awards due.
- October 2005—Community service project for the Rescue Mission.
- November 10, 2005—Professional Luncheon Lecture Series, Dennis Moss, CIA
- November 14-15, 2005—Professional Management Conference, Portland, Oregon.
- December 2, 2005—Holiday Social at the White Lakes Plaza Clubhouse.
- February 23 & 24, 2006—Topeka Chapter PDC at the Holidome.