

Topeka Register

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2005 Officers and Directors

OFFICERS

Scott Alisoglu, President
 Salisoglu@topeka.org

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

Brandi Baer, President-Elect
 Director of Communications
 & Technical Meetings
 BBaer@khp.ks.gov

Debbie White, Treasurer
 debbie@drckansas.org

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

DIRECTORS

Sabrina Wells, Professional Lecture Series
 sabrinamw@cox.net

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

Pam Simecka, CGFM
 psimecka@Topeka.org

Kathy Bohnhoff, Audio Conferences
 kbohnhoff@ksinsurance.org

Kansas 2006 Legislative Session

On February 9th Senator Steve Morris spoke to attendees of the February Professional Lecture Series. Senator Morris provided insight into the issues that the Legislator will be dealing with in the 2006 Session.

Senator Morris discussed different solutions for the school finance problem, and the impact that school finance will have on state financing and future.

One of the other major obstacles Kansas is facing in the coming year is Medicaid and where to find the funds needed to support the program as the Federal Gov-

ernment expects the state to support the program more strongly than in the past.

Senator Morris outlined several possible solutions to the funding problems faced by Kansas. Two possible solutions are financing schools through gambling and increased taxes.

Senator Morris's discussions of Kansas Legislative Session issues has become a tradition for the Topeka Chapter, and as always AGA enjoyed the opportunity to discuss the coming issues and possible solutions with him.

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CGFM Study Group

For those members interested in becoming a Certified Government Financial Manager, the Topeka Chapter AGA has acquired a set of study guides and is in the process of organizing the study group.

The CGFM exam may be taken at Prometric testing centers.

A comprehensive study session and the exam are also being offered June 14th through the 17th in San Diego at the National PDC.

The title of CGFM is a prestigious one and can help advance

your career.

If you are interested in becoming part of the Topeka Chapter's CGFM study group please contact Pam Simecka, Director of CGFM, at psimecka@Topeka.org.

Be proactive in advancing government accountability by becoming a member of the ever growing CGFM's.



Navigating the Way to Citizen - Centered Government

The 2006 National Professional Development Conference will be held in San Diego, California, June 18th through the 21st at the San Diego Marriott Motel & Marina.

This is an excellent opportunity to earn 25 CPE hours. Participants will be able to create their own curriculum from more than 75 concurrent sessions. Sessions will be organized around the following six tracks:

- Envisioning 2015: The Future of the Accountability Profession
- Building and Sustaining Strong Internal Controls
- State and Local Governments—Challenges, Strategies and Innovations
- Improving public Performance: Transforming Data into results

- Intergovernmental Financial Management: Collaboration or Frustration?
- Technology, Tools and Techniques for the 21st Century

Early registration ends May 9th.

AGA Member	Fax/Mail	Online
Early (By May 19)	\$800	\$775
Standard (After May 19)	\$900	\$875
Nonmember	Fax/Mail	Online
Early (By May 19)	\$1000	\$975
Standard (After May 19)	\$1100	\$1075

This is an excellent networking and education opportunity. We hope to see you in San Diego!

Visit www.agacgfm.org for hotel and registration information.

2006 National Academic Scholarships

Are you or a family member pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in disciplines such as accounting, auditing, budgeting, economics, finance, information technology, public administration, etc.? If so, consider applying for an AGA National Academic Scholarship today!

Each year, AGA National awards:

- Up to six \$1,000 full-time merit scholarships to AGA members and their family members,
- Up to two \$500 part-time merit scholarships to AGA members and their family members, and
- One \$1,000 community service scholarship

The **deadline for receipt of applications is March 31, 2006**. Apply now and take full advantage of your AGA membership.

To download a copy of the application go to <http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/awards/> or

contact [Rosanna Ortiz](#)



AGA National Academic Scholarships
Due March 31, 2006



2006 PDC Raffle

As part of the Topeka Chapter's annual PDC a raffle is conducted with all proceeds going to a local charity.

The 2006 PDC raffle was an outstanding success. Nickie Roberts, Director of Community Service, gathered more than 100 door prizes that enticed PDC attendees to buy \$400 in raffle tickets.

The Topeka Chapter would like to thank all of those who participated and to announce that this year's proceeds will be going to the Topeka's Battered Women's Task Force.

The Topeka Chapter would also like to give a special thanks and recognition to the donors. The Following is a list of donors.

- Ks Koyotes - 2 season tickets
- Topeka Civic Theatre – 2 tickets to “Sweeney Todd”
- Ks Speedway - 2 tickets to Nascar Craftsman Truck Series Qualifying
- Barn Bed and Breakfast Inn – (10) \$50 off lodging
- Harrah's Prairie Band Casino and Hotel– (2) 2 buffet dinners
- KC T-Bones – (1) 4 tickets
- KC Royals – 4 tickets
- TPAC – 2 tickets to Mame, musical on Apr.4
- Holiday Inn Holidome – One night lodging
- YWCA – (2) 3 month family memberships
- Flowers by Bill – \$25 gift certificate
- Margie's Coffee Shop – \$10 gift certificate
- Family Video – (3) 2 video rentals
- Maximus Gym – (2) 2-wks & (1) month membership
- Eagle Car Wash – (2) car wash coupons
- Jazzercise – One month for you & friend
- Squeaky Clean Car Wash – (12) free car wash
- Copper Oven - one pie
- Goodyear Service Store - 21st and Fair-lawn – oil change
- Red Robin - \$30 gift card & \$40 gift card
- Maggie Moo's - (2) \$5 coupons
- Longhorn Steak House - (6) free appetizers
- Jersey Mike's - \$5 coupon
- Trends Hair – free wash, cut & style, and shampoo gift set
- Texas Roadhouse - \$30 cert
- Coyote Canyon – (2) 2 dinners
- Hollywood 14 Theatre – (2) 2 movie tickets
- Johnny Carino's Italian - \$10 off & free dessert
- Personally Yours - \$15 gift certificate
- Field of Greens - \$5 coupon
- John Birtell of Wood Valley – one hour massage
- Carlos O'Kelly's – (3) \$10 gift certificates
- Goodcents – (2) \$5 gift certificates
- Planet Sub – 5 coupons for sandwiches
- CD Tradepost - (1) DVD's, set of 4
- Quizno's – (2) \$5 certs
- Pizza Hut- (5) 2 free buffets
- Wolfe's – 12x18 Picture Enlargement
- Hillmer's - Business Laptop Case
- Cypress Ridge Golf – 2 rounds of golf
- Classic Bean – (2) \$5 certificates
- Celtic Fox - \$10 certificate
- Old Chicago – (2) large pizza's certificate

Donated by Dr. Robert Bell:

2 cases of toothpaste and toothbrushes

Donated by Topeka Chapter:

DVD Player

Best Buy - \$25

Barnes and Noble - \$25

Starbucks - (3) \$5 coupons

Thank you to all who participated and we hope to see you at the 2007 PDC.



The Expanding Role of Today's Financial Manager

The 2006 Topeka Chapter PDC took place February 23rd and 24th at the Topeka Holiday Inn Holidome, and was a tremendous success.

National AGA President, Sam McCall, was one of many outstanding presenters at the conference. Sam opened the conference by discussing National AGA issues and what the future holds for government accountants. Sam discussed his experiences as an auditor and frauds he has observed and how those frauds could have been prevented.

Nationally renowned speaker, Pearl Rovaris-MacDonald was a tremendous hit. Her topics included Communication Skills and Humor in Your Life and Work. Pearl involved the audience in her presentations by having them move around the room for different activities. Pearl's presentation on Communication Skills focused on various communication styles and why it is important to adapt your communication styles as you talk to different individuals. Pearl's second topic, Humor in Your Life and Work, concentrated on the importance of humor in counteracting stress.

Attendees also had the opportunity to participate in sessions dealing with leadership,

auditing for IT security, ethics, health insurance, investing for retirement, and the financing concerns for Kansas education.

The Topeka Chapter would like to recognize several sponsors who helped fund the 2006 PDC. Microsoft, Quilogy, Allen County Community College, Solbourne, and Oracle. Without the aid of these sponsors the Topeka Chapter would have been unable to achieve such successful results.

Many individuals helped in making this event possible and the Topeka Chapter CEC would like to send a special thanks out to Don Wilson, Director of Facilities; Nickie Roberts, Director of Community Service; Sabrina Wells, Director of Education; Debbie White, Treasurer; Shirley Hollis, Director of Membership; Scott Alisoglu, President; Walt Darling, Immediate Past President; and Brandi Baer, President-Elect. These individuals spent many hours organizing the 2006 PDC, which helped make this year's PDC successful.

The Role of Today's Financial Manager is Expanding and the Topeka Chapter is dedicated to providing the education necessary to help you meet your goals in today's workplace.

CEC Minutes

On January 4th, 2006 the Topeka AGA CEC held the monthly Boarding meeting at the Fox Ridge Clubhouse. The following items were discussed at the meeting.

1. The most recent scholarship information received from Washburn University was discussed.
2. The guidelines for the Allen County Scholarship contract were reviewed.
3. CFGM Director, Rhonda Mings, resigned

from her position. Scott Alisoglu will advertise for a new Director of CGFM.

4. Walt Darling will buy one copy of the CGFM study guide for the Chapter library.
5. Financial report through November 30th, 2005 was dispersed.
6. Reimbursement of March Madness recruitment strategy was discussed.
7. The Chapter raised \$285 for the Toys-for-Tots program.

AGA Members Offer Tax Assistance

Angelia Prince and Mike Aytes looked through the different tax books and forms available at the Leavenworth Public Library on Friday. Programs to provide tax assistance to local residents are available at both the Leavenworth Public Library and the Lansing Community Library.

Leavenworth residents interested in having a little help crossing all the T's and dotting the I's on their 2005 tax returns will get some assistance with a free program offered by the Leavenworth Public Library. The program is put on by members of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, and will be from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays from Feb. 4 through March 18. No appointments will be made for the program.

"There have been about 30 people each Saturday," librarian Debbie Williamson said about past programs. "The service is designed for persons of low or limited income, those with disabilities, non-English speakers and the elderly."

Williamson said persons interested in tax assistance should bring their 2004 tax return, their current W-2 and any other tax-related paperwork. Kansas, Missouri and federal tax forms and books are also available at the library.

"We have guidelines for what forms people should use, but we can't give tax advice," said librarian Tita Lemanua. "(The program) is a good service to provide to the public."

VITA coordinator Kevin Gullett is in his eighth year of working with the program. In addition to the volunteers at the library, VITA workers will also provide tax assis-

tance on an appointment basis with Catholic Community Services.

"It's a great deal," Gullett said. "A lot of people have trouble filing their taxes. We're there to help out - we can weed through the complexity of tax laws."

Gullett said that the VITA program files electronically, and participants can have their tax refunds sometimes as soon as one week after filing.

For more information about the VITA program, call the library at 682-5666, ext. 206.

The Lansing Community Library is also offering free assistance in tax preparation, by helping library patrons e-file their 2005 federal tax returns. The program is open to all residents, and is designed for e-filing only 1040 EZ and 1040 A returns.

"Anything more complicated and patrons need a tax professional," said Lansing librarian Darlene Dean. "We're not doing the taxes, just the e-filing."

According to Dean, patrons must bring in their completed 2005 forms and their 2004 tax forms to assist in filing, along with W-2, 1098 and 1099 forms. Appointments must be scheduled in advance, and patrons need to complete an assistance form before meeting with a volunteer who will help them with the e-filing.

For more information, call the Lansing Community Library at 727-2929.

Article By Rachael Bossow, Leavenworth Times, Jan. 23, 2006; "Program to Assist in Tax Preparation".

Upcoming Events

- March 9, 2006—Professional Luncheon Lecture Series, Accountability Issues & Employee Use of Government Issued Credit Cards, Scott Frank, Jay Oyler, and Tim Hund
- March 31, 2006—National Academic Scholarships due
- April 13, 2006—Professional Luncheon Lecture Series, Financial Reporting That Your Boss Needs to Make Day-to-Day Decisions, Panel
- May 11, 2006—Professional Luncheon Lecture Series, Update on Unclaimed Property, Kansas State Treasurer Lynn Jenkins
- June 8, 2006—Professional Luncheon Lecture Series, Internet Scams-Consumer Watch, Detective Lynn Weddle
- June 15-16, 2006—Intensive CGFM Review Course, San Diego, CA
- June 17 & 18, 2006—CGFM Exam, San Diego, CA
- June 16-21, 2006— National Professional Development Conference, Navigating the Way to Citizen-Centered Government San Diego, CA
- July 13, 2006—Professional Luncheon Lecture Series, Topeka City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte
- August 3, 2006—Professional Luncheon Lecture Series, Director of Accounts & Reports, Bob Mackey
- September 25 & 26, 2006—AGA National Internal Controls & Fraud Conference, Atlanta, GA

2006 PDC Photos





TOPEKA
CHAPTER

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

Advancing Government Accountability



A man's country is not a certain area of land, of mountains, rivers, and woods, but it is a principle and patriotism is loyalty to that principle.

George William Curtis

President's Message

A Triumphant Month



Wow, February was a triumphant month for the Topeka Chapter, culminating in the smashing success of the Midwest Regional Professional Development Conference (PDC). Following an interesting and well-attended February professional luncheon lecture with Kansas Senate President Steve Morris the program year's big event kicked off on February 23 and continued gaining momentum until the last of the door prizes were awarded the

following afternoon on February 24.

Thanks to the grand efforts of President-Elect and PDC coordinator Brandi Baer, Immediate Past President Walt Darling, AGA member and Facilities Guru Don Wilson, Community Service Director and Door Prize Queen Nickie Roberts, Membership Director Shirley Hollis, and Treasurer Debbie White, the 2006 PDC boasted a substantial increase in attendance, more vendor sponsorships, and a first rate conference agenda.

Attendees raved about nationally renowned seminar speaker and Kansas City improvisational comedienne Pearl Rovaris-MacDonald, the wide range of practical *and* fun topics, and the door prizes awarded. Thanks to the generosity of area businesses and the willingness of PDC attendees to purchase raffle tickets, the Chapter not only awarded over 100 door prizes, but also (and more importantly) raised \$400 for the Topeka Battered Women's Task Force. Talk about a win-win situation!

Thanks to the majority of conference attendees that completed PDC evaluation forms we will be able to make next year's conference even better! While the responses were overwhelmingly positive, we can take much from the constructive criticism offered by attendees.

As we wind down the 2005-2006 program year, I hope to see you at the monthly luncheon lectures and other AGA-sponsored events. Thanks to Chapter Education Director Sabrina Wells for continuing to offer members and non-members alike opportunities for quality professional development every month!

That's all, folks!

