

# Topeka Register

Volume Year 2006, Issue 3

March 31, 2006

## 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

## Procurement Card Security

On March 9th a luncheon panel discussion on the implementation of Procurement focusing on effective internal controls was hosted by the Topeka Chapter.

The panel included members from state and local government. Panel members shared their experiences with implementation and ineffective internal controls.

Panel members also provided suggestions on policies to implement to avoid misuse and ineffective internal controls.

Procurement cards have been a topic of much discussion, and ensuring that cardholders are held accountable is the concern of government officials.



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## CGFM Month

March has been declared CGFM month by AGA.

The Topeka Chapter recognized CGFM members at the March 9th Professional Lecture Series. The following is a list of Topeka Chapter CGFM members. Please, join us in recognizing their accomplishment.

James T. Applhans
Randall P. Bailes
Rita K. Barnard
Ronald R. Beier
John T. Berberich
Carolyn K. Brock
Dr. Novella Noland Clevenger
Joseph Michael Feeney Jr.
John H. Fisher
Kevin E. Gullett
Thomas D. Heigert

Steven Helland
Mary S Hoover
Mark W. Huffhines
M. Dale Jost
M. Lynn Joynt
Nicholas Marc Kramer
Ada S. Kyle
Matilda A. LaPlante
D. Scot Loyd
Johanna D. Lyle
Shirley A Moses
Marsha M. Pappen
James M. Quigley
Carl L. Sala
Deanna K. Schlegel
Pat Verschelden
Kathryn M. Wade
Charla Wagner
Tommy E. Williams

# 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.

<b>AGA Member</b>	<b>Fax/Mail</b>	<b>Online</b>
Early (By May 19)	\$800	\$775
Standard (After May 19)	\$900	\$875
<b>Nonmember</b>	<b>Fax/Mail</b>	<b>Online</b>
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](http://www.agacgfm.org) for hotel and registration information.

## Governor's Proclamation

For the second year in a row Governor Kathleen Sebelius is proclaiming March as Certified Government Financial Manager month for the state of Kansas.

The title of Certified Government Financial Manager, CGFM, has become widely recognized as a prestigious and influential certification.

The CGFM certification requires that a three part test be taken by applicants. Each test is 100 questions long and a time period of two hours and fifteen minutes is allotted for each part.

To retain the designation of CGFM the holder must:

1. Pay the CGFM renewal fee at the beginning of every year.
2. Adhere to the AGA Code of Ethics
3. Complete at least 80 hours of continuing professional education (CPE) every two years in government financial management topics or related technical subjects (with 20 in the first year).
4. Maintain and, if requested by AGA, provide detailed information on the CPE hours completed.

If you are interested in attaining the honorable distinction of CGFM please contact Pam Simecka at [psimecka@Topeka.org](mailto:psimecka@Topeka.org).

STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION  
BY THE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, the Topeka Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) is a professional organization, belonging to the AGA which has more than 15,000 members in 90 chapters in the United States and around the world and approximately 120 active members and associates representing state, federal, municipal and private sector accountants, auditors, and financial managers in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, AGA Topeka Chapter members have responded to AGA's mission of Advancing Government Accountability, as it continues its broad educational efforts, with emphasis on high standards of conduct, honor, and character in its Code of Ethics, and are making significant advances in both professional ability and service to the citizens of Kansas by mastering increasingly technical and complex requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) program of AGA provides a means of demonstrating professionalism and competency by requiring CGFM candidates to have appropriate educational and employment history and to pass a 3-part examination requiring expertise in The Government Environment, Governmental Financial Management and Control, and Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting, and, requires each CGFM holder to maintain certification by completing comprehensive training sessions totaling 80 hours over a 2-year period; and

WHEREAS, the Topeka Chapter of AGA marks the completion of its 26<sup>th</sup> year of service to the state, federal, and municipal governmental entities, and to the public through private sector support;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim March 2006 as

*Certified Government Financial Manager Month*

in Kansas and urge all citizens to join in this observance.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka  
under the Great Seal of the  
State this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of  
March, A.D. 2006



BY THE GOVERNOR:

*Kathleen Sebelius*  
*Ron Thornquist*  
Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State



# Upcoming Events

- 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



## CEC Minutes

On February 1st, 2006 the Topeka Chapter CEC held its February board meeting at the Rendezvous Restaurant.

The following topics were discussed at the meeting.

1. The announcement of the signing of the contract with Allen County Community College on the scholarship guidelines.
2. The March promotion of CGFM and member recognition at the March luncheon.
3. The purchase of a CGFM study guide set.
4. The February 9th Luncheon Lecture and possible conflicts.
5. Progress of the membership survey and possible cost to complete the survey.
6. Chapter Recognition points and the areas in which the Chapter is missing points.
7. A report of last minute PDC items was also given.

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TOPEKA  
CHAPTER

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

*Advancing Government Accountability*

## President's Message

### Time of Change



Considering the ever-building momentum that the Topeka Chapter has experienced, this is hardly the time to sit back and relax. However, I have found myself considering the Chapter's accomplishments achieved over the past program year. It has been a year in which doing things "the way they've always been done" has never formed the logical basis of any chapter decisions. Calculated risks, a surveying of the land (including that which exists outside of traditional AGA boundaries), the dedication of members willing to go the extra mile, and a little bit of luck has led us to our present state of increasing membership and growing attendance at AGA functions. The decision to move the Midwest Regional Professional Development Conference (PDC) to February from May was met with some skepticism early on, but this year's 30 percent growth rate in attendance and the overwhelmingly positive responses on the PDC evaluations served seem to have justified the break from tradition. Unseasonably warm weather didn't hurt either. Special thanks goes to President-Elect Brandi Baer for leading such a successful PDC effort.

While the improvement in programming, growth in corporate sponsorship, and increase in attendance at the PDC are achievements of which we should all be proud, it is the increase in attendance at monthly professional lectures that seems to be most telling of the Chapter's success. I recall conversations with members of the Chapter Executive Committee early in the program year that revolved around whether attendance would exceed 15 or 20 people (the latter considered somewhat of a measure of success). Over the last few months, the concern has focused almost exclusively on locating a room big enough to accommodate crowds that have exceeded 50, and rarely fall below 35. It has been a good problem to have. Chapter Education Director Sabrina Wells has been instrumental in the success of the 2005/2006 series.

I have also noticed a gradual change in the opinions held about AGA by those outside of Chapter circles. Rather than being viewed as a closed group of accounting-only professionals, more and more folks have begun to recognize the Chapter as a premiere educational organization open to all professionals with some link to financial management (but not exclusively). Some people actually have decided to join AGA based on only a few experiences with some of our educational events. Others have chosen not to join, but continue to attend the events. Rewarding PDC attendees with the opportunity to join the organization for a meager \$20 has paid off in terms of membership increases and growing enthusiasm for the coming year's activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the 2006/2007 Chapter officers: Brandi Baer (President), Sabrina Wells (President-Elect), Kathy Bohnhoff (Treasurer), and Debbie White (Secretary). Current President-Elect Brandi Baer will soon reveal her selections for Chapter Director positions.

The question that most likely now remains is why in the world the Chapter President would be writing a year-end overview of events before the program year has concluded. Why? Because the time felt right. Now I'll have to think of something to write for the real year-end president's message. Oh well.



You will never be happy if you continue to search for what happiness consists of. You will never live if you are looking for the meaning of life.

Albert Camus

