

# Topeka Register

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## Professional Development Conference

On March 8th and 9th, the Topeka Chapter hosted the 18th Annual Mid-Western Region Professional Development Conference.

The two-day conference allowed the participants strategic time away from the daily routine to take in training in Auditing, Internal Controls, Fraud Investigation, Leadership, and Team-building.

Sabrina Wells was the Chapter Coordinator for the conference

this year and is congratulated on a very successful conference.

The Capitol Plaza Hotel provided a new location for the Conference along with excellent facilities and food.



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## CGFM Month

The Topeka City Council proclaimed March to be **"Certified Government Financial Manager Month."** On March 6th, in the Topeka City Council Chambers, Mayor Bill Bunten read the Proclamation aloud and congratulated AGA, the Topeka Chapter, and the financial managers that the City of Topeka relies upon daily to ensure the proper finances of the City. The Topeka Chapter representatives distributed T-Shirts with the Chapter logo to the Mayor and members of the City Council.



# Keeping Up-To-Date With Our Colleagues—2006/2007

## **Promotion—March 26, 2007—Pam Simecka**

Pam has recently been promoted to a position in the Financial Services Department of the City of Topeka. For the past three years, she has been an accountant with the Water Pollution Control Division. Pam's new responsibilities will include the accounting for all City of Topeka Capital Improvements, assisting with the implementation of the new electronic financial system being installed by the City, and the development of the annual City of Topeka Comprehensive Financial Report. Pam is a candidate in the Certified Financial Manager Program of AGA and has already passed the first two exams of the three exams required for certification.

## **Promotion—January 2, 2007—Doug Craig**

Doug received a boost of confidence in January with the addition of the Kansas Setoff Program to his area of responsibility. The Setoff Program was established in 1981 and allows the Director of Accounts and Reports to subtract from payments owed, any amounts which the recipient owes to the State of Kansas, or any participating municipality or judicial district. This program has greatly helped the State and other participants collect on debts, particularly for child support and past taxes owed. His responsibilities include oversight of 300,000 accounts totaling more than \$1.0 million, and, the coordination of the program with 64 State Agencies, 300 Municipalities, and 17 Judicial Districts that participate in the program. Doug is a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) and a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and has worked for the State of Kansas' Department of Administration for 23 years. He came to the state after several years working for a private CPA firm.

## **Retirement—September 9, 2006—Walter V. Darling**

With 32 years of service, Walt retired from the State of Kansas this year. Walt worked with both the Kansas Budget Division and the Kansas Highway Patrol. Before coming to Kansas, he worked for Indiana University, and the State of South Dakota's Department of Public Safety, and, served in the US Navy during the Vietnam Conflict.

## Governor's Proclamation

For the third year in a row Governor Kathleen Sebelius has proclaimed 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. If you are interested in attaining the honorable distinction of CGFM please contact Pam Simecka at [psimecka@Topeka.org](mailto:psimecka@Topeka.org).

A critical component of the professional Government Financial Manager is the conduct of business in concert with the AGA Code of Ethics. This code is a part of the acceptance of persons for membership in AGA and is recognition of the individual's intent to assist Government at all levels to improve its activities for its constituents while providing transparency to the citizens they ultimately serve.

The Governor's Proclamation serves as a reminder that the work we do on a day-to-day basis is recognized widely by those who depend upon our accuracy and honesty.

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 27<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 2007 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 19<sup>th</sup> day of  
March, A.D. 2007



BY THE GOVERNOR:

*Kathleen Sebelius*

*Bon Thornburgh*  
Secretary of State

*Kathy M. Sachs*  
Assistant Secretary of State

## Upcoming Events

- March 29 - 30, 2007—GASB/ Single Audit Update Seminar, Chattanooga, TN
- April 12, 2007—Professional Lecture Series; Chuck Wilson, Human Relations Specialist with the City of Topeka will speak on Diversity and Cultural Awareness in the Workplace.
- May 10, 2007—Professional Lecture Series—Topic TBA
- May 21-23, 2007—Dr. Robert J. Freeman's Governmental Accounting Seminar—Texas Tech University, Scottsdale, AR
- June 14, 2007—Professional Lecture Series—Topic TBA
- June 21-22, 2007—Intensive CGFM Review Course, Nashville, TN
- June 23 & 24, 2007—CGFM Exam, Nashville, TN
- June 24-27, 2007— National Professional Development Conference, Creating Exceptional Value in a Changing World; Nashville, TN
- July 12, 2007—Professional Lecture Series, Topic TBA



## CEC Minutes

On February 2nd, 2007 the Topeka Chapter CEC held its February board meeting.

The following topics were discussed at the meeting.

1. The upcoming Professional Lecture Series lecture will present Senator Steve Morris, President of the Kansas Senate.
2. SABRINA WELLS noted that 75 registrations for the upcoming PDC had already been received.
3. PAM SIMECKA announced that the Topeka City Council will
4. MELINDA RICHTER noted the finalization of tallies for the Chapter Recognition Program, due February 19th.
5. NICKIE ROBERTS announced the goal of 100 raffle donations for the PDC raffle.
6. BRANDI BAER, President, announced the availability of scholarships for the national PDC being held in Nashville, TN.



**TOPEKA  
CHAPTER**

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*Advancing Government Accountability*



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**

## *President's Message*

### **Time of Renewal**



It is a truly amazing experience heading a dedicated team focused on providing our colleagues in Kansas with information and educational opportunities on the latest thoughts and techniques available in the profession. We have just completed our Professional Development Conference and it is clear that our group of volunteers is continuing to "test the envelope" for the best and most capable presenters available. This year included David Hancox, Director of Risk Management, in the Comptroller's Office of the State of New York. His presentation challenged the traditional teaching on auditing and showed by example how technology today MUST change the way we account for finances and audit expenses. Some of the frauds being committed today simply cannot be addressed using the old techniques.

Moving to the Capitol Plaza Hotel and bringing in several quality speakers provided a much more professional package for this year's PDC. Selecting and scheduling speakers, who have a quality message is always a challenge. We were fortunate to have a PDC Committee that obtained the highest quality of speakers for this year's PDC. The improvements in programming for the PDC are reflected by the comments submitted by participants. I strongly want to recognize the efforts of Sabrina Wells as the coordinator for this year's PDC and congratulate her for her success in continuing to move this conference forward.

While I am extremely pleased with the team effort that succeeded so well for the PDC, I am also excited by the continuing increase in attendance at monthly professional lectures. Truly, it is this monthly activity that seems to be most telling of the Chapter's 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 Mary Beth Green has been instrumental in the success of the 2006/2007 series.

There is no question that the activities of AGA is continuing to strike an important need within the governmental finance community. Our increased participation has also been reflected in our growing membership. I would like to welcome Larry Barrett, Paul Endacott, and Boyd Jantzen, all of the Kansas Health Policy Authority to our membership roster. Our efforts throughout the year are all focused on making membership in AGA, and the Topeka Chapter, something of meaning for area professionals. And, I am pleased to see that more and more of you have agreed and are willing to commit to formal membership.

