

TOPEKA REGISTER

Volume Year 2008_2009, Issue 6

March 2009

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The Topeka AGA would like to give a big "Thank You" to all of those who attended the Annual PDC this year, it was a great success!!!

****Reminder****

**AGA Membership
Deadline
is March 31st, 2009.**

**Please see page two
for scholarship
details...**

Upcoming AGA Events

Professional Lecture Series 4/19/09

"Low-Priority Programs in Kansas: Identifying Them and The Costs Associated with Operating Them."

Jayhawk Tower

11:30am-1:00pm



Katrin Osterhaus, Principal Auditor, Kansas Legislative Division of Post Audit will be on hand March 13 to bring you up-to-date on the audit everyone has been talking about. With everyone talking cuts, is your agency or division identified as low-priority?

Upcoming Audio Conferences

4/8/09 - "The Future of Government Auditing: Which Direction (s) Are We Heading?"

5/13/09 - "Ethics in the Workplace"

AGA Recruiting Tip of the Month

Spread the word...many state and local government workers are unaware of the AGA and its numerous benefits.

MEMBERSHIP 2009...

5 Great Reasons to be an AGA Member:

1. Continuing Professional Education & Networking Opportunities
2. Keep Up-to-Date on Current Issues
3. Keep Abreast of the Latest Technologies and Financial Systems
4. Professional Guidance and Certification
5. Committee Involvement and Awards/Scholarships

Topeka Chapter Membership Scholarships

Topeka Chapter Scholarships

Membership for AGA this year is \$90. This is the National Organization annual dues. Our Chapter has no Chapter dues. But, we are offering the following as scholarships towards AGA national dues...

- \$70 Scholarship for persons attending the Topeka Chapter's 2009 Professional Development Conference (PDC).
- \$45 Scholarship for persons that did not attend the Topeka Chapter's 2009 PDC but did attend the Chapter's 2008 PDC
- \$20 Scholarship for all other qualifying members renewing their membership.

Qualifications:

Scholarships are only available to those persons who pay personally for their membership renewal.

Requests must be submitted by March 31st

Requests must include either the renewal form sent to them from national or the membership form available on national's web site.

Requests must be accompanied with the payment for the balance of the renewal cost.



TOPEKA CHAPTER

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTANTS
PO BOX 206
TOPEKA, KANSAS

Advancing Government Accountability



Visit us on the WEB...

www.agaks.org

Website Maintenance

We are currently looking for a Member who would like to perform maintenance and updates to our Chapters' website; experience with Dreamweaver is preferred. For more information please contact Walt Darling at:
Walt_Darling@hotmail.com



President's Message

What a trying time. Our government and our families have overspent our ability to buy so the economic engine is slowing down. But, we are now going to overspend even more to get the economy going again. Regardless what side you are on, what we all know is that we are facing an uncertain future. Even the State of Kansas, usually sheltered from the economic ups and downs, is facing the possibility of major reductions in spending. It won't be long before the local governments will be scrambling for ways to cut back. I hope that this message finds you employed or comfortably retired.

Attendance at the PDC this year was down. Unfortunately, the PDC is the only function we hold that usually makes money and it provides the financing for our annual budget. For those of you that are wondering how you are going to make it through this next year, let me say that the Topeka Chapter is planning to help where we can by using monies saved up from prior years. Based on discussions underway in the Executive Committee, we plan to provide you with financial assistance in becoming a member or renewing your membership. More details are provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

With every downturn comes an opportunity. As jobs become scarce, and each individual more critical to the overall work effort, employers will be looking for something special that clearly separates candidates for each opening. What do you have that separates you from other candidates? Most employers look for a positive attitude and a focus toward the future. This is where your certifications can set you apart and above your competition.

If you have a college degree, AGA can provide the CGFM certification to you. This certification demonstrates that you have the knowledge and experience to operate as a key employee. The certification follows a series of three tests that merely demonstrate what you already know. The AGA Topeka Chapter can provide study guides and support through a study group to help you achieve the certification in minimal time. The tests can be taken here in Topeka or you can take them while you are at the National PDC.

The time is now to make a difference in your life. Step up now for a way to clearly separate you from other candidates for more rewarding jobs!

Two of our members are hurting and we know that your thoughts are with them. Larry Barrett has undergone surgery and is doing well in the healing and rehabilitation process. Sandra Dreasher, who has been overseeing our Professional Lecture Series, has been called upon to assist her husband, who was injured in a car / pedestrian accident. Fortunately, Duane is improving on a daily basis.

Walt Darling

Community Service

During the 2009 Annual AGA Midwest Regional Professional Development Conference, we held a fundraiser to benefit the local Battered Women's Task Force. We were able to raise \$350 this year to assist the shelter.

Last year they sheltered 160 women and children. They responded to over 1,000 hotline/crisis calls, assisted 600 with Protection From Abuse Orders, served over 600 with counseling services, and reached 11,000 through their community outreach efforts.

Director Eileen Doran was the guest speaker during the lunch on Thursday. She was able to explain their community services and answer questions.

Door prizes donated by the chapter were Barnes and Noble, Kohl's, Sonic, Starbucks, Kansas Stone Coasters from the Kansas Museum and Target.

The door prizes donated by local businesses were Washburn University, Kansas State University, Topeka Symphony, Laser Auto Wash, Eagle Car Wash, Copper Oven, Goodyear Service Store, Performing Arts Center, Avenue Hair Style & Day Spa, Quizno's, CD Tradepost, Field of Greens, Break Room, Flowers By Bill, Sports Center, Outback Steakhouse, YWCA, Hazel Hill Chocolates, Panera Bread, Hawk's Tower Restaurant, Celtic Fox, CiCi's Pizza, Planet Sub, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Boss Hawg's Barbecue, Wild Bird House, Squeaky Clean Car Wash, Pappa John's, Perkins, Jason Deli, Freddie's Frozen Custard, Carrino's Italian Restaurant, Texas Road-house, Coyote Canyon, KC Chiefs, Topeka Civic Theatre, KC T-Bones, Maximus Fitness and Wellness, Wolfe's, Laser Art Creations, Family Video, Great Life Golf, KU Lied Center, Kansan Grill, Hollywood Theatre, Trends Hair Style, Hooters, and Longhorn Steakhouse.

A special thanks to our local businesses and the conference attendees for making this a successful fundraising event.

Loose Change Program

We will continue our Loose Change Program at our monthly membership meetings to benefit the Topeka Rescue Mission; at the present time, we have collected \$39.28.

Nickie Roberts
Community Service Director



AGA Topeka Chapter

Highlights of the Minutes for the
Chapter Executive Committee

Fox Ridge Clubhouse

February 11th, 2009 @ 5:30pm

Submitted by Scott Alisoglu

Members Present: Nickie Roberts, Walt Darling, Linda Farlow, Scott Alisoglu, Brandi Baer, Marti Leisinger, Melinda Richter

Members Absent: Sabrina Wells, Fred Baer, Muriah Baker, Pam Simecka, Kathy Bohnhoff

Approval of Minutes – No changes to December 2008 and January 2009 minutes; both unanimously approved.

PDC – Marti reviewed the finalized schedule for both days (February 26-27) and reviewed hotel costs. Melinda is doing the evaluation form this year. The PDC Committee will meet the night before the conference (Feb 25) at 5:30 p.m. at the Capital Plaza Hotel to put bags together. We will need help with registration at the conference, so please get in touch with Marti. We decided that food for the breaks would be placed outside the rooms, so as not to cause interference and to get people leaving the room and moving around. The CEC then debated the merits of a membership scholarship for people that *don't* attend the 2009 PDC, but that attended last year, and even those that *never* attended a PDC. The CEC unanimously voted to approve a three-tiered scholarship system: (1) For 2009 PDC attendees, AGA will pay \$70; (2) for those that didn't attend the 2009 PDC, but that attended the 2008 PDC, AGA will pay \$45; and (3) for most everyone else, AGA will pay \$20. However, members must request the scholarship by the end of March in order to be eligible. The CEC also discussed the possibility of awarding points to people attending various AGA functions and then awarding scholarships based on the number of points earned.

PDC Social – Brandi noted that the theme of the Conference Social will be Mardi Gras. She and Melinda have purchased boas, hats, beads, ducks, crawfish, etc. They'll continue working on the specifics.

Treasurer's Report – Pam was absent.

Audio Conference – Linda noted that two people attended the January audio conference, one of whom was herself.

CGFM – Additional notices advertising the formation of a study group has not resulted in additional members. Currently, there are three people participating. Brandi noted that several ideas have been discussed as meeting locations. The library has two-hour rooms for up to four people that are available free of charge. However, unless our group gets larger it may just meet at one of the members house. We are on the State's list for the proclamation.

Early Careers – Melinda relayed that there will be no more early career PDC scholarships from National for the national Professional Development Conference in New Orleans this summer. There will be an early career regional conference call next week.

Community Service – The loose change program has raised \$39.28 thus far. We've gotten no responses for the call for VITA volunteers. Nickie has confirmed 80 door prizes for the Battered Women's Task Force raffle at the PDC.

Website – No changes.



Tips for Going Green at Work...

Submitted by: Muriah Baker

We can compost and conserve all we want at home. But as soon as we hit the office, we turn into triplicate-printing, paper-cup-squashing, run-our-computers-all-night-so-the-boss-thinks-we're-working earth befoilers. One office worker can use a quarter ton of materials in a year--which includes 10,000 pieces of copier paper. Heating, cooling and powering office space are responsible for almost 40% of carbon dioxide emissions in the U.S. and gobble more than 70% of total electricity usage. Commuters spew 1.3 billion tons of CO₂ a year. Computers in the office burn \$1 billion worth of electricity annually--and that's when they're not producing a lick of work. Takeuchi Cullen, Alicia. "Going Green at the Office." Time Magazine 7 June, 2007. <<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1630552-1,00.html>>

Listed below are tips for Going Green in the Workplace...

1. Print double-sided; most printers have the ability to set the default to double-sided printing.
2. Use the back side of old documents for faxes, scrap paper or drafts.
3. Think before you print (memos, reports, etc...); could this be read or stored online vs. printing?
4. When you receive unwanted catalogs, newsletters, magazines or junk mail, request to be removed from the mailing list.
5. Buy refillable pens and pencils.
6. Buy recycled paper products such as: printer paper, toilet paper and paper towels.
7. Place a Recycle Box under your desk to easily toss paper into instead of the trash can.
8. Create bins for plastic bottles, aluminum cans and other recyclables to be located in high traffic areas and break-rooms.
9. If at all possible, videoconference vs. traveling to meetings.
10. Bring your own coffee/tea cup and utensils for eating at work.
11. Turn computers off and the lights out when you leave for the day.
12. Set lights to timers, so they go off automatically.
13. Bring on the Plants...they improve prove air quality in the office, reduce stress and increase productivity.

Try to implement as many of these tips as possible in your workplace, even one or two will help the environment tremendously. We all need to do our part in creating a "Greener" environment!

AGA AUDIO CONFERENCE 4/8/09

The Future of Government Auditing—Which Direction(s) Are We Heading?

On April 8, 2009, AGA, in conjunction with the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT) and the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA), is pleased to announce a new and increasingly important topic to our audio conference schedule – the future of auditing. You may register NOW at the Topeka AGA Chapter website: <http://www.agaks.org/> This conference will be held in Lawrence at the KU Continuing Education building from 1:00pm - 3:00pm.

Auditing has evolved over the years with many different types of audits being developed— financial, performance, follow-up, managerial, operational, etc. Some believe auditors have become too cozy with the audited and have sacrificed their independence for cooperation and expediency, while others view auditing from a “gotcha” mentality whereby it is the role of the auditor to find as many things wrong as necessary and catch the bad guys.

Listen as a group of experienced, audit executives from each level of government address specific questions regarding the direction auditing is taking and what the audit industry must do to maintain its credibility. Learn the differences—and similarities—in the perspectives these experts bring to the table.

To share their practical experiences in auditing and views towards the future of auditing are **Jeanette M. Franzel**, CGFM, CPA, Director of Financial Management and Assurance, U.S. Government Accountability Office; **David R. Hancox**, CGFM, CIA, Audit Director, Office of the State Comptroller, State of New York; and **Drummond Kahn**, CGFM, CIA, Director of Audit Services, City of Portland, Oregon.

Please join us for two hours of lively discussion about this important and timely topic. In addition to the speaker’s commentary, there will be approximately 20 minutes for Q & A so that the participants can ask the speaker questions and share their own experiences.



If you have a topic or news item you wish to have included in the Topeka Register, please contact

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