

**Association of
Government
Accountants-
Topeka Chapter**

Topeka Register

**Volume Year
2008-2009**

April 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Audio Conference	2
Professional Lecture	2
AGA Social	3
Meeting Minutes	4
Members Only	4-5
Officers & Directors	7
Upcoming Events	8



Memberships in AGA

Our Membership Year in AGA ends each March 31st. With the end of that year, our organization goes through a massive effort to encourage members to renew their memberships. If you haven't already renewed, then you know that AGA has contacted you at least twice asking you to renew.

While that effort is underway by our organization, our members are going through the annual introspective arguments over the value of the membership. What is it that I get for being a member?

Nationally, AGA surveys indicate that the #1 reason members give for renewing is that they feel more connected to others in their profession through their membership. The activities sponsored through AGA give them opportunities to deviate from their daily routine within their organization and step into a bigger and broader world within the profession. Often we can get a little lost in the day-to-day routine, and, with the help of lectures, audio conferences, and social activities with others in the profession, we can break the routine and get a better perspective on our profession, our job, and our role in life.

Whether or not you participate in all, some, or none of these activities, you have a continuous feed of information at your fingertips through AGA. You can attend activities, participate as an officer at the Chapter level, or sit back and watch for what interests you. Much like other organizations can help with your social or spiritual growth or with your child's learning or sport's achievement, AGA can play an integral part in your professional growth.

I have been surprised by the number and strength of friendships I have found through AGA and the increased level of confidence they have given me in my career. I hope you take the opportunity to explore what AGA can do for you. Now is the time to start or renew your membership.

A Message From the President,
Walt Darling

Hooray, Hooray, Hooray!!!

The Topeka Chapter Website has received Honorable Mention by AGA National!
A big 'Thank You' to those that provide content to Walt, our Webmaster!



Special points of interest:

- Audio Conference
- Professional Lecture Series
- Upcoming Social
- Member Spotlight

Upcoming Audio Conference-Ethics in the Workplace May 13, 2009

On May 13, 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 significant audio conference addressing ethical challenges and dilemmas in today's work environment. We hope to make this program more interactive with your input. You may register at the Topeka AGA Chapter website: <http://www.agaks.org/> This conference will be held in Topeka at the KNEA building, 715 SW 10th Ave. from 1:00pm - 3:00pm.

This Ethics audio conference will be somewhat different from past programs. The speaker will discuss ethics in the workplace and will explain the thinking and under-

standing elements of ethical behavior. Real examples will be used as well as describing the differences between being ethical and legal. Other topics will include organizational tone with examples from the top of organizations, risk taking, the need for written policies, the requirement for uniform enforcement, and other requirements of the Federal code of ethics.

During the presentation, the speaker will answer your questions, submitted in advance of the program, and will provide guidance in various ethical situations. To accomplish this in an audio conference environment, participants are asked to submit written questions to Raymond Harris, CGFM at rharris@agacgfm.org by May 4 to give the speaker sufficient time to incorporate them into his presentation. This should make it a lively session which you should find helpful.

To discuss the ethics challenge is **Leon Young**, MA, adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Maryland, University Col-

lege. Leon is a motivational speaker for Leadership and Ethics throughout the United States. He is a recognized expert on Ethics in organizations in both the public and private sectors. Leon is a sought after keynote speaker for conferences and professional development workshops. He is known for his ability to present serious subjects with humor and to involve his audiences in the subject through interaction. Leon imparts both knowledge and understanding to his audience.

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 at the end of the program so that the participants can ask the speaker questions and share their own experiences during the show.



Professional Lecture Series 5/14/09—Jim Martin

"The Bankruptcy Option: Does the United Airlines Model Work for General Motors? "

Jim graduated in 1979 with a BBA in Accounting from Washburn University and received his master's in professional accounting (emphasis in taxation) from the University of Texas in 1983. He is also a CPA and worked in the CPA profession in Topeka (Mize Houser) and Dallas (Ernst and Young) for three years.

Prior to joining the Washburn faculty, Jim worked for 19 years at Westar Energy and managed the company's Regulatory, Finance, Strategic Planning, Investor Relations, Accounting, Treasury, and Corporate Development functions. He has testified extensively before the Kansas legislature and in regulatory proceedings at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Kansas Corporation Commission, Missouri Public Service Commission, and Oklahoma Corporation

Commission. Jim held the position of Senior Vice-president, Finance when he left Westar in 2001.

Jim joined the Washburn School of Business faculty in 2004. He lectures primarily in the areas of corporate finance, financial accounting, strategic management, and corporate taxation. He also teaches courses in mergers and acquisitions and managerial accounting in Washburn's MBA program and has published thirteen scholarly articles since joining the faculty. Jim's primary areas of research are in mergers and acquisitions, financial markets, and conflicts involving corporate law and ethics

Jim received Washburn's Dicus Excellence in Teaching Award in 2006, the 2007 Student Life Achieving Excellence Award, and in 2008 was named the Washburn Beta Gamma Sigma honoree. He is married and the father of four.

Government Accounting @
Washburn University is being
offered this fall on Mon/Wed at
7:00pm

Join Topeka AGA for an Evening of Fun and Laughter....



What: Topeka Civic Theatre Senior Class
(Improvistational Comedy Company)

When: Saturday, May 30th
Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Show begins at 8:00 p.m.

Where: 3028 SW 8th Avenue — Topeka

Who: AGA Topeka Chapter Members — the Chapter will pay ticket fee for members and one guest

Please RSVP by May 13th to Melinda.Richter@kbi.state.ks.us. A confirmation email will be sent back with additional details about the event.

Tickets are limited so please RSVP early!

MEMBERS ONLY...

**Please Help Us in Welcoming Our Newest AGA-Topeka
Chapter Members:**



**Rita Barnard
Jennifer Hanson
Debbie Kramer
Carroll Pessagno
Nancy Ruoff
Lori Threadgold
Katrina Yoakum**

**We are Pleased to Have You as New Members and Look
Forward to Seeing You at Upcoming AGA Events!**

It's not too late to renew your AGA membership or join the AGA-Topeka Chapter as a first timer. There are numerous benefits to becoming an AGA Member, here are just a few:

- Continuing Professional Education
- CGFM Certification
- Keep Up-to-Date on Current Issues
- Keep abreast of the latest technologies and financial systems
- Professional Guidance and Certification
- Committee involvement and awards/scholarships

Tap into AGA's network of 15,000 government accountability professionals. Through NASBA-certified conferences, classroom courses, training events, and online self-study, AGA and its chapter network deliver thousands of inexpensive continuing professional education hours each year.

The AGA-Topeka chapter will put you in contact with other government accountability professionals in your area. You'll get the chance to participate in social events, business meetings and educational seminars with other professionals who understand your concerns. Your AGA membership means you're part of a tremendous nationwide network.

Earn the recognition you deserve. You've put a lot of hard work into getting where you are today. Enhance your credentials as a government financial manager by choosing to have your unique skills and knowledge recognized through professional certification in AGA's Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) designation.

For membership information please contact Walter Darling at Walt.Darling@hotmail.com

Member Spotlight...

Each month, the Topeka Register will feature an AGA-Topeka Chapter Member. Please email Muriah.Baker@da.ks.gov with member information/bios/pictures that you would like featured in an upcoming Newsletter.



Hello All! My name is Muriah Baker, I am going on my 8th year of State Service; I am currently working for the Dept. of Administration-Sunflower Project as an Accounts Receivable/Billing Analyst. For those unfamiliar with the Sunflower Project, we are working towards implementing the Statewide Management, Accounting and Reporting Tool (SMART) for the State of Kansas. SMART is a new financial management system that will integrate the State's workforce, business processes and technology. Visit us at <http://www.da.ks.gov/smart/>.

I have had the pleasure of being the AGA-Newsletter Director for the past year. The AGA has given me the opportunity to meet a large number of Accountants throughout State and Local Government and has kept me up to date on current issues regarding Governmental Accounting. The AGA has also given me the opportunity to participate in the Professional Lecture Series and the Annual Professional Development Conference.

I am a married mother of three. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family, doing outdoor activities and playing in the occasional poker game.



AGA Topeka Chapter

Minutes of Chapter Executive Committee

Fox Ridge Clubhouse

March 11th, 2009

Submitted by Walt Darling

- **PDC** – Marti Leisinger and Pam Simecka gave the PDC overviews from both the operations side and the financial side. Marti felt the PDC went well with presentations staying on track during the two days, hotel meeting the requirements, many positive reviews on the environment and food.
After discussion, Walt proposed a committee to discuss the issues related to conferences this next year and bring recommendations back to the Board. Walt appointed Marti, Kathy, Nickie, and Walt to the committee and asked for volunteers to assist. Linda Farlow and Brandi Baer volunteered to participate on the committee. The charge to the committee is to brain-storm the issues involved, pull together possible options for conducting conferences this coming year, select a set of recommendations, and present those recommendations to the Board at an upcoming meeting.
- **Treasurer's Report** – Pam Simecka presented the Treasurer's Report and offered to respond to questions.
- **Membership Committee Director Report**—Walt reported that we have ended our current Membership Year with 91 members. He also noted that we had six new members join during the PDC that were not included in the numbers. Walt also mentioned that the email list had been updated, and, all email failures for which we received server failure notices have been resolved.
- **Social Committee Report**—Brandi moved that the Board adopt a social for the spring that would provide a free ticket for a member and one guest to the May 30 presentation by the "Senior Class" at the Topeka Civic Theatre. The number of tickets would be limited to 40. The Senior Class performs in the Oldfather Theatre. The doors open at 7:00 PM and the performance begins at 8:00 PM.
- **Audio Conference Committee Chair Report**—Linda Farlow indicated that the next Audio Conference would be April 8th and would be held in Lawrence. She has talked with Gina Cregg and provided a .pdf file to her so she could pass the word around campus that this conference would be available locally.
- **Certification Committee Chair Report Study Group** – Brandi informed the Board that the Study Group will begin meeting this month. The first meeting will be held at Brandi's house on March 25.
- **Proclamations** – Brandi has received the official proclamation from the State of Kansas.
- **Early Careers Committee Chair Report**—Walt mentioned that Melinda, Brandi, and he had talked with some of the younger PDC participants about forming an Early Career Group to discuss various topics of interest to the group and to solicit from them ideas and suggestions as to how the Chapter can facilitate greater fulfillment in their careers.
- **Community Service Committee Report**—The loose change program has raised \$39.28 thus far. The Chapter raised \$350 for the Battered Women's Task Force at the PDC.
- **Website** – The Chapter exceeded its allocation of server space provided by INK. Walt sent a letter to INK requesting that they increase the size of the allocation and they approved the increase in space.
- **Nominating Committee**—Walt reported that the Nominating Committee has met and has reviewed comments received in response to a letter last month to Board Members requesting their status as Board Members and any requests for positions they would like to make prior to the Nominating Committee making any decisions.

2008-2009 Topeka Chapter Officers

President	Walter Darling	Walt.Darling@hotmail.com
President Elect	Marti Leisinger	Marti.Lesinger@co.shawnee.ks.us
Secretary	Scott Alisogu	salisogu@topeka.org
Treasurer	Pam Simecka	psimecka@topeka.org
Past President	Sabrina Wells	swells@ksinsurance.org

Chapter Directors

Professional Lecture Series	Sabrina Wells	swells@ksinsurance.org
Community Service	Nickie Roberts	nrobe10262@aol.com
Web Master	Walter Darling	Walt.Darling@hotmail.com
CGFM Coordinator	Brandi Baer	Brandi.Baer@ksracing.org
Audio Conference	Linda Farlow	lfarlow@kshs.org
Newsletter	Muriah Baker	Muriah.Baker@da.ks.gov
Early Careers	Melinda Richter	Melinda.Richter@kbi.state.ks.us
By-Laws	Fred Baer	Fred.Baer@washburn.edu
Chapter Recognition	Kathy Bohnhoff	Kathymalli@cox.net



	Budget										Amount over or under	
	2008-2009	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Year to Date Actual	Budget
Receipts:												
Interest Earnings		-	-	3.77	-	-	3.78	-	-	3.70	11.25	11.25
Chapter Meetings (PLS)	3,000.00	210.00	320.00	275.00	120.00	300.00	-	590.00	-	205.00	2,010.00	(990.00)
Audio Conferences			60.00	100.00	40.00	-	175.00	-	-	15.00	390.00	390.00
PDC Current Year	24,000.00						1,670.00	3,250.00	9,180.00	820.00	14,900.00	(9,100.00)
PDC Current Year Sponsors	2,800.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250.00	250.00	(2,350.00)
PDC Prior Year												-
PDC Prior Year Sponsors												-
Day Training	1,350.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,350.00)
National Awards						165.00	-	-	-	-	165.00	165.00
Donations for Charities	1,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	313.00	-	-	350.00	663.00	(337.00)
Memberships	1,000.00	-	20.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	800.00	820.00	(180.00)
Other/Reimb	500.00	223.08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	223.08	(276.94)
Subtotal Receipts	33,450.00	433.08	400.00	378.77	160.00	465.00	2,161.78	3,830.00	9,180.00	2,443.70	19,432.31	(14,017.69)
Disbursements:												
Chapter Meetings (PLS)	4,000.00	337.57	112.00	232.00	192.00	269.10	397.14	-	182.23	1,722.04	2,277.96	
Exec. Committee Meetings	800.00	57.72	73.21	73.35	-	141.58	41.42	64.42	-	451.70	348.30	
Memberships	3,000.00	-	90.00	-	-	-	-	-	1,490.00	1,580.00	1,420.00	
Audio Conferences			1,270.20	-	-	42.55	-	-	-	1,312.75	(1,312.75)	
Training Events	1,350.00	-	-	-	-	510.00	-	-	-	510.00	840.00	
PDC Prior Year												-
PDC Current Year	25,000.00	-	-	105.07	-	70.71	-	2,820.22	9,514.82	12,510.82	12,489.18	
National PDC	1,500.00	2,082.00	131.98	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,213.98	(713.98)	
Community Service	1,000.00	-	-	200.00	-	-	-	773.14	-	350.00	1,323.14	(323.14)
Scholarship- CGFM	200.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200.00	
Scholarship- Universities												-
Picnic/Holiday Social	1,500.00	-	-	126.58	-	403.05	363.67	66.68	-	959.96	540.04	
Awards									41.91	41.91	(41.91)	
General Operating Expenses	750.00	-	-	2.87	-	16.32	-	106.00	-	125.19	624.81	
	39,100.00	2,477.29	1,877.39	739.85	192.00	1,453.31	983.67	4,204.80	9,579.24	2,064.14	22,751.49	16,348.51
Prior Year Ending Cash Balance	7,701.18											
Beginning Cash Balance	7,701.18	7,808.21	5,581.98	4,284.59	3,919.74	3,887.74	2,899.43	4,697.54	4,322.94	3,903.70		
Outstanding Liabilities Neutralized	94.87			(3.77)								
Current Month Net Difference	(5,550.00)	(2,044.23)	(1,277.39)	(361.09)	(32.00)	(988.31)	1,798.11	(374.60)	(419.24)	379.56	(3,319.18)	
Transfers from Savings												
Ending Cash Balance		5,561.98	4,284.59	3,919.74	3,887.74	2,899.43	4,697.54	4,322.94	3,903.70	4,283.26		
Outstanding Liabilities												
Unencumbered Balance		5,561.98	4,284.59	3,919.74	3,887.74	2,899.43	4,697.54	4,322.94	3,903.70	4,283.26		
Cash Balance Consists of:												
Checking Account	7,701.18	5,561.98	4,508.94	4,157.59	3,887.74	2,951.31	4,816.47	4,318.16	8,076.33	3,251.58		
Savings Account (1/30/06)	7,524.00	7,524.00	7,524.00	7,526.50	7,526.50	7,526.50	7,530.28	7,530.28	7,530.28	7,533.98		
0.24% Interest				3.77								
CD - 03 (12/19/2008)	5,735.13	5,735.13	5,735.13	5,735.13	5,735.13	5,735.13	5,735.13	5,735.13	5,735.13	5,735.13		
4.11 % Interest	96.46											

2008—2009 Financial Report

The Topeka Chapter's monthly financial report reflects payment for memberships for persons attending the Professional Development Conference and some of those that took advantage of the scholarships offered by the Chapter for members that didn't get the opportunity to participate in the Conference.

Join us on LinkedIn!

16 Topeka Chapter members have already joined the "AGA Topeka Chapter Group" through LinkedIn. This site is free to join and provides the ability to open discussions with our members. Please sign up for LinkedIn and join our Chapter's Group.



Topeka Chapter Address:
P.O. Box 206
Topeka, KS 66601-0206

Webmaster Email:
Walt_Darling@hotmail.com

Advancing Government Accounting

Visit us on the Web...
www.agaks.org

Chapter Mission...

The mission of the Topeka Chapter is "TO FACILITATE THE PROFESSIONAL GROWTH OF GOVERNMENTAL FINANCE/ ACCOUNTING/BUDGET/AUDIT STAFF THROUGH EDUCATION, PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITY, AND NETWORKING."

Mark Your Calendars...Upcoming AGA Events:

Professional Development Conference

June 21-24, 2009

Jazzing It Up: Best Practices in Government Accountability
New Orleans, LA

Performance Management Conference

November 5-6, 2009

Seattle, WA



The AGA-Topeka Chapter has received the 2009 CGFM Governors Proclamation! A big 'CONGRATS' to our CGFM Coordinator, Brandi Baer for her hard work and dedication!

Help us Celebrate...Our 29th Anniversary



The Topeka Chapter of AGA celebrates its 29th Anniversary this year. We welcome you to attend our activities and see for yourself why this organization has remained the most significant leader in Kansas government. We would like to thank all those hardworking individuals that have spent countless hours developing the programs that have made this organization so successful.