

**Association of
Government
Accountants-
Topeka Chapter**

Topeka Register

Volume Year 2008-2009

August 2009

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Please join myself, other AGA members and friends at our Summer social on August 28th. It will be a great opportunity to network and just relax with friends; the whole family is invited. There will be great food, drink, music, conversation and possibly some dancing. Please see additional information on page 6.

Our local chapter is in a time of transition. The poor economy has created many challenges for all of us, even AGA. We need your support now more than ever!

From the President,

Marti Leisinger

Special points of interest:

- Member Spotlight
- Awards
- AGA Social

Conference Sept. 2nd, 2009 “Current Government Policies Effect on Personal Finance”

On September 2, 2009, the Topeka Chapter will hold a half day conference at the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library from 10:30am – 3:00pm. The conference will begin with a presentation from Anthony Blanco and Jared Gwin, Registered Representatives from the Capital Financial Group. The topic will be on “Current Government Policies Effect on Personal Finance”. Following lunch a two hour audio seminar on grants management is offered in conjunction with the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT) and the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA). Grants administrators operate in a dynamic and complex environment. They face an ever-growing list of compliance issues, closely scrutinized by internal and external auditors. The American Reinvestment

and Recovery Act has raised the “compliance bar” with additional reporting and accountability requirements. State and local governments, not-for-profits and education and research grant administrators are struggling to untangle, interpret and manage the growing list of requirements that comes with the flow of federal dollars. The presenters will cover some of the recent changes related to grant regulations and begin to sort out the new reporting and compliance requirements related to grant funding. These requirements are not only important for grant administrators to know, but for auditors, accountants and other financial

accountability professionals to understand. To share their practical experiences in grants management are Thomas A. Cooley, MS, Chief Financial Officer and Director, Office of Budget, Finance and Awards, National Science Foundation; W. Scott Erwin, CGFM, CRA, Director, Office of Sponsored Programs, Texas State University – San Marcos; and Joseph L. Kull, CGFM, CPA, Director, PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP. Please join us! You may register NOW at the Topeka AGA Chapter website: <http://www.agaks.org/>



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program—VITA

VITA is probably one of the most rewarding programs, next to my India mission work, that I've had the opportunity to work on. It was the Topeka AGA that gave me the volunteer bug about 10 years ago. I appreciate the fact that my chapter continues to let me serve as a VITA volunteer, although I am living and working in Leavenworth. Each year we assist between 350 to 500 low income families with preparing their federal and state tax returns. I've been doing this so long that somehow I let an IRS agent talk me into being in charge of a mobile site. I am blessed to have 4 of the most outstanding and committed volunteers (all former accountants) in the state. Equipped with IRS provided laptops and printers our site processes 99% of our returns electronically, including Homestead. The program has afforded me the opportunity to learn how to manage and oversee the preparation, quality control, the actual E-Filing, and when necessary, the correction of rejected tax returns. The one thing that is certain about VITA is that you will get the opportunity to file multiple out of state tax returns. In this last year, we E-Filed 99% of our Federal and State tax returns. Despite the professional development opportunities associated with filing tax returns, the absolute most rewarding aspect of volunteering is that you get to see the sincere appreciation in the eyes of the folks you are helping; it gives purpose.

Kevin E. Gullet

For information on how you can volunteer for VITA please visit the IRS at: <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=119845,00.html>

Community Service

Community Service has had a fantastic year and thanks to the members that helped by being involved in the many needs of our community.

I want to send a special thanks to Kevin Gullett for his many hours with Leavenworth County VITA Program.

We have started a loose change program this year and will continue through the June membership meeting. As of this date, we have collect \$45.63 for the Topeka Rescue Mission.

Future Events and Dates to remember:



The Race Against Breast Cancer is scheduled for September 19th at Washburn University. The race will benefit those in our community who do not have insurance coverage for mammograms. You may volunteer to fill race packets on Thursday, September 17th, early registration on Friday evening, September 18th and the race will be held that Saturday morning. Early registrations are \$20. If you plan in participating, AGA will pay half of your early registration (\$10) if you submit the registration to me by September 5th for the first 10. Please make your check for \$10 payable to RABC. For more information please visit their website at: <http://www.rabctopeka.org/>



The American Heart Walk will be held on October 3rd at Shawnee Lake. For more information please visit their website at: <http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3053039>

These are two local races that you may volunteer at or run/walk.

If you have any questions or suggestions of future community service projects, please contact me. Thank you for your time and involvement in giving back to those in need.

Nickie Roberts
Community Service Director

MEMBERS ONLY...

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



Nancy Lawrence
Alice Yang

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



Walt Darling, of the Topeka Chapter, was recognized for his service efforts as the Regional Coordinator for Education within the Mid-Western Region. The National AGA stated, "In recognition of Mr. Darling's dedication to improving communication among chapters in the region, and helping them find top quality speakers, upcoming educational opportunities and cost-effective training events."



Melinda Richter, of the Topeka Chapter, was recognized for her service efforts as the Regional Coordinator for Early Careers within the Mid-Western Region. The National AGA stated, "In recognition of Ms. Richter's enthusiasm and energy in motivating chapters to organize new activities to attract young professionals."

Only two awards were presented this year by AGA for service efforts of its Regional Coordinators. Both awards were presented to Regional Coordinators within the Mid-Western Region, and, both from the Topeka Chapter!

Member Spotlight...



Pam Simecka

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.

Pam is the City of Topeka Controller and also serves as Assistant Finance Director for the City. Pam has her CPA and her Masters in Public Administration from Kansas University. A few years ago she received her certification as a Certificate Governmental Finance Manager through the AGA program.

Pam started with the City of Topeka in 2004 as business manager in the Water Pollution Control Division. She was promoted to Controller in September 2007.

Prior to coming to the City of Topeka, Pam taught accounting and business classes for Highland Community College. She was also a partner in a gift and copy center business with her husband, which they operated for 25 years.

She is married to Gary Simecka and they have one daughter, Jennifer.



You're Invited to the Topeka AGA Chapter
Luau

When: Friday, August 28th, 2009 at 5:30 pm
Where: 1235 NW 39th Street

The whole family is invited!!!

Food, Drink & Music will
be provided.

RSVP to brandi.baer@krgc.ks.gov by Aug. 25, 2009

2008-2009 Topeka Chapter Officers

President	Marti Leisinger	Marti.Lesinger@co.shawnee.ks.us
President Elect	Marshall Kennedy	mkennedy@kcva.org
Secretary		
Treasurer	Susan James	sjames@kshousingcorp.org

Chapter Directors

Professional Lecture Series	Sandra Dreasher	dreashe@cox.net
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	Lori Threadgold	lthreadgold@kshousingcorp.org
Awards, By-Laws & History	Fred Baer	fredbaerjob@yahoo.com
Chapter Recognition	Linda Clark	lclark@kfda.org
Membership	Melinda Richter	Melinda.Richter@kbi.state.ks.us



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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:

2009 Fraud Conference

Sept. 16–17, 2009, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.

Performance Management Conference

November 5-6, 2009

Seattle, WA

Great Job Topeka AGA Chapter...

The Topeka Chapter was presented the Website Award. The Topeka Chapter was recognized this year for the web site's comprehensive presentation of information to it's members." The Award is the second time the Topeka Chapter has been recognized for its website. The Chapter also received a website award in 2006.

The Topeka Chapter was presented the Platinum Award for its service to its members. The Platinum Award is the highest level award available through AGA. To receive this level award, the Chapter must amass more than 19,750 points. The Chapter is awarded points by AGA on the basis of participation by members in it's educational activities, the number and content of it's newsletters, the level of participation by members in community service activities, efforts on behalf of its Early Career Members, and support of the CGFM certification. This year, the Topeka Chapter accumulated more than 29,000 points.