



Topeka Register

2009/2010
January 2010

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From the President...

Thanks to all those nearly 60 persons that attended our January Lecture. We tried an old location (the Jayhawk Tower) that now has a new restaurant owner (Brickyard Barn Inn & Catering). We would like to hear your opinion of the location and the food. Being located in the heart of the downtown business district, they are easy to find and parking is usually available in the Capitol parking garage. The Jayhawk Tower has some flexibility in the space available and we needed that for this larger group.

Whether you work in State government or in local government like me, the flow of dollars from the federal level, through State government to State agencies, counties, non-profits, or municipalities, is critical to maintain services at the high level expected by our customers. When the State runs low on cash, they sweep funds from agencies, reduce funding for non-profits, and reduce or eliminate transfers to local units of government. Thus, it is important to realize that we are all in this together. AGA provides a great vehicle for including staff from all levels of government in the discussions on how we are going to make ends meet.

More to Come

We have an exciting line-up of activities scheduled for this year. Our Professional Lecture Series will be continued on a monthly basis and we have added Seminars of 8 CPE each in March and May. The March Seminar will be held in Lawrence, so those of you in Topeka or Kansas City, please consider the short drive to join us for an in-depth look at fraud in government.

Our May Seminar is focused on Ethics, and will have a number of speakers to challenge your thoughts on what is and what is not ethical. This 8-hour CPE Seminar will give you an opportunity to gain new insight into the changing definition of "Ethics."

Marti Leisinger



Have you made your New Year's Resolution yet?

It's not too late; consider getting involved in your Topeka Chapter of AGA! This is a great opportunity to stretch your leadership legs and create contacts (and friends) in your field of work. There are many opportunities to get involved, either serving on a committee, or on a community service project; filling a chair position for 2010-11 and attend the Sectional Leadership Meeting in Kansas City or simply by providing topic or speaker ideas for upcoming meetings. Your input and participation is critical to our chapter's growth and success. To find out how you can participate please contact Melinda Richter, Chapter Membership Chair at Melinda.Richter@kbi.state.ks.us.

Notes from the Mid-Western Region

Regional Leadership

In a conference call on January 15, 2010, the Regional Leadership identified the following topics of interest.

Regional Officer to Visit Topeka

Catherine Dames Maydew, RVP-Elect, will attend the Topeka Chapter Conference on March 3 in Lawrence.

Early Career

The National Organization has established February as “Early Career” month. Local Chapters are encouraged to organize special events to involve early career members.

Web-Site

The Mid-Western Region now has its own web site. The address is: www.agamidwestern.org. The site was established this month

and will have additional features added over the next several months.

Sectional Leadership

Meeting

This year’s sectional meeting will be held in Kansas City. The national organization will pay expenses for four officers from each chapter to attend. This is a great time to volunteer to become an officer on your local board.

Sectional Leadership Meeting

The **AGA Sectional Leadership Meeting** is currently in the works. What is the SLM? It’s an opportunity for **YOU** to take a roll in leadership, and National AGA gives you all the tools to be successful.

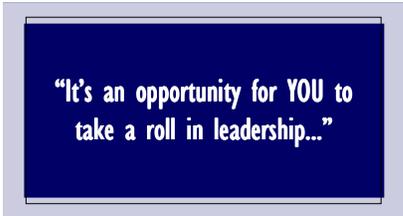
National pays for 4 people to attend the SLM: the Chapter President-Elect, the Membership Committee Chair, the Early Career Chair, the Education Chair, and/or the CGFM chair.

In two jam packed,

fun days they provide the basics of AGA’s structure and tools, and they provide breakout sessions with people that lead at the Regional level to teach the best practices of each position. You get to meet all the folks that work in the national office who are a huge resource; and you get to meet the people in our region and across the nation! Best of all, you get to know your Topeka Chapter co-chairs so you can

hit the ground running together for a great year.

This year’s meeting will be held May 14th and 15th in our very own Kansas City. It will be held at the Embassy Suites Kansas City Airport. Again, National AGA pays for the entire stay so no travel budget is needed! If you are interested in serving the Topeka Chapter AGA in a chair position for 2010-11 or any other position please contact Marti Leisinger, at Marti.Leisinger@co.shawnee.ks.us



Annual Presentation by Budget Director January 21st

Budget Director Duane Goossen Presented the case for the Governor’s 2011 Budget Proposal. That proposal suggests that the passage of a 1-cent sales tax will prevent the State from cutting budgets beyond the cuts that have been made to date.

Duane noted that the Governor is concerned that little more can logically be cut because the bulk of the budget is in education. Following lawsuits that increased education funding, the State risks stepping back into the issues

determined by the Supreme Court, and, reverse funding improvements made over the past several years. In addition, cuts below the 2006 level could result in the federal government demanding a return of stimulus moneys already spent by the State.

Duane did not discuss the cuts in the budget that are mandated under state law, as the Governor is required to present a budget financed solely within existing state law—thus prohibiting the Governor from building a budget from

“new” sources of revenue. It would have been interesting to also hear what cuts were proposed should the new tax not pass.

Our thanks to Duane for a stimulating discussion on a critical topic.



Barbara J. Hinton, Legislative Auditor to Speak February 11

Ms. Hinton has been with Legislative Post Audit—the audit arm of the Kansas Legislature—since 1977, and was appointed as Legislative Auditor in 1991. Her office primarily conducts performance audits of State agencies and programs and local school districts, focusing in more recent years on efficiency and cost-savings issues.

Ms. Hinton has been very active in the audit community. She served 3 years on

the GAO’s Government Auditing Standards Advisory Council, has been President of the National State Auditors Association, is in-line to become the President of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers, has Chaired NSAA’s Performance Audit Committee, and is Chair of the Mid-America Intergovernmental Audit Forum.

Ms. Hinton also has made numerous presentations to national, regional, and

local audit and accounting groups, both professional and academic, and has conducted numerous training workshops on performance auditing across the country.



AGA Professional Ethics Board

MISSION

The mission of the Professional Ethics Board is to elevate the awareness of and disseminate information on ethics issues for AGA members and for individuals who hold the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) designation and for their employers.

This AGA Board is charged with the following tasks:

1. Maintaining and interpreting AGA’s Code of Ethics.
2. Overseeing the investigation and

disposition of alleged violations of the Code of Ethics.

3. Providing information to AGA members and to individuals who hold the CGFM on ethics issues.
4. Assisting the Office of Education and Research in providing ethics training.
5. Promoting an ethics’ perspective in AGA publications and at AGA educational events.

The Board is established with nine members of which two must be from the Federal Service and two must represent

State/Local Government. The other members provide special expertise or geographic representation.

As a part of this Mission, AGA publishes “Ask Leon,” a question and answer section on Ethics in the *Journal of Government Financial Management*. Please feel free to forward to Leon, any questions or scenario’s that portray an Ethical situation you would like an opinion on. This is a free service of your AGA.

Walt Darling, Member
AGA Ethics Board

Summary of Our Chapter Leadership Meeting

Our CEC (Chapter Executive Committee) meeting was held January 12, 2010.

FINANCES. Susan James updated the Board on the state of our finances, which was good. She noted that she had completed paperwork with the Secretary of State’s Office to ensure our Corporate Identity.

LECTURES / SEMINARS. Sandra Dreasher explained the location and format for the Jan. 21st Lecture. We have the Florentine Room at the Jayhawk Tower and Brickyard Barn will provide the food. Gina Cregg is arranging for the March 3 Seminar in Lawrence.

AUDIO. Linda Farlow indicates prepara-

tions are complete for our Audio lecture on March 3. She also noted that AGA has now implemented an automated method of providing CPE forms.

CGFM. Brandi Baer is soliciting the CGFM designation from the State and local governments in this area.

Community Service. Nickie Roberts noted we raised the largest amt ever for Toys-4-Tots at our Holiday Party (\$525). Please continue to collect motel sample bottles and pop can tabs.

CHAPTER RECOGNITION. Linda Clark explained the recent submission of “points” to national identifying the work undertaken by the Topeka Chapter to support the mission of AGA.

EARLY CAREER. Lori Threadgold presented her new baby to the ooh’s and aah’s of the group. Lori is planning to work with the local universities to put together a working group of students.

MEMBERSHIP. Melinda Richter announced that our membership was up by five persons. This after losing approx. 20 persons to the economic troubles.

RECRUITING NEW BOARD MEMBERS. Marti Leisinger, President, noted that it is time to fill a slate of officers and directors for next year’s board. It is proposed that we again solicit volunteers from our membership.

2009/2010 Officers and Directors

OFFICERS

Marti Leisinger, President
Marti.Leisinger@co.shawnee.ks.us

Walter Darling, Immediate Past President
& Web Site Director
Walt_Darling@hotmail.com

Marshall Kennedy, President-Elect
mkennedy@kcva.org

Susan James, Treasurer
sjames@kshousingcorp.org

Alice Yang, Secretary
Alice.Yang@srs.ks.gov

DIRECTORS

Sandra Dreascher, Professional Lecture Series
dreashe@cox.net

Nickie Roberts, Community Service
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Fred Baer & Nickie Roberts, Awards
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Melinda Richter, Membership
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Fred Baer, Bylaws & History
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Brandi Baer, CGFM
Brandi.Baer@ksracing.org

Linda Farlow, Audio Conferences
lfarlow@kshs.org

Lori Threadgold, Early Careers
lthreadgold@kshousingcorp.com

Linda Clark, Chapter Recognition
lclark@kdfa.com

Please feel free to contact any of the above persons if you have any questions.

Chapter Mission...

"TO FACILITATE THE PROFESSIONAL GROWTH OF GOVERNMENTAL FINANCE/ACCOUNTING/BUDGET/AUDIT STAFF THROUGH EDUCATION, PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITY, AND NETWORKING."



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Advancing Government

Accountability

Visit us on the Web
at www.agaks.org



Mark Your Calendars...

Upcoming AGA Events:

2010 Professional Lecture Series

February 11, 2010

Barbara Hinton, Kansas State Auditor
Jayhawk Tower—Senate Room

2010 Professional Development Seminar

March 3, 2010—Lawrence, Kansas

- KU Continuing Education Center
- Eight-Hour CPE

2010 Professional Lecture Series

April 20, 2010

2010 Professional Development Seminar

May 19, 2010

Eight-Hour CPE

2010 Professional Lecture Series

June 10, 2010

2010 Professional Development Conference

Location: Orlando World Center Marriott

Conference: July 11-14, 2010

EXPO: July 11-13, 2010

