



Topeka Register

Association of Government Accountants
PO Box 206, Topeka, KS 66601-0206

February 2012



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Newsletter

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Bylaws—Vacant



President's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer than usual winter that we have been having. To have so many days above freezing is okay with me. I can't believe that Spring and March are almost here. With March comes the time to renew your memberships. If you have not gotten your membership notice, don't despair, just go on line to the national website and follow the links to memberships. Use your member ID number and your AGA password to log on to the website. If you need additional info. Click on "Chapter Resources" in the blue header at the top of the page. Once there select "Meeting Video". We encourage members to renew their membership and certificates online.

However we do take telephone and check payments. Please remember to include the member name and ID on the checks (Mail Checks ONLY to PO Box 5146, Washington, DC 20061-5146). Don't forget to sign up as a Topeka Chapter member as well. We are still one of the few chapters that do not charge extra dues.

AGA continues to be the thought leader for advancing government accountability. Government agencies seek AGA's assistance with education and work force development, research projects and strategic analysis. AGA's role as a neutral third party brings professionals together to discuss tough challenges, such as the future of federal financial management. For the second year, AGA hosted the Federal Financial Systems Summit. More than 375 government executives and private sector leaders met with top officials from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Treasury to discuss current activities influencing the future direction of financial systems and accountability. I am excited about these events and more that are planned and what we are doing locally.

I want to start having financial systems summits here in Kansas. I am trying to get a re-occurring event scheduled. We would talk about accrual accounting, moving around in management systems and reports. If you have any ideas or would like to discuss, I am available and hope to announce an event soon. If you have any questions please contact me.

We have two events scheduled in March; one is here in Topeka (Speaker only) and one is an all-day event in Lawrence. We have a good line up of speakers and good topics. We are offering to reimburse for AGA membership if you sign-up that day. So it is a great bargain.

Training Calendar

March 14, 2012 – Professional lecture series at Jayhawk Tower.

Speaker: **Scott Bruner**

March 28, 2012—All-day Professional Development Seminars in Lawrence, Kansas

April 11, 2012 – Professional lecture series at Jayhawk Tower.

Speaker: **Nick Jordan**, Department of Revenue.

May 9, 2012 – Professional lecture series TBD at Jayhawk Tower.

May 23, 2012—All-day Professional Development Seminars in Topeka, Kansas

June 13, 2012 – Professional lecture series TBD at Jayhawk Tower.

The lecture held on **February 8, 2012** will be rescheduled due to events beyond our control. As soon as we know the date, we will let you know.



Apply for 2012 National Academic Scholarships

Are you or a family member pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in disciplines such as accounting, auditing, budgeting, economics, finance, information technology, public administration, etc.? If so, consider applying for an AGA National Academic Scholarship today!

Each year, AGA National awards:

- Up to four \$3,000 full-time merit scholarships to AGA members and their family members,
- Up to two \$1,000 part-time merit scholarships to AGA members and their family members

The **deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, March 30, 2012**. Apply now and take full advantage of your AGA membership.

Contact Linda Farlow at lfarlow2@cox.net for an application. Please note which applications you are requesting: high school, undergraduate or graduate application.

Membership Renewal: Renew by Mail or Online

Annual membership and CGFM renewal packets should be arriving in mailboxes the second week in February. Members don't have to wait--renew online today. Please use this quick and easy renewal method.

How to Renew Online: Access the [AGA website](#) and click AGA Login on the right top corner of the screen. Log in using your membership ID number and password (your first initial followed by your last name, no spaces), click on the gray billing button above your name. All you have to do is input your credit card information and hit submit. The transaction will automatically process via a secure server and the renewal information will be automatically updated in AGA's in-house membership system.

While you are logged into the Members Only section, be sure to look at your contact information and make any updates (especially your e-mail address). If you have any questions, contact AGA at 703.684.6931 or 800.AGA.7211 or Linda Farlow at lfarlow2@cox.net.

News of Note

Marti Leisinger was named the Mid-West Region Regional Vice-President Elect-Designate for AGA. This is a three year position.

Russell Shipley passed the Certified Fraud Examiners exam and has added the CFE to his CPA designation.

If you know of any accomplishments or acknowledgements that you would like to share, please email me at rshipley@btandcocpa.com to get them into the next newsletter.

Community Service Update



Topeka Rescue Mission

The Topeka Rescue Mission was founded in 1953. Their executive director, Barry Feaker, has been at the Mission since 1986. If anyone has met or listened to Barry speak, one would be grateful for the good that happens in Topeka.

Topeka Rescue Mission is dedicated to providing food, shelter, clothing, training and most importantly, hope to the homeless and impoverished.

The shelter in 2011, has provided shelter to 2,201 people, a 19 percent increase from 2010. Some nights there has been as many as 350 a night, the need to move cots into the shelter each night.

For the next few months, we will be collecting loose change during our membership meetings. At any time, you may donate food or clothing to help those in need.

Additional information can be found on their web site.

<http://www.trmonline.org/>

Remember those less fortunate and reach out your hand to help.

Nickie Roberts, Community Service Chair

Free Income Tax Assistance provided for individuals and families with low - moderate incomes. Their schedule can be found at www.shawnee.ksu.edu

This is provided by volunteers from AARP and VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance).

Community Service Upcoming Events

Ronald McDonald House
Year Round
Metal Tab Collection

Please watch your email for more information about these events or contact
Nickie Roberts.

Accounting Corner

3 Reasons for Improper Payments

Administrative and Documentation Errors—Incorrect computations, onset dates and earnings history.

Authentication and Medical Necessity Errors—Relationship/dependency errors and failure to report cessation of full-time attendance for students

Verification and Local Administration Errors—Non-verification of earnings, income or work status. Inputting, classifying or processing applications or payments incorrectly.

Difference Between Fraud and Abuse

The difference between fraud and abuse is generally just one degree. An act of fraud requires an actual intent to deceive someone else deliberately. If services or payments are obtained by telling lies, falsifying documents, or otherwise intentionally misrepresenting the truth, the activity is fraudulent. Abuse is generally considered a lesser offense and usually refers to "incidents and practices" that directly or indirectly cause financial losses

The mission of the Topeka Chapter is "To facilitate the professional and personal growth of Government Accountability Staff (finance / accounting / budget / audit), and their private sector colleagues, through education and certification, professional opportunity, and networking."

Visit AGA on the Web!

National AGA
www.agacgm.org

Topeka Chapter
www.agaks.org

