



## Calendar of Events

### Boston Chapter

#### January 20, 2005

Winter Seminar at the Volpe Center, Cambridge, MA

John McKeever will present on *COSO: A Tool for Fraud Identification and Prevention*. (7 CPE)

#### February 17, 2005

Winter Workshop

*Check 21 and E-Pay* (4 CPE)

#### March 15, 2005

Regional Professional Development Conference at Bentley College, Waltham, MA (8 CPE)

#### April 21, 2005

Chapter Lunch Meeting

*Security Briefing Update for the Airport and Seaport* presented by Massport (1 CPE)

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## *COSO: A Tool for Fraud Identification and Prevention*

### Winter Seminar on January 20, 2005

**COSO: A Tool for Fraud Identification and Prevention** will develop an understanding of how adequate and systemic internal controls can minimize the risks and exposures of a business while improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the operations.

*The Winter Seminar is a joint training with the Greater Boston Chapter of Certified Fraud Examiners.*

Topics discussed will include the basics of internal controls, the Treadway Commission's Committee of Sponsoring Organization Integrated Control Framework (COSO), and the Federal Sentencing Guideline.

*(Directions to the John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center on Page 7)*

**John McKeever, CFE, CQA, CPC, CBC, CCSA** is the President of Contemporary Business Concepts. In addition, he has served as an Operations Manager, Consultant, Instructor, and on the audit staff of AT&T. During his fifteen years in the audit department of AT&T, he conducted and led a wide range of audits and consulting projects. These included numerous audits and projects

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Winter Seminar

### Date

Thursday, January 20, 2005

### CPE

7.0 CPE hours

### Time

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. Registration  
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Program  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch Break\*  
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Program

### Place

John A Volpe Center, 55 Broadway, Cambridge, MA  
(It is across the street from the Kendall Square stop on the MBTA Red Line.)

### Price\*

Members: \$60 and Non-members: \$75

### Registration

You can register by contacting Howard Olsher, CGFM at 617-727-6200 or online at [www.aga-boston-chapter.org](http://www.aga-boston-chapter.org).

\*Please Note: Lunch is not included. The John A. Volpe Center has a cafeteria and there are restaurants nearby.

### Registration Deadline

January 13, 2005

## President's Message

Happy New Year 2005!

Have you made your New Year's resolutions yet? I hope you included attending one or more of the upcoming chapter events! We've planned a number of timely sessions over the next few months.

On January 20, 2005, we'll host our annual Winter Seminar at the Volpe Center in Cambridge, MA. (Directions are located on page 7.) I'm pleased to announce that the Winter Seminar is a joint training with the Greater Boston Chapter of Certified Fraud Examiners. The all-day seminar features John McKeever who will present "COSO: A Tool for Fraud Identification and Prevention" and attendees will earn 7 CPEs.

On February 17, 2005, we'll sponsor a half-day Winter Workshop on "Check 21" and "E-Pay." (There'll be more details in next month's newsletter.)

Our annual Regional PDC is on March 15, 2005 at Bentley College in Waltham, MA. As in the past, we'll offer a choice of 5 tracks in the morning and 5 in the afternoon. Bobby Derrick, AGA's National President will be our keynote speaker.

On April 21, 2005 Massport personnel will present on airport and seaport security at a chapter lunch meeting.

And, our Annual Awards Dinner is on May 12, 2005 at Maggiano's Little Italy. We'll present the Chapter awards and scholarships at this time.

I hope to see you at one or more of our upcoming events. And thanks to everyone who joined us for the annual holiday charity luncheon on December 9th.

Thirty-two members and friends joined in the festivities at Maggiano's Little Italy. A volunteer from Christmas in the City spoke about the organization's mission and also shared some personal experiences. I'd like to thank everyone who donated to the gift drive, brought a prize for the raffle table, and/or purchased raffle tickets. You helped to brighten a homeless family's holiday. The funds raised along with the Chapter's donation enabled us to send \$500 to Christmas in the City. Many thanks to Peggy Carr, our Director of Community Service, for organizing this wonderful event!

And, may the new year be filled with prosperity, peace and good health!

Until next month...

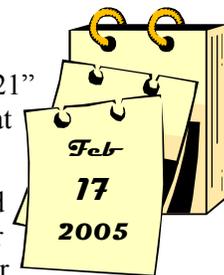


*Julie*

## Save the Date!

The Winter Workshop on "Check 21" and "E-Pay" is February 17, 2005 at the Deloitte & Touche training room.

To register please contact Howard Olsher, CGFM at 617-727-6200 or Howard.Olsher@SAO.state.ma.us or online at [www.aga-boston-chapter.org](http://www.aga-boston-chapter.org).



Mark your calendar for the morning of February 17th and join us for this great event!

## Chapter Survey

Don't forget to complete a Chapter Survey! It is located on the home page of our website at [www.aga-boston-chapter.org](http://www.aga-boston-chapter.org). Please take a moment or two to give us some feedback. Thank you to everyone who has already completed the survey.

## Chapter History

In recognition of our 50th anniversary, we plan to document our chapter's history. Any assistance you can offer is greatly appreciated.

If you have information such as past newsletters, photos, names of chapter award winners and scholarship recipients, please contact Julia Burns, CGFM at [JuliaB@osc.state.ma.us](mailto:JuliaB@osc.state.ma.us).

## Speaker Database

The AGA-Boston Chapter is building a speaker database. Do you know a dynamic speaker who you would like to see at an upcoming educational event? Are you a speaker who would like to be included in the database?

Please send the speaker's name, address, phone number, e-mail address and potential topics to Howard Olsher, CGFM at [Howard.Olsher@SAO.state.ma.us](mailto:Howard.Olsher@SAO.state.ma.us). Thank you, in advance, for your assistance.

**Coming  
Soon!**

## Regional Professional Development Conference

The Boston Chapter's annual Regional Professional Development Conference is on Tuesday, March 15, 2005 at Bentley College in Waltham, MA. The conference offers attendees 8 CPE credits.



## CEC Highlights

The Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) held a virtual meeting on December 14th to vote on two proposals to update two line items on the Chapter expense budgets. The first proposal funded the previously approved proposal to purchase a digital camera for use at Chapter functions. The second proposal increased our budget for the Chapter website. The committee unanimously voted to approve both proposals.

The CEC held a second virtual meeting on December 22nd to vote on a proposal to increase our promotion line item for the Regional Professional Development Conference in March. The proposal was approved.

## Holiday Party Fun

- Peggy Carr, CGFM (Director of Community Service)

The AGA-Boston Chapter holiday party was held at Maggiano's on December 9th and a good time was enjoyed by all!

Mr. Barry Chait, a representative of Christmas in the City, joined the members for the delicious lunch and spoke in glowing terms of the party to be given by Christmas in the City for needy children. AGA members helped make this party a reality by their generous participation in the raffle that was held at the lunch. Thanks to all who bought the raffle tickets! A special thanks to the members who brought in items to be raffled: Kim Rapoza, Julia Burns, Diane Ledwell, David LeBlanc and Peggy Carr. Bill Yazbek lent a hand in selling the raffle tickets. Also, many thanks to those who brought gift certificates and toys for Christmas in the city. The chapter added to the funds raised and sent a check for \$500.

Thank you all for making AGA-Boston Chapter able to help the community.

## Christmas in the City

"Christmas in the City is a 100% volunteer run non-profit organization established in 1989. Our mission is to support and mentor Boston's homeless families. We started out by just trying to make the holidays memorable for children staying in Boston area shelters. We have since expanded our work to include helping families make a successful transition from homelessness to independent living."

- [www.christmasincity.org](http://www.christmasincity.org)

For the past three years, the Boston Chapter has chosen Christmas in the City as its local charity for the Annual Holiday Charity Luncheon. Christmas in the City, an all volunteer organization, has been highlighted in *The Boston Globe* and appeared in the December 17, 2002 issue of *Family Circle's* feature article, "People Who Make a Difference."

## Update on Credit Card Acceptance

-by Kimberly D. Rapoza, Chapter Treasurer

As many of you are aware, the Boston Chapter began accepting credit cards for meeting and registration fees during this program year. It is my pleasure to report that the credit card acceptance program is off to a great start. Several people took advantage of this new convenience at the training sessions given on October 21st and November 18th with excellent results. At this time we are taking advantage of AGA National Office's credit card processing services that are provided to the chapters at a cost of 3 percent of the charges. The credit card information is being faxed to AGA National Office which then processes the charges and sends a check to the chapter treasurer, less the 3 percent service fee. This service has been extremely efficient with an approximate 10 day turnaround period as compared to the 30-45 day accounts receivable cycle when agencies or individuals are billed on paper. Additionally, the AGA National credit card processing services are much more cost efficient than other methods of credit card acceptance because the chapter pays nothing when the service isn't utilized.

Although usage has been limited to date, we expect that the volume will pick up with our large training sessions at Volpe on January 20, 2005 and at the Regional Professional Development Conference at Bentley on March 15, 2005. Since the program is up and running, I'd like to provide a few simple rules that will speed processing and safeguard your information:

1. **Do not include your credit card information on your web registration form** Please call the Treasurer at (617) 565-2019 to give your credit card information.
2. To speed up the registration processing on the day of the training, **do not wait until the day of the training to give your credit card information.** Please call before the training date.
3. **If your credit card will expire within 14 days of the training event, please activate your new card and give us the new expiration date.** New credit cards will not process if you haven't activated them with your credit card company.

Thank you to all the members of the Chapter Executive Committee for helping to make this important program a success.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please call me at (617) 565-2019



Please join the Membership Committee in welcoming **Eric Benson, Joseph Lovecchio** and **Jennifer Newcaster, CPA** to the Boston Chapter.

**Member News**

**Kathie Still, CGFM**, Education Vice President for the Boston Chapter was recently elected Vice Chair of the CGI-AMS User Advisory Board. The Board, elected by the user community to represent them, works with CGI-AMS to plan training opportunities to be offered to clients throughout the country, and through input from clients communicates client issues/needs, including prioritizing baseline enhancements to the various software products.

Congratulations, Kathie!

**Membership Update**

The Boston Chapter membership includes:

- 229 Active Members
- 10 New Members
- 2 Members Transferred In
- 0 Members Transferred Out
- 35 Suspended Members

\*\*\*\*\*

The Boston Chapter recognizes and thanks the following new member sponsors since May 2004:

- Mary E. Kelley ..... 3
- Kathleen A. Still, CGFM..... 1
- Susan Tefft ..... 1



**CPE Rules have changed!**

© At the Regional PDC in March, the Boston Chapter will offer you a session to update you on the new requirement for CPA CPEs. Don't miss this one!

**Electronic Notification**



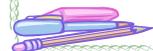
To add your name to the *Boston's Beacon* electronic distribution / chapter update list, please send an e-mail to [editor@aga-boston-chapter.org](mailto:editor@aga-boston-chapter.org). Thanks!

**From the Editor...**

Do you know someone in the Boston Chapter who has recently received promotion, accepted a new position, retired or won an award? Would you like to share your good news with fellow AGA members?

Or maybe you're interested in writing a technical article for an upcoming issue of *Boston's Beacon*.

Please forward submissions for the next issue of *Boston's Beacon* to [editor@aga-boston-chapter.org](mailto:editor@aga-boston-chapter.org).



Thanks!

**Chapter Recognition Program**

The Chapter Recognition Program is designed to support, encourage, and promote the accomplishment of AGA's mission and to provide flexible noncompetitive guidelines for a well-rounded chapter. The Chapter Recognition Program year begins on May 1<sup>st</sup> and concludes on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Boston Chapter credits as of December 31, 2004 are:

Categories	Maximum Credits	Credits Earned	Credits Allowed	
Leadership, Planning & Participation	3,000	2,825	2,925	98%
Education & Professional Development	4,000	2,200	2,200	55%
Certification	4,000	1,550	1,550	39%
Communications	3,000	3,000	3,000	100%
Membership	3,000	800	800	27%
Community Service	2,000	2,500	2,000	125%
Awards	1,000	1,600	1,000	160%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>16,162</b>	<b>13,475</b>	

**Boston Chapter Balance Sheet  
November 30, 2004**

Assets	
Cash	
Checking Account	\$ 5,852
Savings Account	12,570
Certificates of Deposit	<u>12,498</u>
Total Cash	\$30,920
Accounts Receivable	
Identity Fraud 11/18/04	\$ 1,053
Lombardo's 10/21/04	<u>650</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>\$ 1,703</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$32,623</u>
Liabilities and Fund Balance	
Accounts Payable	\$ 0
Current Fund Balance	<u>32,623</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>\$32,623</u>

## AGA-Boston Chapter Celebrates 50 Years!

### Member Profile



A. Joseph DeNucci

**J**oe DeNucci has been Auditor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts since 1987. As State Auditor, he has protected and enhanced the financial resources of the Commonwealth and has made state

government more accountable and more responsive to the public. His audits have identified more than \$2 billion in cost saving and revenue enhancement opportunities, unallowable and unnecessary expenditures, and uncollected revenue. Auditor DeNucci's primary responsibility is to make sure that public funds are spent legally, wisely, and for the purposes intended.

As one of six constitutional officers elected statewide in the Commonwealth, Auditor DeNucci provides independent and objective evaluations of the Commonwealth's financial and operational activities in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards. Auditor DeNucci's audit recommendations have helped the Commonwealth save and recover millions of dollars. Most importantly, under Auditor DeNucci, the Office of the State Auditor has been a catalyst for helping to improve the state's fiscal management, as well as making sure that government programs are working efficiently and effectively.

Auditor DeNucci has also aggressively monitored state contracts to ensure cost savings and quality work. He has assigned full-time audit teams to the largest construction projects in state history, the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel project and the Boston Harbor cleanup.

In addition to his audit responsibilities, Auditor DeNucci's Division of Local Mandates works to protect cities and towns from unfunded state mandates and also makes recommendations to

provide state funding for important local programs. Furthermore, the OSA's Bureau of Special Investigations is charged with investigating fraud within public assistance programs.

Before being elected State Auditor, Joe DeNucci served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives for 10 years. For six years, he was House Chairman of the Joint Committee on Human Services and Elderly Affairs, where he earned a reputation for compassion and concern for the young, the old and those most in need of services from the government. His accomplishments included laws to fight child abuse and neglect, establishing a foster care review system, providing better nutrition for children, fighting homelessness, and preventing abuse of the elderly.

Auditor DeNucci has been a member of the Association of Government Accountants since 1987. He also serves as chairman of the State Inspector General's Council, as chairman of the Municipal Finance Oversight Board, as vice-chairman of the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission, and as a member of the State Comptroller's Advisory Board, the Teachers' Retirement Board, the School Building Assistance Advisory Board, and the County Government Finance Review Board. He is the state designee to, and past chairman of, the New England Intergovernmental Audit Forum.

**B**efore entering public life, Joe DeNucci was a well-known professional boxer who held the New England Middleweight Championship and was ranked among the top middleweights in the world. In recognition of his outstanding boxing career, Joe DeNucci was inducted into the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame in Chicago in 2004.

Joe and his wife Barbara reside in Newton and have five children and 12 grandchildren.

## 2005 Chapter Scholarships and Recognition Awards Update

- by William Muench, CPA, CGFM

During the past several months, the Chapter Executive Committee has been actively reviewing the Scholarship and Chapter Awards program. As a result of our review, we have initiated some changes as shown below:

**Chapter Scholarships:** Starting this fiscal year, we will be awarding one \$1,000 Walter Frese Memorial Scholarship. And, we will be adding one \$1,000 Chapter Member Scholarship to an AGA - Boston Chapter member or an immediate family member who is enrolled in an institution of higher education with no limitation as to educational major.

**Chapter Recognition Awards:** As in past years, we will continue to present the Mel Partol Memorial Award, Agency Service Award, and Annual Achievement Award. This year we will be adding a Community Service Award to recognize an AGA - Boston Chapter member who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to volunteer community service by participating in a volunteer community service project or projects.

As soon as the final award revisions have been made, we will post the information in the next newsletter and on our website.

Although the Annual Awards Dinner is several months away, it is never too early to start thinking about potential award candidates. Our Boston Chapter is very fortunate to have many dedicated and talented government financial professionals, along with their agencies, who would be worthy candidates.

As this time, we need several volunteers to serve on the Awards Committee. Committee members will evaluate the nominations and assist in the selection process. The estimated time commitment is approximately 2 to 3 hours. There is no required meetings to attend since the process can be completed using e-mail and/or the telephone.

If anyone needs additional information or is interested in serving on the Awards Committee, please contact me at (508) 490-4019 or e-mail address [wmuench@dcaa.mil](mailto:wmuench@dcaa.mil).

*(John J. McKeever Continued from page 1)*  
for finance, operations, and information technology processes.

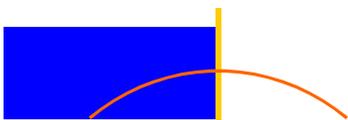
He has trained and advised thousands of auditors and managers while in the private practice, at the AT&T School of Business, and The Institute of Internal Auditors. John has developed and delivered a number of business programs that include, Consulting: A Value Added Services, The Tools and Techniques That Make It Work, COSO: The Steps to Success, and Help Your Client Succeed with Control Self-Assessment.

John frequently speaks at public seminars, professional associations, state and federal agencies, and corporations. His work has included developing and delivering risk and control management programs specifically focused for the needs of Senior Executives, Boards of Directors and Audit Committees.

He is the author of numerous research papers that have addressed the concepts of process improvement in business, employee empowerment, and the management of effective teams. Using these tools, he has guided and encouraged thousands of domestic and international professionals to move toward process and business improvements. For his achievements as a seminar leader, The Institute of Internal Auditors has awarded John the designation of Distinguished Adjunct Faculty Member.

John has degrees in Business Administration and Management from Northeastern University, a Masters of Science Degree in Management from Stevens Institute of Technology, and a graduate Certificate in Total Quality Management from the University of Phoenix. He is an American Society for Quality Certified Quality Auditor, a Certified Fraud Examiner, a Certified Business Manager, and a Certified Professional Consultant. In addition, John holds both a Control Self Assessment Qualification and a Certification in Control Self Assessment.

He is a member of the American Society for Quality, The Institute of Internal Auditors, The Association of Business Professionals in Business Management, and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.



**Boston's Beacon** is published by the Association of Government Accountants—Boston Chapter.

Comments should be forwarded to [editor@aga-boston-chapter.org](mailto:editor@aga-boston-chapter.org).



*(Calendar continued from page 1)*

### May 12, 2005

Annual Awards Dinner at Maggiano's Little Italy, Boston, MA

### National

#### February 7-8, 2005

National Leadership Conference at Ronald Regan Building/International Trade Center, Washington, DC

#### July 10-13, 2005

National Professional Development Conference at Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, FL



### Tax Collecting the efficient way...

© All of us pay taxes; learn how the Mass DOR and the Federal IRS are modernizing their business practices to make it easier to pay/collect/account for taxes. Available at the spring Regional PDC.

### CGFM Renewal Reminder

If you were awarded your CGFM in the years 1996, 1998, 2000 or 2002, your renewal cycle ended December 31, 2004. Please note that you have until March 31, 2005 to earn the required number of CPE hours.

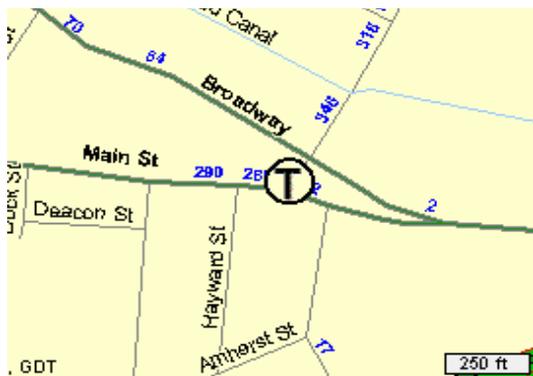
### Professional Development Opportunity

The Rhode Island Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners is sponsoring a quarterly seminar entitled "Healthcare Fraud" on March 7, 2005. For more information visit their website at [www.ricfe.org](http://www.ricfe.org).

*(Continued from Page 1)*

### Directions to the John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center

The John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center (Volpe Center) is located conveniently at 55 Broadway in Cambridge, MA. It is across the street from the Kendall Square Marriott Hotel, near the MIT/Kendall Square stop on the MBTA Red Line.



**Please note:** Anyone without a federal government identification badge must pass a security checkpoint. Photo identification must be shown at the security desk.

### A Chance to Win a Registration to the 2005 PDC in Orlando, FL!

The AGA-Boston Chapter will award one paid registration fee to the Association of Government Accountants 2005 Annual Professional Development Conference. The PDC will be held in Orlando, FL on July 10 to 12, 2005.

To be eligible for this award an individual must:

- (1) be a member of the AGA-Boston Chapter prior to the drawing to be held in April 2005 and
- (2) attend at least five of the seven AGA-Boston Chapter educational sessions offering CPEs from September 2004 to April 2005.

The award will be drawn at random after the last training session in April 2005. This award is not transferable by the recipient. However, alternate(s) will be drawn in the event that the primary recipient cannot or chooses not to attend.

### Regional Vice President's Corner

On November 12, 2004, I had the opportunity to visit the Hartford Chapter of the AGA. I received a very warm reception.

Hartford offered a one day seminar worth 8 CPEs on GASB Updates and Statement #34. The presenters were Jay Fountain and Wilson Campbell.

All four chapter officers were at the training. Two other people signed up to be new members during the event.

Unfortunately, there were only 15 participants and the 2 speakers. The accommodations were fine, but the chosen day was the Friday between Veterans Day and the weekend.

I did get plenty of chance to talk to Percy (President) and Rico (VP). I was able to write down some topics that Maine has used for seminars and monthly meetings. I also suggested the Boston chapter's community service event where used magazines are collected at meetings for local veterans homes.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jody Breton*  
RVP—New England Region

## News from National

### Name Change Focus Group Recommends No Change to AGA Name

- by Marie Force, MA (Director of Communications)

Association of Government Accountants is here to stay—for now anyway.

The Name Change Focus Group, convened by National President Bobby A. Derrick, CGFM, recommended no change to AGA's name and that recommendation was accepted by the National Executive Committee (NEC) at its December 10 quarterly meeting.

The seven-member focus group, chaired by Past National President Richard V. Norment, CGFM, CIA was designed to represent all corners of the AGA membership after a vote was taken calling for further study into the matter at the annual National Board of Directors meeting in July.

The issue was first raised at the end of the 2002-2003 Program Year by then-Immediate Past National President William J. Anderson, Jr., CGFM, who wrote "Looking into the Future," suggesting AGA change its name to "Association of Government Accountability."

The focus group worked hard to include the AGA membership and the AGA chapters in its deliberations, requesting feedback through an article in TOPICS and other outreach efforts. Members from all corners of the Association replied, expressing a variety of opinions on the issue.

The focus group recommended to the NEC that the Association keep its current name—AGA (Association of Government Accountants)—and that the matter of changing the name be tabled at this time. In reaching its recommendation, the focus group's discussion focused in on two important factors:

1. There is no groundswell of support among the membership for the name change. The member feedback was split for and against changing the name, and if we changed what is the right name for our Association. Changing the name is likely to cause divisiveness among the members.
2. There is no empirical evidence to support the notion that changing the name will cause a big influx in new members. However, there has been some evidence to show that some existing members would leave the Association if the name changes.

With these factors considered six of the seven members voted to recommend no change be made to AGA's name at this time.

On Friday, the NEC accepted the focus group's recommendation, with two members dissenting.

"I appreciate the hard work of the focus group," said President Derrick, after the NEC's vote to accept the recommendation. "I know what a difficult issue this was for everyone involved. As I have traveled to numerous AGA chapters and talked to many members in recent months, I have come to realize that the focus group's decision was correct based on the sentiments I have heard. I am convinced that this is the right thing for the time period.

"I know this will be a disappointment for some, and others will be relieved," President Derrick continued. "Along with our executive director and the NEC, I like to think we are moving in all kinds of directions directly related to our mission and our strategic plan; unfortunately, some will be disappointed that this did not include the name of our great Association. We have a name people are proud to be associated with, and partners want to work with, it's more important that we deliver by accomplishments. As AGA endeavors to be the leader in advancing government accountability, our accomplishments will bring recognition and establish the momentum for our future endeavors. I am proud to be a member of AGA, Association of Government Accountants, dedicated to serving our members, our country, our profession."

To read the full text of the focus group's final report, go to [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org).

### 2005-2006 Slate of Officers

AGA's National Nominating Committee has chosen its slate of National Officers to take office July 1, 2005 and is pleased to announce its candidates:

**National President-Elect Designate:**

Jeffrey S. Hart, CGFM, Denver Chapter

**National Treasurer-Elect Designate:**

Thomas J. Sadowski, CGFM, Mid-Missouri Chapter

**Senior Vice President at Large Designate:**

Deborah Loveless, Nashville Chapter

**New England Regional Vice President-Elect Designate:**

Gunnar Myrbeck, Maine Chapter

As outlined in the Association's bylaws, AGA will accept independent nominations from AGA members via petition until February 15, 2005. At that time, if other candidates are nominated, the Bylaws & Procedures Committee will conduct an election to determine the officers. However, if no other nominations are received, the committee's slate will take office effective July 1, 2005.



## CGFM Designation— It's Not Just for Accountants

- by Pete Rose

Government financial management is broad in scope. Consider the diversity of AGA's membership: while many are accountants and auditors, AGA members are also budget analysts, program analysts, internal auditors and other financial management professionals. The common goal of our membership is interest in government financial management and advancing government accountability.

The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Program reflects the diverse range of knowledge required of government financial managers. Look at the content specifications of CGFM Examinations (<http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/exams/>). A CGFM needs to have knowledge about how the government works, how governments are financed, ethical considerations, management techniques, financial analysis, internal controls, budgeting, cost accounting, cash management, investment management, procurement, inventory systems, credit management and financial management systems.

One of the strengths of the CGFM certification is the combination of the detailed knowledge of government accounting coupled with a general understanding of other government financial management practices, such as budgetary accounting and cost accounting. A CGFM has to know about the requirements at all levels—federal, state and local. Much of the knowledge required by a CGFM involves theory—why things are done the way they are done. Only a small portion is devoted to practice—the actual entries that are needed for specific transactions.

The CGFM designation demonstrates a person's knowledge, skills and abilities about government in general. If you are in any type of position in government financial management, the CGFM should be at the top of your list as a preferred certification.

On occasion, we are asked how the CGFM compares to the CPA. In a sense, there is no comparison. The CPA is more than a certification—it can also lead to obtaining a license. If your goal is to practice public accounting—the review and audit of financial statements in order to render an opinion—then you must have a license from a state board of accountancy. To get a license, you have to pass the CPA examinations. That is why the CPA is unique among certification programs.

The CGFM designation, coupled with a CPA, can be a powerful tool in your arsenal. Not only do you possess the knowledge, skills and abilities to practice public accountancy, you also have knowledge, skills and abilities about the unique aspects of government.

If you are in a profession that does not require a CPA, then you need to consider obtaining a certification that sets you apart from your peers. If you are in government, as a budget analyst, program analyst, grant manager, or in any other financial management position, then the CGFM should be your first choice for certification program.

## National Leadership Conference

Make plans now to join us for the Third Annual National Leadership Conference to be held February 7 - 8, 2005, in Washington, D.C.

Sound financial management is more important than ever. Governments are grappling with a growing list of homeland security issues — how to keep our cities and our nation safe, and how to pay for it. In this environment, financial managers will take center stage, confronting these challenges and the difficulties of balancing the many competing demands on taxpayers' money. At the same time, governments are focusing more intently on performance to ensure that every dollar is spent wisely, and can be accounted for later. These developments are bringing financial managers into the spotlight.

With the theme "Improving Government Performance: Financial Managers Take Center Stage" the NLC will bring together the top leaders in federal, state and local government financial management, all of whom are struggling to make ends meet while providing an unprecedented level of services to the citizens they serve. This conference is a must for top government leaders—chief financial officers, inspectors general, state auditors, state comptrollers, state treasurers, city auditors, city finance directors and those who work with these top leaders to keep our governments fiscally sound.

## 2005 National Leadership Conference Award Recipients

### Federal Leadership Awards

*Distinguished Federal Leadership Award:* Samuel T. Mok, CGFM, CIA of the Washington DC Chapter

*Elmer Staats Award:* Dale W. Sopper, CGFM of the Baltimore Chapter and John D. Webster, CGFM, CPA of the Washington DC Chapter.

*Andy Barr Award:* Diane L. Dudley, CGFM, CPA of the Montgomery/P.G. Chapter

### State & Local Leadership Awards

*Excellence in Government Leadership Award:* Cheryl A. Broom, CGFM of the Seattle Chapter

*William R. Snodgrass Distinguished Leadership Award:* Walter J. Kucharski, CPA, CFE

*Distinguished Local Government Leadership Award:* Charles N. Eldred

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