



Calendar of Events

Boston Chapter

April 21, 2005

Chapter Lunch Meeting

Security Briefing Update for the Airport and Seaport presented by Dennis Treece and Michele Freadman of Massport (1 CPE)

May 12, 2005

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

National

July 10-13, 2005

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

June 18-21, 2006

National Professional Development Conference at San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina, San Diego, CA

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Security Briefing Update for the Airport and Seaport Chapter Meeting on April 21, 2005



Dennis Treece, Director of Corporate Security, Massachusetts Port Authority, is responsible for security at Boston's Logan International Airport and two regional airports, Boston's shipping and cruise terminals, and the US Route 1 Tobin Bridge. Most recently Dennis provided computer network security for corporate clients on four continents, including the world's largest banks and insurance companies. He built and operated a state-of-the-art computer threat operations and warning center and provided threat early warning to his clients, the government, and to the public. During his 30 years in the Army, Colonel Treece held key intelligence and security related command and staff positions in Europe, the Balkans, the United States, and the Middle East. Notably: securing the

(Continued on page 3)

September Chapter Meeting

Date

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Price

Members: \$15

Non-members: \$20

Time

11:30 - 12:00 Registration and the opportunity to network

12:00 - 12:30 Lunch

12:30 - 1:30 Program

Special Membership Offer!

Members who bring one or more potential members will receive a \$10 discount for each attendee. For example, members will pay \$5 and their guests will pay \$10.

Members should register their guests.—There is a guest field on the online registration form.

Program

Security Briefing Update for the Airport and Seaport presented by Dennis Treece and Michele Freadman of Massport.

CPE

1.0 CPE hour

Registration

You can register by contacting Howard Olsher, CGFM at 617-727-6200 or online at www.aga-boston-chapter.org.

Place

The Harp Restaurant, Boston, MA

Registration Deadline

April 14, 2005

President's Message

Hello and Happy Spring!

After another long winter season, the signs of spring are more than welcome. We, here in New England, eagerly await the World Champion Red Sox return to Fenway Park on April 11th; the swan boats return to the Boston Garden on April 16th; and the April 18th running of the Boston Marathon. Spring is on its way!

It's AGA membership season! So, if you haven't already renewed your AGA and AGA-Boston Chapter membership, I encourage you to join us for another year. Preliminary discussions indicate that it will be another fantastic year!

Our Regional Professional Development Conference at Bentley College was on March 15th and over 165 members and friends attended the conference. I'd like to thank everyone who helped to make the conference a success.—Our training committee chaired by Kathie Still, conference presenters, breakout session facilitators, registration desk workers, and the staff at Bentley College. A special thank you to AGA National President Bobby A. Derrick, CGFM and AGA National Director of Education Ray Harris, CGFM for joining us!

Please join me in congratulating John Beveridge, Dick Sullivan, Kim Rapoza, Kathie Still and Christine Donohoe who were elected as our Chapter Officers for 2004-2005 at our chapter meeting held at the Regional PDC.

I hope to see you at the Harp for our Chapter Lunch Meeting on April 21st. Dennis Treece and Michele Freadman of Massport will be presenting a *Security Briefing Update on the Airport and Seaport*.

And, the Chapter Executive Committee voted to compliment the National Membership Scholarship with a special membership offer for the April Chapter Lunch Meeting. Members who bring one or more potential members will receive a \$10 discount for each attendee. For example, members will pay \$5 and their guests will pay \$10. Members should register their guests.—There is a guest field on the online registration form.

Our Annual Awards Dinner is on May 12th at Maggiano's Little Italy. Please join us as we present the Chapter Scholarships and Awards, honor past presidents, and recognize two members (one posthumously) who have earned AGA Lifetime Memberships.



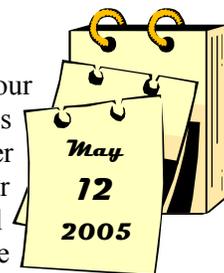
Oh, before I sign off, please mark your calendar for June 8th when the Chapter will be volunteering at the WGBH Channel 2 Auction.

Until next month...

Julie

Save the Date!

On May 12, 2005, we will hold our Annual Awards Dinner at Maggiano's Little Italy. We will award our Chapter Awards and Scholarships, honor our past presidents, and give special recognition to two members (one posthumously) who have earned AGA lifetime membership.



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.

Mark your calendar!

Congratulations to our Chapter Officers for 2004-2005!

The Boston Chapter membership elected its officers for the upcoming program year:

President - Elect:

John Beveridge, CGFM
Massachusetts State Auditor's Office

Secretary:

Richard Sullivan
Powers & Sullivan, CPA

Treasurer:

Kimberly Rapoza
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
Office of the Inspector General

Vice President for Education and Programs:

Kathleen A. Still, CGFM
Massachusetts Office of the State Comptroller

Vice President for Planning:

Christine Donohoe
Massachusetts Port Authority

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Army's extensive telecommunications and computer networks in Europe, coordinating all operations between the CIA and DoD during a tour of duty at the CIA, and during Desert Shield and Desert Storm he was responsible for special intelligence planning and all of the war's counter espionage and counter terrorist intelligence and security operations. He is board certified in Homeland Security by the American College of Forensic Examiners.



CEC Highlights

The Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) met on March 29th. Agenda items included:

Bylaws & Procedures—It was agreed that the membership would vote on the proposed updates to our bylaws at the Annual Awards Dinner on May 12th. Committee members will update the procedures manual for the incoming CEC.

Community Service—The Boston Chapter will participate in the WGBH Channel 2 Auction on Wednesday, June 8, 2005.

Education—Planning for the 2005-2006 Program Year has started.

Membership—The Boston Chapter has 21 new members this Program Year...No one has used the new member discount.

Nomination—Our new officers were elected at the Regional PDC on March 15, 2005.

Planning—There was a short discussion on locations for our functions. Additional locations would be great.

Scholarships & Awards—The Scholarships and Awards Committee received a few nominations for the chapter awards and applications for the chapter scholarships.

Recreation Sub-committee—The possibility of attending a Pawtucket Red Sox Game was discussed. More information to follow.

Susan Tefft, CPA of Deloitte & Touche was awarded this year's CGFM scholarship.

The CEC voted in favor of the proposal to have a special membership offer for the upcoming April Chapter Lunch Meeting. Members who bring one or more potential new members will receive a \$10 discount for each attendee. For example, members will pay \$5 and their guests will pay \$10. Members should register their guests using the guest field on the online registration form.

The next CEC meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2005.

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

The Boston Chapter is awarding one paid registration fee to the Association of Government Accountants 2005 Annual Professional Development Conference. (Value is approximately \$900). The conference will be held in Orlando, Florida on July 10 - 13, 2005.

To be eligible for this award an individual must have attended four (4) of the six (6) educational sessions sponsored and held by the Boston Chapter offering CPEs from September 2004 through April 2005. The individual must be a Boston Chapter member prior to the drawing that will be held in April 2005.

There are currently eight members who already qualify and another nine members who are eligible with one training session to go. In addition, we have 10 non-members who are still eligible to win if they become members prior to the April training session and attend the four required sessions.

As an additional incentive the Chapter President will buy the winner an ice cream cone on Main Street in Disney World!

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

AGA National President Bobby A. Derrick, CGFM

The following message was received by Kathie Still, Chapter Vice President for Education:

Good Morning, Kathie,

Thank you for your kind words. I want you to know that it was a pleasure to see you again, and to meet with our folks in Boston. Your chapter is a shining star to AGA and to have this opportunity to meet with you was an honor for me.



Bobby Derrick,
CGFM

I appreciate the hospitality and the opportunity you gave me.

Forever in your debt,

Yours truly,
Bobby



Please join the Membership Committee in welcoming new members to the Boston Chapter:

Robert Clark
MA Office of the State Auditor

Maureen Gibbons
Perkins School for the Blind

Suzanne Petersen
Town of Sudbury

Joseph Valchuis
MA Office of the State Auditor

Tap into people's dignity, and they will do anything for you. Ignore it, and they won't lift a finger.

- Thomas Friedman in the New York Times

Membership Update

The Boston Chapter membership includes:

- 242 Active Members
- 23 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:

- Nicholas Dahl, CGFM..... 1
- Nick D'Alleva 1
- Mary E. Kelley 8
- Howard Olsher, CGFM..... 1
- Kathleen A. Still, CGFM 1
- Susan Tefft, CPA..... 1

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. 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.



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 1st and concludes on April 30th.

Boston Chapter credits as of March 31, 2005 are:

Categories	Maximum Credits	Credits Earned	Credits Allowed	
Leadership, Planning & Participation	3,000	3,300	3,000	110%
Education & Professional Development	4,000	4,625	4,000	116%
Certification	4,000	2,800	2,800	70%
Communications	3,000	6,477	3,000	216%
Membership	3,000	1,725	1,725	58%
Community Service	2,000	2,500	2,000	125%
Awards	1,000	1,600	1,000	160%
Total	20,000	23,027	17,525	

Boston Chapter Balance Sheet March 31, 2005

Assets

Cash	
Checking Account	\$ 6,260
Savings Account	9,582
Certificates of Deposit	<u>12,570</u>
Total Cash	\$28,412

Accounts Receivable	
Bentley RPDC - March 15, 2005	\$ <u>6,945</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>6,945</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$35,357</u>

Liabilities and Fund Balance

Accounts Payable	\$ 0
Current Fund Balance	<u>35,357</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>\$35,357</u>

AGA-Boston Chapter Celebrates 50 Years!

Member Profile

For over 27 years, Michael ("Mike") Armstrong has served with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) first as an auditor, manager, and since 2000, Regional Inspector General for Audit Services. Prior to joining HHS, Mike also worked for five years for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Office of the State Auditor.



Michael Armstrong, CPA

As one of the eight Regional Inspectors General for Audit Services, his primary responsibilities include supporting the mission of the HHS Office of the Inspector General to protect the integrity of HHS programs, as well as the health and welfare of the beneficiaries of those programs. With a staff of 65 covering the six New England states, the Office of Audit Services (OAS), Boston Regional Office, conducts and supervises audits of programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Foster Care, Child Support and Head Start. In addition, OAS performs grant audits of the Public Health Services, Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health, and Administration for Children and Families.

In fiscal year 2005, HHS has a nationwide budget of over \$580 billion with more than 300 health and social service programs. Working as a team, the OAS audits the nation's essential programs for health care and human services, issuing reports to various HHS agencies, congressional committees and auditees. These reports contain recommendations for cost recovery and cost avoidance and for improving the performance of HHS programs. The OAS takes pride in knowing that they have a direct impact on the administration and performance of Federal programs. As a result of OAS work, millions of Americans receive improved health care and human services.

Mike considers the work at OIG/OAS both rewarding and challenging. For instance, OAS will

provide oversight regarding the planning and implementation of new and important initiatives of the Medicare Modernization Act including the new prescription drug benefit for Medicare beneficiaries that will begin on January 1, 2006. It is estimated that over 43 million Medicare beneficiaries will participate at a cost of about \$28 billion in the first year.

During his tenure at OIG/OAS, Mike has been the recipient of many awards including the OIG's most prestigious honor, the Thomas D. Morris Leadership award. Mike received this award for his outstanding leadership over several nationwide audits that received congressional and media attention and made a significant contribution to the mission of the OIG.

A long-time member and supporter of AGA since 1990, Mike has been a guest speaker at chapter luncheon meetings. He was also the chapter's Recreation Chair for several years and coordinated the annual charity golf tournament. He is a Certified Public Accountant and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Additionally, Mike is a member of the Executive Committee of the New England Intergovernmental Audit Forum.

On a personal note, Mike has lived in Stoneham, MA for 25 years with his wife, Maureen, and two children, Michael and Stephanie. For several years, he served the town of Stoneham on the recreation committee. Mike graduated from Merrimack College in North Andover, MA with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and received a Master's Degree in Public Administration and Management from Suffolk University.

In college, Mike played both ice hockey and golf and has continued his athletic interests by coaching youth hockey for over 15 years, playing golf and jogging.

Regional Professional Development Conference

On March 15th, the AGA - Boston Chapter hosted the annual Regional Professional Development Conference at Bentley College in Waltham, MA. Participants were greeted at the registration desk by Kimberly Rapoza, Frank McCarthy, Maria Mamakos, Dante Zamora, President-Elect Dave LeBlanc and President Julia Burns.

At the opening session, Julia Burns welcomed attendees to the Regional PDC. She noted that it was time to renew our AGA membership and that everyone was welcome to join the Boston Chapter. She reminded everyone that the chapter is accepting nominations for chapter awards and applications for chapter scholarships. Julie then introduced the opening speaker, AGA National President Bobby A. Derrick, CGFM.

Bobby Derrick's opening session was followed by a choice of one of five morning tracks:

Monitoring Sub-recipients—Beth Jeppson (MA EOCD), Bill Yazbek (Deloitte & Touche) and Susan Perna-Damon (Susan Perna-Damon, CPA)

Techniques in Managing Tax Collection and Bank Security Act—Fred Beebe (MA DOR) and Alex Basden (IRS)

Trickle Down Effects of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act on the Public Sector—Daniel Dennis (Daniel Dennis LLP)

Innovative Technologies for Increased Performance—Bobby A. Derrick (DFAS)

New CPE Rules—Marcia Buchanan (GAO)

At the completion of the morning sessions, everyone took a short walk to the President's Dining Room at the LaCava Center for lunch. President-Elect Dave LeBlanc presided over the Chapter's 2005-2006 Officer elections. He then introduced Bill Muench who spoke briefly on the Chapter's scholarships and awards. Dave then introduced Ray Harris who discussed AGA's commitment to education and training. At the conclusion of the chapter meeting, it was time to proceed to one of the four afternoon sessions:

Internal Audit Panel—Brenda Chen (ACL), Tom Igoe (Lifespan) and John Mahoney (MWRa)

Techniques in Managing Tax Collection and the Bank Secrecy Act, Trickle Down Effects of Sarbanes-Oxley on the Public Sector, and New CPE Rules were repeated.

Evaluations indicate that it was a great training day for all attendees.



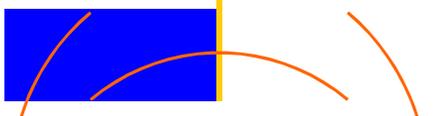
Jim Bruce (Daniel Dennis LLP) and Dan Dennis (Daniel Dennis LLP)



Fred Beebe (MA DOR) and Alex Basden (IRS)



Susan Perna-Damon (Susan Perna-Damon CPA), Bill Yazbek (Deloitte & Touche) and Beth Jeppson (MA EOCD)



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

Comments should be forwarded to editor@aga-boston-chapter.org.



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.

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@sao.state.ma.us. Thank you, in advance, for your assistance.

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. Please take a moment or two to give us some feedback. Thank you to everyone who has already completed the survey.

Clean Sweep!

- by Margaret Carr, CPA, CGFM, Director of Community Service

Here are some ideas for turning "trash" into "treasure"!

CLOTHING, LINENS AND SMALL GOODS:

The Epilepsy Foundation

617-506-6041 or 888-576-9996

www.epilepsyfoundation.org

www.epilepsyfoundation.org/massri

The Epilepsy Foundation will collect donations of soft goods from your home or office. Donations do not need to be in good condition since the organization sells what is collected by the pound to an organization that makes the final distribution of the goods. Some of the material can be used to re-cycle. Ms. Sturgis at the Boston number, extension 16 welcomes members to call with questions.

Big Brothers

617-542-9090, select #5

www.bbmb.org

Big Brothers requests goods for re-sale in the thrift shop. They would like things in good condition including clothing, shoes, linens, small toys, kitchen goods and glassware. All breakables should be packed as you would for a move. They service Eastern Massachusetts for on-site pick up.

Salvation Army

Route 1 South, Saugus, MA (for attended drop off weekdays)

328 Mass Ave, Cambridge, MA (for attended drop off weekdays)

www.use.salvationarmy.org/mas

The Salvation Army requests goods for re-sale in the thrift shop. They would like things in good condition including clothing, shoes, linens, small toys, kitchen goods and glassware.

Good Will Industries

888-828-4483 #5 then #2 for a list of drop off sites

www.goodwillmass.org/

The Good Will Industries requests

goods for re-sale in the thrift shop. They would like things in good condition including clothing, shoes, linens, small toys, kitchen goods and glassware. They also welcome books and collectibles.

EYEGLASSES:

Used eyeglasses can be dropped off or mailed to the following organizations:

For Eyes

10 City Hall Ave, Boston, MA

125 Summer Street, Boston, MA

1300A Worcester Road, Natick, MA

171 Broadway, Saugus, MA

978 Main Street, S. Weymouth, MA

www.foreyes.com

New England Eye Institute

Boylston Street, Boston, MA

617-262-2020

www.ne-eyeinstitute.org

The Pine Street Inn

444 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA

www.pinestreetinn.org

TOILETRIES:

Samples and full-sized toiletries are welcome...and you can mail them in!

St. Francis House Day Shelter, 39

Boylston Street, Boston, MA

www.stfranchishouse.org

Rosie's Place, 889 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA

www.rosies.org

Pine Street Inn, 444 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA

www.pinestreetinn.org

Women's Lunch Place, 67 Newbury St. Boston, MA

www.womenslunchplace.org

"CELL PHONES":

Sprint, Verizon, Cingular and others welcome used phones in drop off boxes at the retail locations. The phones are either provided to those in need or taken for refurbishment and resale with a cash contribution going to charity.



HAVE YOU EVER DREAMED OF BEING ON TELEVISION?

Well, here's your chance!

How: Be a Volunteer Bid Taker at the WGBH Channel 2 Auction

When: Wednesday, June 8th
3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Where: The WGBH Studios
125 Western Avenue
Boston, MA 02134

(For directions visit the WGBH website at www.wgbh.org/auction/directions.)

Chapter Contact: Kim Rapoza at 617-565-2019 or via e-mail at kimberly.rapoza@oig.hhs.gov

Benefits of Volunteering

In addition to being a fun and enriching experience, volunteering at WGBH offers the following benefits:

- **Free One-Year WGBH Membership:** As a WGBH member, you'll receive a full-year's subscription to '**GBH, The Members' Magazine**, our monthly program guide for television and radio. You'll also receive a WGBH MemberCard, your passport to savings at more than 200 organizations and retailers throughout New England and eastern Canada. If you already have a WGBH membership, we invite you to

pass it along to a friend or family member.

- **Wavelength:** WGBH volunteers also receive **Wavelength**, an insider's guide to volunteer opportunities and upcoming events, three times a year.

Volunteer Appreciation Events: You'll be invited to many volunteer appreciation events, including fun potluck dinners and lunches, our Secret Sweetie Valentine's Day Lunch and the Two Collection: Art in the Afternoon preview party.

Bay State Games



The Boston Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants has long been involved in community service. One of the organizations that we have supported over the years is the Bay State Games. This is an amateur sports festival run every year by an organization with only two paid staff. They have used the Fleet Center, MIT, UMass Boston, Harvard and BU for some of their sites. This year the Games will take place on July 14-24, 2005. Visit the Bay State Games' website at www.baystategames.org. The following is an open letter of thanks that was in the *Boston Herald* on March 31, 2005.

The year 2005 marks the 24th anniversary of the Bay State Games, which include over 7,000 athletes from over 300 Massachusetts cities and towns. This year, 25 different sports will be featured, including the inaugural year of badminton and baton twirling.

This effort is coordinated by over 1,500 coaches, officials, medical staff and event organizers who volunteer their time to provide athletes of all ages and abilities with a unique and exciting athletic experience.

I would like to personally thank every volunteer for their interest and support of the Bay State Games.

In addition to sports programs, there are several important educational programs that have been developed for the benefit of Bay State Games participants. The Future Leaders Scholarship Program, sponsored by Verizon, annual provides \$12,000 to deserving Bay State Games student-athletes so they can continue their education in college. The Bay State Games also provides a Sportsmanship Initiative, sponsored by New Balance, which educates participants on the elements of good sportsmanship, evaluates the level of sportsmanship exhibited by all participants and recognizes those participants who conduct themselves in an exemplary manner.

The Mass Shape Up Program promotes good health and fitness through fun weight loss and activity competition. The Bay State Games Hall of Fame recognizes athletes and volunteers who have made outstanding contributions to the organization.

The Bay State Games promote personal development, education, fitness, teamwork and sportsmanship through athletic competitions and scholarship programs. The benefits to participants are numerous and memorable.

- Kevin Cummings
Executive Director
MASF/Bay State Games

Special Olympics



Special Olympics is an international organization that changes lives by promoting understanding, acceptance and inclusion between people with and without intellectual disabilities. Through year-round sports training and athletic competition and other related programming for more than 1.4 million children and adults with intellectual disabilities in more than 150 countries including 9,300 Massachusetts athletes. Special Olympics has created a model community that celebrates people's diverse gifts.

Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Special Olympics provides people with intellectual disabilities continuing opportunities to realize their potential, develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage and experience joy and friendship. There is no cost to participate in Special Olympics. Visit Special Olympics online at <http://www.specialolympics.org> or Special Olympics Massachusetts at <http://www.specialolympicsma.org>.

Special Olympics Massachusetts' athletes are now beginning to train for Summer Games' competition, June 17-19, 2005. As athletes train, SOMA staff and management team members are also preparing for an amazing weekend in Boston beginning with Opening Ceremonies at Boston University's Walter Brown Arena. All athletic events will be held at Harvard University.

Join the SOMA Volunteer Team! Running a year-round sports and training program for people with intellectual disabilities takes more than good intentions. We depend upon countless volunteers to train and support thousands of athletes who participate in Special Olympics throughout the year in the state of Massachusetts.

You can help in many ways - from running an event to raising funds, from coaching athletes to coordinating families, from office support to public relations and outreach to new athletes, to name only a few. Experience is a plus, not a necessity. What you do need is a strong commitment and unlimited dedication. As a Special Olympics volunteer, you'll be helping people with intellectual disabilities of all ages and abilities to fulfill their potential; strengthen their characters; to develop their physical skills and display their talents.

- <http://www.specialolympicsma.org/>

Are You Interested in Forming a Boston Chapter Team of Volunteers?

Are you interested in forming an AGA-Boston Chapter Team to volunteer at the Bay State Games and/or Special Olympics? If so, please contact Julie Burns at JuliaB@osc.state.ma.us.

News from National

2005 Professional Development Conference and Exposition



Join us in sunny Orlando for the government financial management education event of the year! AGA invites you to attend its 54th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition, to be held July 10 - 13, 2005, in Orlando, FL.

Leaders refuse to be left behind. They are well educated on the newest developments in the field and eager to learn as much as they can. Leaders want to make a difference. There is no better place to get the knowledge you need than at AGA's Professional Development Conference and Exposition.

PDC 2005 promises to be an excellent learning and networking opportunity for government financial managers and accountability professionals. Education sessions will provide technical training, useful information on emerging trends, tools to help you become more effective and lessons from the best in the business.

Chapter Newsletter Editor Contest

It is time once again for the annual Chapter Newsletter Editor Contest. This competition is designed to bring recognition to chapters producing the best newsletters in each chapter group.

A first-place winner and an honorable mention winner will be awarded in each chapter group for both print and electronic newsletters. Chapters may enter EITHER the print or electronic contest, not both. All newsletters will be judged on Content (80 Points) and Presentation (20 Points).

Awards will be presented during the 54th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition, July 10-13 in Orlando, FL.

Chapter Website Contest

The Chapter Website Contest begins on April 25, 2005. The judges are looking for websites that are informative, have working links, contain updated information and present a chapter identity.

A first-place recipient and an honorable mention recipient will be awarded in each chapter group. The website awards will be presented during the 54th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition, July 10-13 in Orlando, FL.

Annual Renewal Update

Annual renewal packages have been mailed and are due to be paid by March 31, 2005. Invoices include both membership and CGFM certificate renewals where applicable. Again this year a member *Information Sheet* is included in the renewal packages (demographic and contact information). Please fill this sheet out and submit to AGA.

The quickest way to renew is online via the password protected members-only section of the AGA website. *How to Renew Online:* Access the AGA website at www.agacgfm.org. Click on 'Members Only' on the left palette. Login 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 (if the gray billing button doesn't appear, it means that your membership is paid in full). All you have to do is input your credit card information and hit 'Submit.' The transaction will automatically process via our 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 take a look at your contact information and make any updates as necessary (especially your email address).

Journal of Government Financial Management receives Graphics Excellence Award in Statewide Print Competition



Signature Press, Inc., the Wisconsin printer that produces AGA's *Journal*, received an award for outstanding achievement in Magazines (four or more colors throughout) in the 5th Annual Graphics Excellence Awards, a statewide competition hosted by the Printing Industries of Wisconsin, the state's trade association for printing and the graphic arts. Competing against 715 entries from printing and graphic arts firms from the state of Wisconsin, the company's winning submission was AGA's four-color magazine, the *Journal of Government Financial Management*. The Graphic Excellence Awards recognize those responsible for the creation and production of print communications in Wisconsin. The competition promotes excellence in print communications and rewards companies and individuals who produce the best in print media. Congratulations also go to the *Journal* design team at TGD Communications.



CGFM CPE Requirements

- by Katya Silver, Director of Professional Certification Administration, AGA National Office

Have you renewed your CGFM and/or AGA membership this year? The annual invoices went out in February and are due by March 31, 2005. If you have not submitted your payment, please be sure to mail a check, fax your credit card information or pay online (www.agacgfm.org) as soon as possible.

If you are a CGFM holder, paying the renewal fee is not the only requirement of keeping your designation active. In fact, you cannot renew your CGFM unless you are compliant with the CGFM Continuing Professional Education (CPE) requirement of earning at least 80 CPE hours in your last two-year CPE cycle, with at least 20 hours in each year.

Your two-year CGFM CPE cycle begins on the year your CGFM was awarded: If you have earned your CGFM in 1996, 1998, 2000 or 2002, your last two-year CPE cycle just ended on December 31, 2004.

If you have earned your CGFM in 1994, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001 or 2003, your current CPE cycle is 2004-2005 and you should have earned a minimum of 20 CPE hours in 2004 and will need to complete 80 CPE hours by the end of this year.

Individuals who have not met the CPE requirement need to contact AGA's CGFM office at 800-AGA-7211 extension 313.

Not all CPEs can count towards the CGFM designation. The hours earned must be in government financial management topics or related technical subjects applicable to government financial management areas. CPEs must contribute to the CGFM's professional proficiency in government financial management, and you need to maintain documentation of the CPE completed (for at least three years). This documentation may be requested by AGA if you are selected to be audited; however, CGFM holders should not automatically send information on their CPE hours to AGA at the time of renewal.

For more information on CGFM CPE requirements, please visit AGA website at http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/cpe_requirements.aspx.

CGFM Mentors

CGFM holders have volunteered to be mentors for CGFM Program participants. We hope you will contact these CGFM holders when and if you have any questions about the exams, including how these individuals have prepared for the exams.

Visit AGA's website at <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/whyearn/developments.aspx> for more information about this program.

CGFM Certification

Take CGFM Examinations at the PDC

New this year—AGA is offering a unique opportunity to take the CGFM examinations and earn your CGFM right at the PDC in July. To help you reach that goal, we are offering a special two-day Intensive Review Course on Thursday, July 7, and Friday, July 8, and an opportunity to take CGFM Examinations on July 9-10. More good news: the Intensive Review Course is only \$175 for qualified participants and the CGFM Examinations are offered at no cost. You cannot afford to miss this opportunity!

Pre-registration is required. This is a special limited enrollment offer for those individuals who have already been studying for the CGFM Exams and need extra reinforcement of the material. Participants must attend the Intensive Review Course to take CGFM Exams at no cost. Participants must have satisfied the education and experience requirements for the CGFM prior to registering for this event. For more information, please contact Kayta Silver at 800-AGA-7211 extension 313 or ksilver@agacgfm.org.

What do Exams Cover?

The three comprehensive examinations that make up the core requirement of the CGFM program are:

1. Government Environment
2. Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting
3. Governmental Financial Management and Control

Each of the three separate examinations is structured to require a candidate to demonstrate primarily a general familiarity, understanding and appreciation of the subject area. However, portions of each examination, particularly Examination 2, requires a more detailed knowledge of specific techniques, standards, procedures and practices unique to either the federal government or state and local governments.

The three CGFM Examinations are administered year-round in a multiple-choice, computerized format on behalf of AGA by NetCertification, Inc. via the Prometric Technology Centers.

This computer-based administration allows the CGFM Examinations to be offered securely in more than 300 locations in the United States, reducing travel costs and allowing candidates to schedule exams at their convenience.

Visit <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/exams/default.aspx> for more information. For example, ready to start studying for the examinations? Check out our **How do I prepare?** section for more information on different ways to study for the CGFM examinations. When you are ready to take the examinations, go to **How do I purchase the exams?**

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