



## Calendar of Events

### Boston Chapter

**June 8, 2005**

Community Service Project:  
WGBH Channel 2 Auction

**September 18, 2005**

Chapter Lunch Meeting with  
Program

**October 20, 2005**

Fall Seminar at Lombardo's in  
Randolph

**November 10, 2005**

Fall Workshop

**December 8, 2005**

Annual Holiday Charity Luncheon

**January 19, 2006**

Winter Seminar at Volpe Center in  
Cambridge

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Inside this Issue

50 Years!.....	5
CGFM.....	6
Chapter Balance Sheet.....	3
Chapter Recognition Program.....	3
Community Service.....	6
Member News.....	3, 4
National Office News.....	7
President's Message.....	2
Professional Opportunities.....	6



## 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.

**Dress of the Day:** What's Cooking on Auction (aprons)

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

(For directions visit the WGBH website at [www.wgbh.org/auction/directions](http://www.wgbh.org/auction/directions).)

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

## President's Message

Greetings!

What a year it was! I am pleased to announce that, once again, the Boston Chapter had a successful year. We welcomed 24 new members, voted on a full slate of officers, revised our chapter bylaws and awarded a CGFM scholarship.

Our education and program events offered a total of 28 CPE credit hours. We hosted two chapter meetings with guest speakers, one half-day workshop, two full-day seminars, and a regional professional development conference.

Our community service activities included participation in the Bay State Games; hosting the Annual Holiday Charity Luncheon; holding food and gift drives; and donating to Christmas in the City and the National PDC community service raffle.

We proudly presented two \$1,000 scholarships and six chapter awards. Congratulations to the winners!

The Boston Chapter will have a number of honors at the National PDC in Orlando this summer. We earned over 25,000 credits in the Chapter Recognition Program and will be awarded Platinum designation for the 2004-2005 Program Year. We will also be awarded first place in Group B category for our Chapter website. Congratulations to our webmaster, Dan Simmons! In addition, I'm very pleased to announce that Howard Olsher will be awarded one of the National Chapter Service Awards. Congratulations, Howie!

It was a pleasure to serve as Chapter President again this year and I would like to thank you, the Chapter membership, for making this year a success! I would also like to extend special thanks to the State Auditor's Office for its continued support throughout the year.

Please join me in giving a round of applause to our Chapter Officers, Directors and Chairs: Dave LeBlanc, Bill Yazbek, Kim Rapoza, Kathie Still, Christine Donohoe, Al Franklin, Peggy Carr, Sue Tefft, Howard Olsher, Bill Muench, Mary Leyden and Dan Simmons!



Have a wonderful summer!

*Julie*

## Annual Awards Dinner

On May 12th, the AGA-Boston Chapter held its annual Awards Dinner at Maggiano's Little Italy. The evening began with a cocktail hour followed by a wonderful family-style dinner.

Chapter President Julia Burns, CGFM welcomed everyone to the Awards Dinner and introduced the past presidents and chapter executive committee members in attendance. She then introduced Chapter President-Elect David LeBlanc, CGFM. Dave introduced the proposed chapter bylaw changes and called for a vote. The proposal was unanimously accepted by the membership.



(l - r) AGA Lifetime Member: **Sal Luciano** and Past Chapter Presidents: **Bill Lovett, George Dimitrakis, Julia Burns, Louis Lucas, Susan Perna-Damon, Peter Babachicos, Howard Olsher and Kathie Still**

Congratulations our Scholarship and Award Winners:

**David W. Irwin** receive the \$1,000 Walter Frese Memorial Scholarship presented to a student in the field of financial management.

**Stephanie Lew** received the \$1,000 George Brady Memorial Scholarship presented to a member of the Chapter or an immediate family member. (Because Stephanie was in the midst of finals, her parents accepted the scholarship on her behalf.)

The **Massachusetts State Auditor's Office** was presented the Agency Chapter Service Award in recognition of their exceptional support of the Boston Chapter. The award was accepted by John Beveridge, CGFM.

**Howard N. Olsher, CGFM** was presented the Mel Partol

*(Continued on page 6)*



**CEC Meeting Highlights**

On May 17, 2005, the CEC met with the following agenda:

Awards Dinner—Recap of the 2005 Awards Dinner and preliminary discussion regarding the 2006 Awards Dinner.

Education—The education committee is planning the 2005-2006 program.

Community Service—Main agenda item for next month's CEC meeting. Chapter members will be volunteering at the WGBH Channel 2 Auction on June 8th.

On May 23, 2005, the CEC held a virtual meeting to vote on the following proposal:

*To pay for the hotel room costs for H. Olsher (2005 National Chapter Service Award winner) for five days.*

The CEC unanimously voted to pay the cost of Howard's hotel at the PDC.

**Membership Update**

The Boston Chapter membership includes:

- 243 Active Members
- 24 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
- Wallace A. Franklin..... 1
- Mary E. Kelley ..... 8
- Howard Olsher, CGFM..... 1
- Kathleen A. Still, CGFM ..... 1
- Susan Tefft, CPA..... 1

**Electronic Notification**



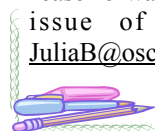
To add your name to the *Boston's Beacon* electronic distribution / chapter update list, please send an e-mail to [JuliaB@osc.state.ma.us](mailto:JuliaB@osc.state.ma.us). Thanks!

**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 [JuliaB@osc.state.ma.us](mailto:JuliaB@osc.state.ma.us).



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 April 30, 2005 are:

Categories	Maximum Credits	Credits Earned	Credits Allowed	
Leadership, Planning & Participation	3,000	3,375	3,000	113%
Education & Professional Development	4,000	4,825	4,000	121%
Certification	4,000	3,200	3,200	80%
Communications	3,000	7,317	3,000	244%
Membership	3,000	3,050	3,000	102%
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>25,867</b>	<b>19,200</b>	

**Boston Chapter Balance Sheet  
April 30, 2005**

<b>Assets</b>	
Cash	
Checking Account	\$11,645
Savings Account	9,599
Certificates of Deposit	<u>12,591</u>
Total Cash	\$33,835
Accounts Receivable	
The Harp - April 21, 2005	\$ <u>78</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ <u>78</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$33,913</u>
<b>Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$ 0
Current Fund Balance	<u>33,913</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>\$33,913</u>

(Calendar Continued from page 1)

### February 16, 2006

Winter Workshop

### March 14, 2006

Regional Professional Development Conference at Bentley College, Waltham

### April 13, 2006

Chapter Lunch Meeting with Program

### May 2006

Annual Awards Dinner

## National

### July 10-13, 2005

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

### November 14-15, 2005

National Performance Management Conference at the Portland Marriott Downtown, Portland, OR

### June 18-21, 2006

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

## 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.

## 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).

## Member News

**Martin Benison**, Comptroller of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and member of the Boston Chapter, was recently elected as President of the National Association of State Comptrollers (NASC). The past March at their annual meeting in Charleston, West Virginia, Marty was elected to a one year term as President. As an officer of NASC he is also a member of the executive committee of the umbrella organization the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT). In addition to his other duties as president of the association, Marty has launched an initiative to develop more cost effective alternatives to credit cards for conducting government business over the internet.

The National Association of State Comptrollers works to enhance the effectiveness of state comptrollers and improve financial management in state government through cooperation, sharing of information, education, and advocacy of issues affecting government finance. The National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers is an organization for state officials who deal with the financial management of state government. NASACT's membership is comprised of officials who have been elected or appointed to the office of state auditor, state comptroller or state treasurer in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. More information about both organizations can be found at [www.NASACT.org](http://www.NASACT.org).

**Kimberly D. Rapoza**, Chapter Treasurer, recently graduated from Bridgewater State College with a Master of Science in Management degree with concentration in Accounting.

Congratulations!

## Chapter History

We are documenting 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).

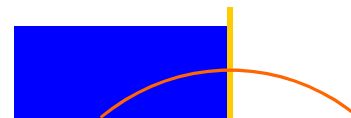
## Update Your Member Contact Information

Please take a moment or two to review and, if necessary, update your contact information. Your contact information is important because it allows us to keep in touch with you throughout the year!

Your office may have recently updated it's e-mail system and you now have a new e-mail address. Or, you may have moved to a new location within the same organization. Even if there were no changes in the past year, please check it for spelling, etc.

You can make any updates online at the 'Members Only' page of National's website at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org).

Thank you!



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

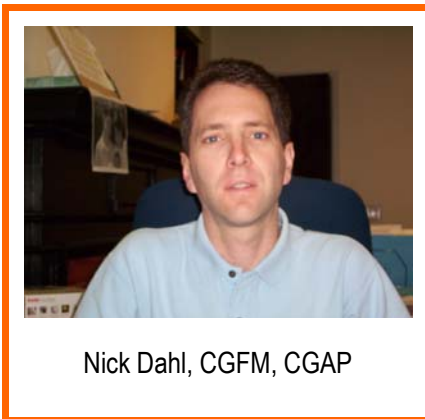
Comments should be forwarded to [editor@aga-boston-chapter.org](mailto:editor@aga-boston-chapter.org).



## AGA-Boston Chapter Celebrates 50 Years!

### Member Profile

For almost 16 years, Nick Dahl, CGFM, CGAP has been employed as an auditor by the Federal Government. He worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General (VAOIG) for almost 9 years, and he also worked for the Department of the Treasury Office of Inspector General for about 7 years. He is currently an audit manager with the VAOIG, a position he has held since 2000.



Nick Dahl, CGFM, CGAP

The VA provides a wide array of benefits and services to our nation's veterans and their dependents, including medical care, compensation and pension payments, education benefits, vocational rehabilitation services, and home loan guaranties. The VAOIG's mission is to help VA ensure that veterans and their families receive the care, support, and recognition they have earned through service to their country. As an audit manager, Nick leads teams of auditors in performing reviews to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in VA activities, and to detect and deter fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement.

He recently led a review to assess the adequacy of VA compensation claims processing procedures, focused on claims filed for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). His team reviewed over 2,000 claims and found that VA Regional Offices did not adequately or consistently process PTSD claims in 25 percent of the cases reviewed. The monetary benefits associated

with the identified claims processing weaknesses totaled \$19.8 billion.

Nick graduated from Bishop Guertin High School in Nashua, NH and the University of New Hampshire, with a B.S. degree in Business Administration. He is a Certified Government Financial Manager and a Certified Government Auditing

Professional. He is a member of both the Association of Government Accountants and the Institute of Internal Auditors.

For the past 7 years, Nick has been an active member of the Boston Chapter and he has strongly supported the mission of AGA. He has served on the chapter's training committee, the chapter officer nominating committee, the chapter awards committee, and on the Professional Development Conference host committee. He is a past president of the Boston Chapter, a former Regional Coordinator for Early Careers, and, as of July 1st, will be the Regional Vice President for the New England Region.

**O**n a personal note, Nick is a native of Nashua, NH where he resides with his wife, Kerrie, and their 3 children, ages 1 through 7. His hobbies include reading, watching the Red Sox, and spending time with his family. He is busy almost year-round as a baseball, soccer, and basketball coach for various youth league teams.

(Awards Dinner Continued from page 2)

Award in recognition of his superior service and commitment to the Boston Chapter.

**David A. LeBlanc, CGFM** was presented the first annual Chapter Community Service Award in recognition of his outstanding commitment to community service.

**Sandra Comerford** was awarded the Annual Achievement Award in recognition of her leadership and outstanding achievement in developing, implementing, and improving government financial management in the Defense Contract Audit Agency, Northeastern Region, in 2004. Unfortunately, Sandra had a schedule conflict so could not join us.

**William J. Yazbek, CGFM** was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award to recognize his years of service to the Boston Chapter.

**Kimberly D. Rapoza** was presented the President's Award for her continued assistance throughout the program year.

**Salvatore Luciano** was presented an AGA National Lifetime Award in recognition of his 50 years membership in AGA.

**Nicholas Carbone** was also presented an AGA Lifetime Award (posthumously). Agnes Carbone accepted the award on behalf of her husband.

And, **Peter Babachicos**, Past President, won the door prize— an AGA and Boston Chapter membership for 2005-2006.



### Community Service Activities

Do you participate in community service activities?  
For example:

- Avon Walk for Breast Cancer
- Bay State Games
- Boston Marathon for a special cause
- Habitat for Humanity
- Pan-Mass Challenge
- Project Bread—Walk for Hunger
- Rosie's Place
- Special Olympics
- Walk for the Whisper
- Women's Lunch Place

If so, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Julie Burns at [JuliaB@osc.state.ma.us](mailto:JuliaB@osc.state.ma.us).

## Professional Development Opportunities

### Association of Certified Fraud Examiners

The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) is hosting an event in Boston, MA on June 27th: *Building Your Fraud Examination Practice*.

This one day, instructor led course will teach the types of fraud examination services in demand and provide practical advise on how to market your services to those who need them most. Find your niche in the anti-fraud profession.

Course leader: Ralph Summerford

Location: Radisson Hotel Boston, 200 Stuart Street

Price: Member — \$249 and Non-Member — \$299

CPE: 8 hours

More information about the event can be found at: <http://www.cfenet.com/events/EventDetail.asp?PackageID=1431&EventID=501>.

### Institute of Internal Auditors

The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), Greater Boston Chapter is sponsoring the Regional IIA Conference on August 28-31, 2005 in Boston, MA.

The 2-1/2 day conference will include the best programs available in 2005, covering five tracks: Risk Management, Governance, Emerging Issues, Fraud and Technology, and Auditing Skills.

The conference incorporates world class speakers like Cynthia Cooper, Tom Warga, Ed Robinson, and Dr. Chuck Ward, with great speakers from local and national audit shops.

Price: Early Member Registration — \$495

For up-to-date information about the Regional IIA Conference can be found at [www.iiaboston2005.org](http://www.iiaboston2005.org).



### Interested in Earning the CGFM Designation?

We've got great news for you: the last of the three study guides will be published in July! You can place the order for this study guide, Governmental Environment, at AGA's PDC in Orlando or on the AGA website shortly after the conference. The CGFM study guides are a convenient and affordable way to learn about governmental financial management, prepare for CGFM examinations and earn CPE hours. For more information, go to National's website at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org).

## News from National

### 2005 Professional Development Conference and Exposition



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.

No visit to Orlando is complete without experiencing the unparalleled fun and excitement of the Walt Disney World Resort, Universal Orlando Resort and Sea World Orlando. Bring your family to Orlando and enjoy special discounts on admission tickets to major theme parks.

### National Performance Management Conference

As a capstone to this year's SEA Report review process, a Performance Reporting Conference is planned for November 14-15, in Portland, Oregon. This conference is intended to provide insight into how reports could be prepared by having entities who have participated and/or won recognition in AGA's program share how they implemented and operate their performance systems.

Sessions will present how reports can be used to improve operations, build public trust, and be used for outsourcing and budget justification. The conference will have a nationwide perspective. Program participants and award recipients will be prominently displayed. And when possible Certificates will be presented at the conference. However, we anticipate that not all award recipients will be able to attend, so those will be received in their locale. And as available we will display photos of presentations at their locale.

AGA will offer opportunities for vendors to sponsor at the conference, to allow entities visibility as to what products and services are available to support their performance reporting efforts.

For more information about AGA's Service Efforts & Accomplishments Certificate program for state and local government agencies, visit the National Office website at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org).

### Membership Campaign Results

Thank you for participating in the 2004-2005 Membership Campaign. AGA National President Bobby A. Derrick, CGFM, launched the campaign last fall by challenging every member to recruit at least one new AGA member. And he challenged AGA leaders to recruit 5 members each by the close of the membership year on April 30, 2005.

"I believe the best marketing tool for membership is our experiences," Derrick said. "My presidential theme, 'Leadership for the Future,' includes in its message, sharing the AGA story with others through the personal touch. I am talking about a quick call, a conversation at a meeting or an e-mail. A little investment in your time will go a long way in terms of helping to strengthen AGA."

The results are in...Nearly 1,800 members joined AGA during the past membership year. Of that total, 856 were recruited by 436 current AGA members!

**Boston Chapter Note:** Mary Ellen Kelley is our top recruiter. She sponsored 8 new members!

### Annual Membership Renewals were Due March 31: Renew Online Today

Annual membership renewals were due to be paid by March 31, 2005. If you have not submitted payment, please do so promptly to avoid a lapse in your member benefits.

To expedite your renewal, you have the option of renewing online via the password protected members only section of the AGA website ([www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)). Once on the AGA homepage click on 'Members Only' on the left menu. Login using your membership ID number and password (your first initial followed by your last name – no spaces), click on the gray 'Billing' button at the top right hand corner of the screen. Your renewal fees will automatically appear (this will include your CGFM renewal if applicable). Input your credit card information and hit 'Submit.' The transaction will automatically process via our secure server and the updated renewal information will be automatically updated in AGA's in-house membership system!

While you are logged into the members only site, be sure to take a look at your contact information and make any updates as necessary.

If you have any questions, please contact the AGA Customer Satisfaction Center at 800-AGA-7211 or via e-mail at [agamembers@agacgfm.org](mailto:agamembers@agacgfm.org).

**2004 - 2005 Officers, Directors and Chairs****Julia P. Burns, CGFM**

President  
Office: 617-973-2452  
E-mail: JuliaB@osc.state.ma.us

**David A. LeBlanc, CGFM**

President Elect  
Office: 781-338-6485  
E-mail: dleblanc@doe.mass.edu

**William Yazbek, CGFM**

Secretary  
Office: 617-437-2386  
E-mail: wyazbek@deloitte.com

**Kimberly Rapoza**

Treasurer  
Office: 617-565-2019  
E-mail: kimberly.rapoza@oig.hhs.gov

**Kathleen A. Still, CGFM**

Vice President for Education and Programs  
Director of Professional Certification  
Office: 617-973-2647  
E-mail: Kathie.Still@osc.state.ma.us

**Christine Donohoe**

Vice President for Planning  
Office: 617-946-4461  
E-mail: cdonohoe@massport.com

**Wallace Alan Franklin, CGFM**

Director of Bylaws and Procedures  
Office: 508-792-7810  
E-mail: Wallace.Franklin@SAO.state.ma.us

**Margaret E. Carr, CPA, CGFM**

Director of Community Service  
Office: 617-723-5059  
E-mail: MECCPA@aol.com

**Susan Tefft, CPA**

Director of Membership  
Office: 617-437-2644  
E-mail: stefft@deloitte.com

**Howard Olsher, CGFM, CFE**

Director of Registration  
Office: 617-727-6200  
E-mail: Howard.Olsher@sao.state.ma.us

**William Muench, CPA, CGFM**

Director of Scholarships and Awards  
Office: 508-490-4019  
E-mail: wmuench@DCAA.mil

**Mary T. Leyden, CGFM**

Career Day Chair  
Tel: 617-236-1630

**Daniel Simmons**

Webmaster  
E-mail: webmaster@aga-boston-chapter.org



Association of Government Accountants  
Boston Chapter  
7 Wellington Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02145

[www.aga-boston-chapter.org](http://www.aga-boston-chapter.org)

