

AGA – Boston Chapter 2001-2002 Annual Report

The Association of Government Accountants – Boston Chapter, with more than 300 members, services government financial professionals throughout New England.

Awards

On May 16, 2002, the AGA – Boston Chapter hosted the Annual Awards Dinner to recognize Past Presidents, Chapter Award winners and Chapter Scholarship recipients. This year's winners were:

✍ **Special Achievement Award** was presented to **Stephen J. Conway, CGFM** from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General, Office of Audit in recognition of his outstanding contributions towards improving financial management at HHS.

✍ **Annual Achievement Award** was presented to **Howard Olsher, CGFM** from the State Auditor's Office in recognition of his efforts to improve internal controls at various state agencies.

✍ **Mel Petrol Award** was presented to **Susan Perna Damon, CPA, CGFM** in recognition of her superior dedication and devoted service to our chapter.

✍ **Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to the recently retired and long-time member **Robert Powilatis, CGFM** in recognition of his nearly four decades of accomplishments and unparalleled contributions to state government and his longstanding commitment and support of AGA.

✍ **Agency Service Award** was presented to Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, Office of Audit. Michael Armstrong, Regional Inspector General for Audit accepted the award presented in recognition of HHS/OIG's long-standing and committed support of the AGA and the Boston Chapter.

✍ Two **Walter Frese Memorial Scholarships** of \$1,000 each were presented to **Maryann Costello** and **Robert Mahoney**. Maryann is pursuing a Masters degree at Nichols College and Robert is an undergraduate at Bentley College. Both are well-deserving recipients of these competitive scholarships.

During the National Professional Development Conference in Atlanta, GA, the Boston Chapter under the leadership of **Nicholas Dahl, CGFM** earned All Star, Platinum and Gold status for Program Year 2001 – 2003. Additionally, **Nilsa Morales, CGFM** and **Patricia Ghannam**, Co-Directors for Community Service during 2001-2002, were awarded one of the two National Community Service Awards for Group A.

CGFM

The AGA – Boston Chapter sponsored a Regional Professional Development Conference, two education seminars, and three chapter meetings with guest speakers. These events offered continuing professional education credits that assisted CGFMs to meet 80 hours of CPE every two years.

Community Service

The AGA – Boston Chapter had an active community service calendar:

- ~~///~~ In early July 2001, Dave LeBlanc, CGFM represented the Boston Chapter as a swimming judge at the **Bay State Games** and volunteered over 20 hours!
- ~~///~~ On August 23, 2001, thirty men and women took part in the **10th Annual Charity Golf Tournament** for the benefit of The Lazarus House in Lawrence, MA.
- ~~///~~ In late October 2001, three AGA – Boston Chapter members participated in a **Career Day** with members of **Beta Alpha Psi** at Suffolk University, Boston. They spoke on accounting career opportunities with the state government. This was the Chapter's first event with Beta Alpha Psi.
- ~~///~~ At the November Chapter meeting, the community service committee held a food drive to fill a Thanksgiving Basket for the **New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans**, Boston, MA. The Boston Chapter completed the basket with a check for the purchase of a turkey.
- ~~///~~ On December 11, 2001, the Boston Chapter held its Annual Holiday Charity Luncheon. Most, if not all, of the 60 members and friends who attended the luncheon brought a toy for the **Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots Campaign** and purchased raffle tickets to raise money for the **AGA National Relief Fund, Home for Little Wanderers and The Lazarus House**. Susan Perna Damon, CPA, CGFM, the 50/50 winner, graciously donated her winnings back to the Chapter to be included with the checks sent to the local charities.
- ~~///~~ On February 1, 2002, Boston Chapter members were shadowed for the day by local high school students. **National Groundhog Job Shadow Day** afforded the high school students the opportunity to observe firsthand what a government accountant/financial manager does during a typical day.
- ~~///~~ On June 6, 2002, fifteen members and friends of the Boston Chapter volunteered at the **WGBH Channel 2 Auction**. The Chapter, along with other volunteer organizations, received on-air recognition!

Early Career

The Early Career committee was formed during 2001-2002 and almost immediately established a link with Suffolk University's Beta Alpha Psi chapter. As stated in the Community Service section, three members of the Boston Chapter formed a panel to discuss the accounting profession in state government.

Education

The AGA – Boston Chapter sponsored six education events:

~~///~~ The **Regional Professional Development Conference** in March 2002 had approximately 200 attendees and offered 8 CPE credits.

~~///~~ Two full day education seminars

- At the October 2001 Education Seminar, Phil Simard presented “**A Single Audit Update**” during the morning session and John Fisher led a session on “Indirect Costs” in the afternoon. Approximately 65 people were in attendance and earned 7 CPE credits.
- At the January 2002 Education Seminar, Timothy Galvin, CFE spoke on a variety of **fraud topics** and Jim Jennis, HUD OIG presented a case study on **housing fraud**. Approximately 75 members and guest attended this seminar and earned 7 CPE credits.

~~///~~ Three chapter meetings with guest speakers offered an average of 20 attendees 1 CPE credit.

- On November 15, 2001, E.J. Landry, a partner at Deloitte & Touche, spoke on **COSO and Internal Controls**. Approximately 40 members and guests attended the session and earned 1 CPE credit.
- On February 14, 2002, Peter Jaworski spoke on **Tax and Personal Financial Planning**. Approximately 35 members and guests were in attendance and earned 1 CPE credit.
- On April 25, 2002, David Loewy from the Massachusetts Executive Office for Health and Human Services spoke on the **Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act**. Approximately 35 members and guests attended the luncheon and earned 1 CPE credit.

Membership

The Boston Chapter reached its membership retention goal and closed the program year with more than 300 members. Nicholas Dahl, CGFM was one of the top recruiters... and won the National Office’s fishbowl drawing for recruiters!

In conclusion, the Boston Chapter had a very successful year. Membership remained steady, community service participation was high, and attendance at training sessions remained strong.