

## Boston Chapter Calendar of Events

### Local

#### October 7, 2009

Audio Conference  
Internal Controls for  
Auditors  
Federal Reserve Building



#### October 22, 2009

Fall Seminar, ARRA  
Reporting - Is it Working  
and Lessons Learned  
Cambridge, MA



### National

#### November 5 - 6, 2009

AGA Performance  
Management  
Conference  
Seattle, WA



#### February 2010

AGA National  
Leadership  
Conference  
Washington, DC



#### July 11 - 14, 2010

AGA Professional  
Developmental  
Conference  
Orlando, FL



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## President's Message

October already. I'm not sure that we even had a summer in Boston, let alone being ready for Indian Summer. My main job in October is to stay away from the Halloween candy. As hard as that can be our training committee is working even harder for the chapter.

Our annual training program has begun. This year, the training committee has put together an outstanding program that started, September 24'th with "The Many Faces of Fraud" seminar at Lombardo's in Randolph. The conference focused on procurement, pension benefits, health care, and investment fraud. I would like to extend my thanks to all the speakers and committee members who made this event a success.

On October 22'nd we are hosting a half-day seminar for 6 CPE's at the Volpe Transportation Building in Cambridge. The program will focus on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act reporting. We have another star studded list on national and local speakers for this session. Since this will be right after the first official reporting date for ARRA funds, this should give us all an idea of where things are progressing.

Our upcoming audio conference will be on the subject of internal controls for auditors and will take place at the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston on Wednesday October 7, 2009. Please note the registration deadlines on these two events. As always, the audio conferences are free for members and cost \$20 for other guests.

With the holiday season only a couple of months away, Jane Gustowski and the community service committee are already planning our annual holiday charity luncheon. The event will held at Maggiano's Little Italy in Boston. The November newsletter will contain further details. As is our custom, we will be accepting toy donations for Christmas in the City and will also have our usual raffle of donated items and a 50/50 raffle. Your assistance in collecting donations for the raffle table is greatly appreciated.

Finally, full disclosure dictates that I tell you that I am writing this newsletter while vacationing in Italy. While that doesn't fall into the geographic local area of Boston, I did bring some membership applications with me.

*Joe Valchuis*

### Save the Date!

Audio Conference - Internal Controls for Auditors

To register, please contact Howard Olsher, CGFM at  
Howard.Olsher@sao.state.ma.us or via phone at 617-727-6200.



## Boston Chapter AGA Educational Opportunity Audio Conference

### *“Internal Controls for Auditors”*

*Date:* October, 7, 2009  
*Location:* Federal Reserve Building  
Boston, MA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Room A/V3

*Registration:* 12:30 - 1:00  
*Speaker:* 1:00 - 2:00 (from Mass Office of the  
Comptroller)  
*Session:* 2:00 - 4:00  
*CPEs:* 3

*Cost: Members Free, Non-Members \$20*

Government managers and auditors at all levels will gain a better appreciation and understanding of internal control systems and how to assess their effectiveness. Guidance on internal controls is important and COSO provides an excellent framework for organizations to follow. Unfortunately, organizations often place too much emphasis on the wrong control components under the misguided premise that control activities are the most critical elements of an organization's success. This misplaced focus can cause managers to respond with strong, but wrong, preventive controls over day-to-day activities, which ultimately frustrates efforts to correct an organization's real problems.

This audio conference will explore internal control concepts that can make for a high-performing organization and offer managers and auditors tools to assess internal controls within their organizations.

To share their practical experiences in auditing and views toward the future of auditing are: **David R. Hancox, CGFM, CIA**, Audit Director, Office of the New York State Comptroller and **Mary Peck, CIA, CCSA, CGAP**, Director of Internal Controls, New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

*Registrations due by 10/05/09, To register please contact Howard Olsher, CGFM at Howard.Olsher @ sao.state.ma.us or via phone at 617-727-6200 or online at www.aga-boston-chapter.org.*

## Boston Chapter AGA Educational Opportunity Seminar

### *“ARRA Reporting - Is it Working and Lessons Learned”*

*Date:* October, 22, 2009  
*Location:* Volpe Transportation Building  
Cambridge, MA,

*Registration:* 8:15 - 8:45  
*AM Session:* 8:45 - 11:45  
*PM Session:* 1:00 - 3:45  
*CPEs:* 6

*Cost: Members 50, Non-Members \$75  
(lunch on your own)*

The \$787B Recovery Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President on February 17<sup>th</sup> to jump-start the economy. Starting in October and each quarter thereafter, recipients of ARRA funding will report quarterly on how they have spent the Recovery Act funds that they received.

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, recipients began to register at [www.FederalReporting.gov](http://www.FederalReporting.gov), the first step in reporting expenditures of recovery funds as required by the Recovery Act. Please join us on October 22<sup>nd</sup> as our guest speakers discuss their successes...and lessons learned... from the first quarter recipient reporting that ended on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### Presenters:

Jay Gonzalez, Undersecretary, Massachusetts  
Executive Office for Administration and Finance  
Nancy Valley, Partner, KPMG  
Sharon Scott-Chandler, Vice President, ABCD, Head  
Start and Children's Services  
Rebecca Kaplan, JD, US Dept of Labor

*Registrations due by 10/20/09, To register please contact Howard Olsher, CGFM at Howard.Olsher @ sao.state.ma.us or via phone at 617-727-6200 or online at www.aga-boston-chapter.org.*

*Any individual that may require special accommodations for the disabled at any Boston Chapter Training should communicate this and include the information in their registration prior to the event.*

## AGA National Training Event



### *A Dialogue on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*

On Sept. 1, 2009 the AGA National Office sponsored a session at Federal Reserve Bank of Boston on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The training which was free to Government Employees offered 4 CPEs to approximately 280 registrants.

The invited officials who spoke were from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the US Office of Homeland Security, the Government Accountability Office along with local participants from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, State of Rhode Island and the City of Boston.

The U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Education and Transportation held breakout sessions where attendees could ask questions about the program implementation issues that were most vexing to them.

We are grateful to the national staff, members of the Boston Chapter and the employees of the Office of the State Comptroller who coordinated and staffed this educational session.



Boston Chapter Members and guests attending the opening session of the ARRA presentations.

## AGA Audio Conference



### *“American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Grant Reporting Requirements”*

On Sept, 2, 2009 the Boston Chapter hosted an audio conference on American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Reporting Requirements as they relate to grants management.

This session was held at Federal Reserve Building and offered three (3) CPEs to participants. Boston Chapter members attended at no cost.

Sharing their practical experiences in grants management were Thomas A. Cooley, MS, Chief Financial Officer and Director, Office of Budget, Finance and Awards, National Science Foundation, W. Scott Erwin, CGFM, CRA, Director, Office of Sponsored Programs, Texas State University and Joseph L. Kull, CGFM, CPA, Director, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, LLP.

As a bonus, Dan Bonnette of Deloitte & Touche was an “in the room speaker” preceding the audio conference.

Dan spoke to the group on a number of the reporting requirements now being promulgated by the Act and ways to better prepare for what’s coming up.



Dan Bonnette, CPA of Deloitte & Touche presenting prior to the audio conference

*Any individual that may require special accommodations for the disabled at any Boston Chapter Training should communicate this and include the Information in their registration prior to the event.*

## Calendar of Events Program Year 2009 - 2010

**August 12, 2009**

**Audio Conference - Stimulus Spending Controls  
Federal Reserve Building, Boston, MA  
3 CPEs**

**September 1, 2009**

**Audio Conference - Grants Management  
Federal Reserve Building, Boston, MA  
4 CPEs**

**September 2, 2009**

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009  
Federal Reserve Building, Boston, MA  
3 CPEs**

**September 24, 2009**

**Fall Seminar - Fraud  
Lombardo's, Randolph, MA  
7 CPEs**

**October 7, 2009**

**Audio Conference - Internal Controls for Auditors  
Federal Reserve Building, Boston, MA  
3 CPEs**

**October 22, 2009**

**Fall Seminar - ARRA Reporting: Is it Working?  
Volpe Transportation Building, Cambridge, MA  
6 CPEs**

**November 17, 2009**

**Fall Workshop — TBD  
Hoagland Pincus Center, Shrewsbury, MA  
6 CPEs**

**December 3, 2009**

**Annual Holiday Party  
and Charity Fundraiser  
Magianno's, Boston, MA**

**December 16, 2009**

**Audio Conference - Trends in Occupational Fraud  
Federal Reserve Building, Boston, MA  
3 CPEs**

**January 21, 2010**

**Winter Seminar - IT Security Management  
Volpe Transportation Building, Cambridge, MA  
7 CPEs**

**February 11, 2010**

**Winter Workshop  
Single Audit A - 133 Updates  
4 CPEs**

**March 9, 2010**

**Regional Professional Development Conference  
Bentley University, Waltham, MA  
8 CPEs**

**April 15, 2010**

**Spring Workshop  
Emergency Preparedness  
4 CPEs**

**May 19, 2010**

**Audio Conference - Ethics  
Federal Reserve Building, Boston, MA  
3 CPEs**

**June 2010**

**Chapter End of Year  
Appreciation Dinner  
TBD**

**July 11 - 14, 2010**

**AGA National Professional  
Developmental Conference  
Orlando, FL**

## Meet A Fellow Chapter Member...



Frank Cintolo  
Director - Mass State Auditor's Office

Frank has been with the State Auditor's office since graduating from Boston University in 1973 with a degree in mathematics and statistics. He later attended Babson College taking a number of courses toward a Masters in Business Administration.

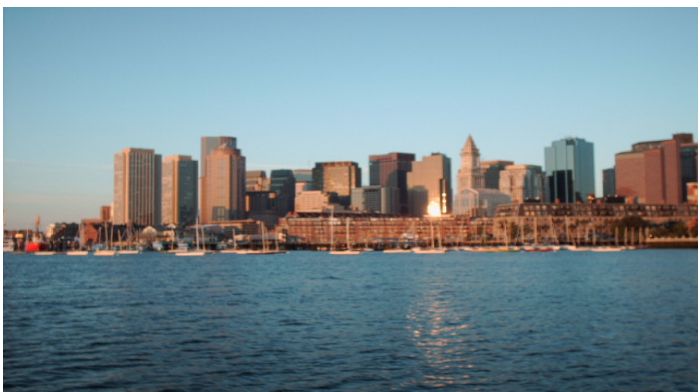
Frank worked originally as a field auditor in the field operations side of the office. He is currently a director working with Deputy Auditor John Beveridge in the information technology audit division.

Frank was born and raised in the North End of Boston, living the Italian tradition with a brother Anthony (Tony), an uncle who was a priest, and most of his family living within a block of one another.

Frank currently lives with his wife Joanne in the town of Walpole, where they raised their two daughters Carrie and Amy. Both of the girls attended Ursuline Academy in Dedham and later attended Providence College.

Frank's hobbies include landscaping and gardening work around his home, skiing, and swimming.

*"I have been a member of the AGA off and on during my career, and I do realize it is a premier group for our industry."*



## Community Service Events 2009 – 2010 Proposed

**Sept. 22, 2009**

N.E. Shelter for Homeless Veterans serving dinner

**Sep 24, 2009**

Seminar at Lombardo's—"Go Green" and Animal Shelter Donations collected

**Oct 22, 2009**

Fall Workshop at Volpe Bldg—"Go Green" Donations collected.

**Nov. 11, 2009**

Distribution of meals to veterans

**Nov. 17, 2009**

Fall Workshop –"Go Green" Donations collected.

**Dec 3, 2009**

Annual Holiday Charity Lunch at Maggiano's Little Italy to benefit Christmas in the City

**Jan 21, 2010**

Winter Seminar at Volpe Bldg— "Go Green" Donations collected

**Feb. 2, 2010**

National Groundhog Job Shadow Day

**Feb 11, 2010**

Winter Workshop— "Go Green" Donations collected.

**Mar 9, 2010**

Regional PDC at Bentley College—"Go Green" Donations collected.

**June, 2010** - Donation to National Community Service Committee



## The Certified Government Financial Manager

CGFM - The Mark of Excellence in Federal, State and Local Government. Since its inception in 1994, the CGFM has become the standard by which government financial management professionals are measured. Its education, experience and ethics requirements have served to elevate the most seasoned financial professionals.

More than 14,000 individuals have received the designation so far. Now it's your turn. Experience the benefits of certification first hand—the CGFM is the mark of excellence in your profession. We look forward to adding your name to our distinguished list of Certified Government Financial Managers.

***The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the employment of accountants and auditors is expected to grow 18 percent between 2006 and 2016, which is faster than the average of all occupations. Accountants and auditors that hold a college degree or any other certification will have the best job prospects.***

Give yourself an edge over your competitors. Recent research has shown that employers attribute their recruiting difficulties to a shortage of qualified professionals. Give yourself a competitive advantage by showing your commitment to lifelong learning. You need a credential that shows you are qualified and have the skills to lead. The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) does this like no other credential.

The CGFM is the first certification broad enough to cover the whole field of government financial management—federal, state and local. It measures a wide range of knowledge and skills that a professional needs to succeed in the federal government financial environment, or to meet the unique challenges faced by state and local government financial managers.



## CGFM CPE Requirements

In order to maintain CGFM designation in an active status, CGFMs must adhere to the AGA's Code of Ethics, pay the annual renewal fee by March 31 and meet the following continuing professional education (CPE) requirements:

- complete at least 80 hours of CPE every two years in government financial management topics or related technical subjects;
- maintain and, if requested by AGA, provide detailed information on CPE hours completed.

The two-year CPE cycle is based on the year the CGFM was awarded. CPEs are applicable if continuing professional education hours that would satisfy the CGFM Program's requirement must be in government financial management topics or related technical subjects applicable to government financial management areas.

The CGFM is initially responsible for determining whether a topic or subject qualifies as an acceptable CPE. Additional questions should be referred to the Office of Professional Certification - 703.684.6931, ext. 305.

CGFMs need to maintain documentation to substantiate their statements of completed CPE for a minimum of three years. This documentation may be requested by AGA as part of a CPE audit or a reactivation process.

The proper backup documentation must clearly state the individual's attendance or completion of the CPE activity. Examples of such documentation include: a certificate of attendance or completion, a certificate of CPE hours earned, a grade report or an official letter from the event sponsor or employer stating that the CGFM has attended the event.

For more information on the requirements to maintain a CGFM in an active status, please visit the following site: <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/>

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



**Jean Libitz-Flynn**  
Mass Port

## Member News

Boston Chapter President **Joseph Valchuis** has just been awarded the designation of Certified Fraud Specialist (CFS).

This is to add to his current CFE designation. Congratulations Joe!

## Membership Update

The Boston Chapter membership includes:

235 Active Members

9 New Members

29 Suspended Members

\*\*\*\*\*

## Membership Sponsors

\*\*\*\*\*

The Boston Chapter recognizes and thanks the following new member sponsors since May 2009:

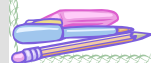
- David A. LeBlanc, CGFM... .. 2
- Christine Donohoe..... 1
- Julia P. Burns, CGFM..... 1
- John Mahoney, CGFM ..... 1
- William Muench, CGFM..... 1

## 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 [dleblanc@doe.mass.edu](mailto:dleblanc@doe.mass.edu).

Thanks!



## SUDOKU

4				7		3	2	
	7		3	8		9		
					6			
	6	4				8		2
5								7
7		2				6	4	
			1					
		9		4	7		1	
	3	5		9				6

## 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 June 1<sup>st</sup> and concludes on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Boston Chapter credits as of September 30, 2009 are:

Categories	Maximum Credits	Credits Earned	Credits Allowed	% of Avail
Leadership, Planning & Participation	3,000	3,725	3,000	100%
Education & Professional Development	4,000	3,375	3,375	84%
Certification	4,000	1,975	1,975	49%
Communications	3,000	3,748	3,000	100%
Membership	3,000	2,950	2,950	98%
Early Career	2,000	625	625	31%
Community Service	2,000	2,275	2,000	100%
Awards	1,000	3,550	1,000	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>22,223</b>	<b>17,925</b>	<b>81%</b>

## Boston Chapter Balance Sheet September 30, 2009

### Assets

#### Cash

Checking Account	\$ 3,487
Savings Account	9,960
Certificates of Deposit	<u>0</u>

#### Total Cash

\$13,447

#### Total Accounts Receivable

\$ 5,005

#### Total Assets

\$18,452

### Liabilities and Fund Balance

#### Accounts Payable

\$ 0

#### Current Fund Balance

18,452

#### Total Liabilities and Fund Balance

\$18,452

## 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 the Chapter's Director of Education - Julia Burns, CGFM at Julia.Burns@state.ma.us.

## Community Service News

The Community Service Committee is sponsoring an ongoing project to collect travel size toiletry items that will be donated to a local charity. Please bring donations to any of our upcoming chapter events. We had a nice collection at the Regional PDC at Bentley University and want to continue our efforts. Thank you in advance for your assistance on this project.

### SUDOKU ANSWER

4	8	6	9	7	1	3	2	5
2	7	1	3	8	5	9	6	4
9	5	3	4	2	6	7	8	1
3	6	4	7	1	9	8	5	2
5	9	8	2	6	4	1	3	7
7	1	2	5	3	8	6	4	9
6	4	7	1	5	3	2	9	8
8	2	9	6	4	7	5	1	3
1	3	5	8	9	2	4	7	6

### October Quote

*"Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, while expecting a different result."*

**Albert Einstien**



#### TRIVIA QUESTION!

*Black, Whooper and Bewick's are all what types of which bird?*

Answer found elsewhere in the newsletter.

### Websites of Interest

American Society for Public Admin (ASPA).....	www.aspanet.org
MA Chapter of ASPA.....	www.massaspa.org
Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (CFE).....	www.cfenet.com
Association of Certified Fraud Specialists (CFS).....	www.acfsnet.org
Greater Boston Chapter of CFE.....	www.acfe-boston.org
Association of Government Accountants.....	www.agacgfm.org
AGA Aroostook County Chapter.....	www.agaarostookcounty.org
AGA Boston Chapter.....	www.aga-boston-chapter.org
AGA Hartford Chapter.....	www.agahartford.org
AGA Maine Chapter.....	www.gwi.net/~aga/
First Gov.....	www.firstgov.gov
Governmental Accounting Standards Board.....	www.gasb.org
Government Executive.....	www.govexec.com
Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA).....	www.theiia.org
IIA Greater Boston Chapter.....	www.theiia.org/chapters/index.cfm/home.page/cid/13
Information Systems Audit & Control Association.....	www.isaca.org
Intergovernmental Audit Forum.....	www.auditforum.org
International Accounts Payable Professionals (IAPP).....	www.iappnet.org
National Assoc of State Auditors, Comptrollers & Treasurers.....	www.nasact.org
National Assoc of State Comptrollers.....	www.nasact.org/community/nasc.html
National Assoc of State Treasurers.....	www.nasact.org/community/nast.html
National State Auditors Association.....	www.nasact.org/community/nsaa.html
National Electronic Commerce Coordinating Council.....	www.ec3.org

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

Comments should be forwarded to dleblanc@doe.mass.edu.



## CEC Meeting Highlights



The Boston Chapter of the AGA Executive Committee met on September 15, 2009. The following items were discussed:

The Education Committee discussed its planning for the upcoming year, highlighting the final event planning for the seminar in September at Lombardo's.

Discussions were held regarding the 2-day registration rule in reference to events held at the Federal Reserve Building. It is imperative that members register by the deadline due to the Federal Reserve restrictions.

A discussion was held regarding the information that needs to be maintained for CPE audit confirmation, including speakers' biographies, agendas, attendance and all paperwork associated with the conference.

Prices were established for all education events with the exception of the Regional PDC.

The possibility of a training session on November 17<sup>th</sup> in Shrewsbury was discussed. The Committee is pursuing potential subject matter.

Becker Professional Education spoke about its services such as CPA exam preparation and how they might be of help to the chapter.

CGFM Coordinator reports were presented and received.

Treasurer's and membership reports were presented and received.

The annual final budget preparation was discussed.

The topic of potential corporate sponsorships was broached.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2009.

## Job Opportunity

### MassHousing Temporary Position Available

#### Auditor/Accountant - Comprehensive Permit Program

Review cost certification examination reports and provide technical accounting assistance related to Chapter 40B cost certifications. Prepare written responses and/or conduct meetings to clarify, resolve and settle cost certification issues. Serve as a liaison between MassHousing and other agencies, developers and independent accountants. Ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations and policies related to Chapter 40B cost certifications.

**Qualifications:** BS degree in Accounting; CPA or CIA preferred. Minimum of 3-5 years work experience in auditing, including coordinating and directing auditing activities. Prior construction industry experience a plus. Must be able to work independently. Proficiency with Microsoft Word & Excel required.

Assignment expected to last approximately 4-6 months (October 2009 - April 2010).

Qualified candidates should forward a letter of interest and a resume to Human Resources, MassHousing, One Beacon Street, Boston MA 02108, or faxed to 617.854.1027, or emailed to [jobs@masshousing.com](mailto:jobs@masshousing.com).

### There ought to be a law.

Did you know.....



In Hawaii most billboards are illegal.

In Galesburg, Illinois it is illegal to maintain an animal that disturbs others with its odor or noise.

In Indiana it is illegal for a liquor store to sell candy.

In Overland Park, Kansas it is illegal to picket funerals.

#### Trivia Answer

A Swan

## News from National

### Government Finance Case Challenge

The best undergraduate accounting/financial management/business students in the country are invited to compete in the third annual Government Finance Case Challenge, sponsored by the Association of Government Accountants (AGA).

Student teams will collaboratively analyze and offer a written response to a case centered on how a U.S. city government implements a performance management system. The registration deadline is Friday, Oct. 2, 2009. All members of the two highest-scoring teams will receive a scholarship to attend AGA's National Leadership Conference, set for February of 2010 in Washington, D.C. Teams will present their finalized solutions before a panel of federal/state/local government leaders, corporate partners and CFOs. The winning teams will be announced at the awards luncheon on the final day of the conference.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the winning team. Each student participant will receive a free one-year membership to AGA. Students will compete with teams from various colleges around the country. The experience promises to challenge students' moral reasoning, raise their awareness of the importance of government accountability and open doors to a future career in government.

### Cyberspace...Changing the Way You Network

AGA prides itself in its well-developed network of government financial managers. Members can tap into that network in a variety of ways, from the traditional conferences focusing on advancing your career to the ever-evolving resources on the Web. In the last few months, we've received a lot of encouragement from members to broaden our presence on the Web. This has led to our own channel on YouTube as well as an AGA group on LinkedIn. In the coming months, stayed tuned for the introduction of AGA's very own Facebook Page.

These initiatives will complement AGA's existing networking programs. AGA is offering more places for members to make connections, find information and keep pace with what's happening at AGA. For more information on how you or your chapter can get involved in social networking, contact Rodneikka Freeman.

### Call for Nominations

AGA's National Nominating Committee is seeking members for volunteer leadership positions (three-year term to begin July 1, 2010). Positions include:

National President-Elect  
 National Treasurer-Elect  
 Senior Vice President for Regional Services  
 for Section II,  
 Senior Vice President At-Large, and  
 15 Regional Vice Presidents (RVP)-Elect.

Nominations are due Friday, Oct. 30. For more information read the nominations brochure or contact Michiyo Wheeler 800.AGA.7211, ext. 321.

### AGA's Regional Dialogues Reveal ARRA Spawning Lasting Changes

Regional intergovernmental dialogues recently sponsored by AGA in four cities across the country reveal that the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA) is sweeping, not only in its size and complexity, but also in the impact that it is likely to have on government operations both now and in the future.

New processes, procedures and tools developed to implement ARRA are reshaping intra- and intergovernmental relations and the ways that governments collect, maintain and report information

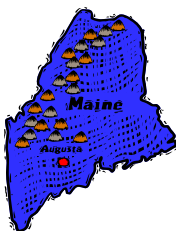
### Additional Governments Produce Citizen-Centric Reports

The states of Washington, Texas and Maryland, Guilford County (NC), the U.S. Agency for International Development, National Science Foundation, Idaho State Police and the City of Las Vegas are the latest governments to join a growing list of state and local governments and federal agencies who are producing four-page Citizen-Centric Reports

## Around the New England Region

### Maine Chapter Meetings

Held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, September-May, at the Senator Inn. Meetings include a social lunch, chapter meeting/announcements, and an informational speaker.



Educational trainings are scheduled for September and October along with participating in AGA National's Audio Conferences.

### Aroostook County Chapter

Plans are ongoing for the next chapter educational training event. Check their web site for upcoming events.



### New England Region - Vice President Team

Kathie Still, CGFM  
Regional Vice President  
[Kathie.Still@state.ma.us](mailto:Kathie.Still@state.ma.us)

Jenny Boyden  
Regional Vice President-Elect  
[Jenny.boyden@maine.gov](mailto:Jenny.boyden@maine.gov)

David A. LeBlanc, CGFM, CFS  
Immediate Past Regional Vice President  
[dleblanc@doe.mass.edu](mailto:dleblanc@doe.mass.edu)



### New England Regional Coordinators

Joseph Valchuis, CFE  
Regional Coordinator for Certification  
[Joseph.Valchuis@sao.state.ma.us](mailto:Joseph.Valchuis@sao.state.ma.us)

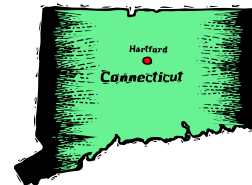
Jane Gustowski, CPA  
Regional Coordinator for Chapter Development & Assistance  
[j\\_gustowski@mwcc.mass.edu](mailto:j_gustowski@mwcc.mass.edu)

David A. LeBlanc, CGFM, CFS  
Regional Coordinator for Education  
[dleblanc@doe.mass.edu](mailto:dleblanc@doe.mass.edu)

Donna Ferenc  
Regional Coordinator for Membership  
[Donna.Ferenc@maine.gov](mailto:Donna.Ferenc@maine.gov)

### Meetings for the Hartford Chapter

These are generally held at 6:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month from September to May.



The meeting location is the Marco Polo Restaurant, 1250 Burnside Avenue, East Hartford, CT.

Hartford Chapter at [www.agahartford.org](http://www.agahartford.org)

### Hartford Chapter Educational News



HARTFORD CHAPTER

On Thursday, September 17, 2009 the AGA Hartford Chapter presented their annual "One Day Seminar". This session was held at the City of Hartford Conference Room Center and participants earned 8 CPE credits

The opening remarks for the day were presented by Nancy S. Wyman of the State of Connecticut Comptroller's Office

The training then offered four different topics over the course of the session. The subject speakers for the day were:

Carol Carson spoke to the audience on the topic of Ethics.

National expert Jay Fountain talked to the group about Active GASB Projects.

John Rasimas spoke to everyone about Government Accounting and Auditing.

Timothy Kobelia educated the participants on the subject of Investigating White Collar Crimes.

Congratulations to the Hartford Chapter on offering this excellent session to their members and guests.

## **ARRA Reporting by: Kathie Still, CGFM**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 includes unprecedented levels of reporting requirements. The primary goals for ARRA are to stimulate the American economy and to create/retain jobs.

The bill calls for transparency for all of the activity supported by the grant. Transparency is intended to provide the taxpaying public the opportunity to see where (some) of their tax dollars went, where the benefit of those expenditures was felt and, to a degree, whether or not the expenditures resulted in the creation/support of jobs. While critics will debate whether or not the tax dollars were properly distributed throughout the country and for the right projects and whether or not the number jobs reported are accurate, certainly, for those in government charged with the responsibility of managing and reporting ARRA activity, that job is real, it is intense and it has become complex.

The requirements for reporting ARRA information extend far beyond what was spent and for what purpose. Prime Recipients, must provide information relative to every sub-award they have made, including information that must be obtained from sub-recipients. They must also report on payments to vendors and in some cases describe the purpose of the payment.

In addition to how, to whom and where the dollars were expended, Prime Recipients must report with an extensive range of codes used by the federal government. At first, OMB initially believed that all of this information appeared on award letters received by Prime Recipients. They have come to realize the deficiency of data on award letters and have made the necessary information available on [www.Recovery.gov](http://www.Recovery.gov). Awarding agencies have also posted weekly reports of their awards on their agency websites.

The first reporting deadline for ARRA funds is October 10<sup>th</sup>. By that date, Prime Recipients will populate data on [www.Federalreporting.gov](http://www.Federalreporting.gov). For the 10 days that will follow, Prime Recipients will have an opportunity to review their information and make adjustments. On October 21<sup>st</sup>, federal awarding agencies will review the data and reach out to reporting entities to coordinate any adjustments needed. All data will then be locked as of October 30<sup>th</sup>. Throughout the review and correction period, the data will be available to the public and the media on [www.Recovery.gov](http://www.Recovery.gov).

The reporting requirements have already led to a level of transparency not previously seen; hopefully, the efforts of those involved at all levels of reporting will serve to better inform and perhaps to educate the citizenry who often ask....what has my government done for me?

## **Halloween Facts**

### **Once Upon A Time...**

Halloween was born. The first Halloween celebration in America took place in Anoka, Minnesota in 1921.

### **Some Facts to Throw Around at the Halloween Party.**

Jerry Ayers of Baltimore, Ohio has the record for the fastest pumpkin carver at 37 seconds.

More than 93% of children under the age of 12 will go out trick-or-treating.

About 50% of adults dress up for Halloween, while 67% take part in the activities, such as parties, decorating the house and trick-or-treating with their children.

86% of Americans decorate their house for Halloween.

Halloween candy sales average about \$2 billion annually in the United States. It is the largest candy-purchasing holiday, bigger than Christmas, Easter and Valentine's Day!

The first Halloween card was made in the early 1920's. These days, over 28 million Halloween cards are sent each year. U.S. consumers spend about \$50 million on Halloween greetings.

Over \$1.5 billion is spent on costumes each year and more than \$2.5 billion on other Halloween paraphernalia.

90% of parents admit to sneaking goodies from their kids' Halloween trick-or-treat bags.

Over 10% of pet owners dress their pets in Halloween costumes.

More than 35 million pounds of candy corn will be produced this year. That equates to nearly 9 billion pieces - enough to circle the moon nearly 4 times if laid end-to-end.



# Membership Application

New Member  Check here if renewing

## I. Name & Mailing Address

Mr.  Mrs.  Ms.  Dr.  Prof.

male /  female

### Preferred Address

Name FIRST  LAST  MIDDLE

Address  Apt/Suite#

City  State/Province

Zip/Mail Code  Country

Home  Office Address

Business Phone  Business Fax

Home Phone

E-mail

### Second Address

Address  Apt/Suite#

City  State/Province

Zip/Mail Code  Country

## II. Business Information

Job Title  Dept.

Organization

### Employer: (Government):

- Federal  State  County  City  International  
 Private  Academia  Student  Retired  Private International

### Responsibility Area:

- Accounting  Budgeting  Financial Management  Management  Academia  
 Contract Management  Grants Management  Program Management  Administration  Consulting  
 Information Systems  Retired  Auditing  Finance  Legal  
 Student  Other

### How did you hear about AGA?

- Friend/Co-Worker  AGA/Chapter  AGA Conference  Employer  AGA Website  
 CGFM Program  Internet Search  Chapter Meeting  AGA Publication  Direct Mail

### Age:

- Below 20  21 – 25  26 – 30  31 – 35  36 – 40  41 – 45  46 – 50  51 – 55  56 – 60  61 – 65  66+

Please list any other financial management or accounting associations you are a member of:

Education:  Highest degree attained:  Accreditation and Certificates:

## III. Sponsor's Name

(if applicable)  Member ID #

## IV. Membership Data/Dues

Please choose a membership category and fill in the appropriate dues from the list on the back of this application. Retired? Call the AGA Customer Satisfaction Center at 800.AGA.7211 to find out about our retired membership category.

- Full Government**—\$90/year—This class of membership requires three or more years of government experience, involving the professional performance of financial management activities in an operational, administrative and/or supervisory capacity. This class is also available to individuals with similar experience outside the government who are engaged in educational activities having the same objectives as the Association, or who have made a contribution toward the improvement of government financial management.  
 **Private Sector**—\$150/year—This class of membership is available to individuals working for commercial activities/ventures that are actively engaged in and support AGA's purpose and objectives.  
 **Early Career**—\$45/year—This class of membership is available to government employees with less than three years experience.  
 **Student**—\$30/year—This class of membership is available to college/university students.

Primary Chapter  Dues

Additional Chapter Membership(s) Optional  Dues

Dues

(please refer to list on the reverse side)

## V. Method of Payment

Check enclosed (make checks payable to AGA)

Charge to my:  VISA  MasterCard  AMEX  Discover

Total Amount Enclosed

Card Number  Expiration Date

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