

## Boston Chapter Calendar of Events

### Local

**Jan 13, 2009**

Chapter Executive  
Committee Meeting



**Jan. 15, 2009**

Winter Seminar -  
Internal Controls:  
Tools for Fraud  
Identification in  
Today's Fiscal Environment  
Volpe Bldg.  
Cambridge, MA



### National

**Feb. 19 - 20, 2009**

National Leadership  
Conference  
Ronald Reagan  
Building  
Washington, D.C.



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## President's Message

Now that the holidays are over, let's all breathe a collective sigh of relief. Ready....one, two three, Ahhhhhhh. Doesn't that feel good? If that didn't make you feel more relaxed, try it a few more times and call me in the morning if it doesn't work. Seriously folks, I am pleased to report that the 2008 Annual Holiday Charity Luncheon was a great success. Sparky Kennedy and Melinda Brown from Christmas in the City provided insight into how Christmas in the City began and how it affects the lives of so many homeless children and their parents. The weather cooperated completely and attendance was spectacular as 58 members and friends enjoyed the wonderful food at Maggiano's Little Italy. When it comes to the Holiday Charity Luncheon, the generosity of everyone is always impressive and this year was no exception. Many participants donated toys and toiletries and raffle prizes that were gratefully received by Christmas in the City. Personal thanks go out to the many people who helped orchestrate this event including Julia Burns, Brenda Delasanta, Karen Lowe, Donna Pandolfo, Howard Olsher, Laurie Allen, David LeBlanc, Kelly Lanier, and all of the other members of the Chapter Executive Committee that donated raffle prizes. Many local businesses also generously donated raffle prizes. Once again, the chapter will donate \$1,000 to Christmas in the City as a result of this fundraiser!

To assist our members during this difficult economic time, the Chapter Executive Committee has voted to reduce registration fees for members for the remaining events during this program year (through June 30, 2009). A schedule of events can be found on page 3 of this newsletter. This important change highlights the benefits of membership and reflects the importance we have placed on increasing benefits while member agencies struggle with tighter budgets.

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, the Boston Chapter will be hosting a full day of training at the Volpe Center in Cambridge. The speaker for this event is John J. McKeever, CFE, CQA, CPC, CBM, CCSA. John is the President & COO of Contemporary Business Concepts, LLC and the topic will be "Internal Controls: Tools for Fraud Identification and Prevention in Today's Fiscal Environment." This will be a very timely topic, focusing on the current economic climate. John has presented at other AGA Boston Chapter sessions and has always been well received. We are very pleased to be able to have him back again.

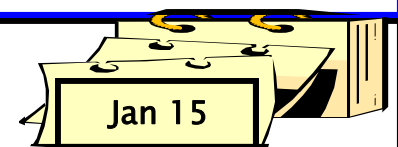
We are hoping you will take advantage of our new member pricing so please register soon for the Volpe Center soon. January 15<sup>th</sup> will be here before you know it! See you there,

*Kim Rapoza*

### Save the Date!

Winter Seminar - Internal Controls: Tools for Fraud  
Identification in Today's Fiscal Environment

To register please contact Howard Olsher, CGFM at [Howard.Olsher@sao.state.ma.us](mailto:Howard.Olsher@sao.state.ma.us) or via phone at 617-727-6200.



## *AGA - Boston Chapter's Winter Seminar*

### **Internal Controls: Tools for Fraud Identification in Today's Fiscal Environment**

We are extremely pleased to have national speaker, John McKeever as our featured presenter for the day. John will speak on Internal Controls and Fraud and how it currently relates to Sarbanes Oxley, COSO, Bailouts and current regulations

Seven CPE's will be awarded for this full day - Internal Controls and Fraud seminar. Lunch is on your own. This is our first session of the new calendar year and the first session with our reduced member pricing.

Thursday, January 15, 2009.  
Volpe National Transportation Systems Center  
55 Broadway  
Cambridge, MA

Registration: 8:00  
AM Session: 8:30 - 12:00  
Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 (on your own)  
PM Session: 1:00 - 4:30

CPEs 7

Cost: Members	\$ 15
Non-Members	\$ 85

Registrations due by 1/12/09

***There is no public parking at the Volpe Building. For transportation you should use the MBTA Red Line - Kendall Station or there are public garages in the area. All bags must be x-rayed and metal detectors are in use at the public entrance. Name tags or Federal Ids must be worn while in the building.***

*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.*

**Due to the financial constraints that a number of our members and their employers are currently facing, the Boston Chapter of the AGA has instituted the following price reductions through the end of the current program year.**

**We have lowered member pricing to \$15 for any CPE generating half day workshop and full day seminar (except our Regional PDC at Bentley College) for the rest of this program year. We will maintain the non-member pricing at its current rate.**

**For Bentley, the cost for our member attendees will be \$50 for eight (8) CPEs. Non-member rates will remain at \$130, with the exception of an "early-bird discount" for non-members that register by February 15, 2009. This "early bird" discount will reduce the non-member cost down to \$100.**

**As always, AGA Audio Conferences that the chapter sponsors will be free for our members.**

### ***Boston Chapter Education Recap***

On November 20, 2008 over 50 Boston AGA Chapter Members and guests attended our Fall Workshop at the O'Neill Federal Building in Boston.

The seminar had three different sessions covering auditing and working in a hostile environment.

**Peter Babachicos** and **Ted Doherty**, US DOT, discussed the OIG Fraud Awareness Program and their presentation included the Big Dig investigative work plus Hurricane Katrina.

**Ron Meldonian** of DCAA presented a session titled "Auditing in a Hostile Environment" namely, Iraq. This session gave most of us a great deal to think about when we start complaining about some of our current problems. Most of us don't have to wear body armor when we go to work.

**Ron Cox**, CGFM of DFAS (and the AGA Senior VP for Region 1) discussed issues and case studies relating to some of DFAS's work with our military.

Attendees earned five CPEs and were treated to a full breakfast to start off their morning.

## Calendar of Events Program Year 2008 - 2009

**September 10, 2008**

**Audio Conference - Fraud Prevention & Detecting  
Federal Reserve Building, Boston, MA  
2 CPEs**

**September 18, 2008**

**Chapter Lunch Meeting - Transportation Issues  
The Harp Restaurant, Boston, MA  
1 CPE**

**October 23, 2008**

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

**November 12, 2008**

**Audio Conference - Internal Controls  
Federal Reserve Building, Boston, MA  
2 CPEs**

**November 20, 2008**

**Fall Workshop - Auditing in a  
Hostile Environment  
O'Neill Federal Bldg., Boston, MA  
4 CPEs**

**December 4, 2008**

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

**January 15, 2009**

**Winter Seminar - Internal Controls: Tools for Fraud  
Identification in Today's Fiscal Environment  
Volpe Transportation Building, Cambridge, MA  
7 CPEs**

**February 11, 2009**

**Audio Conference - Fraud  
Federal Reserve Building, Boston, MA  
2 CPEs**

**March 10, 2009**

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

**April 8, 2009**

**Audio Conference - Auditing  
Federal Reserve Building, Boston, MA  
2 CPEs**

**April 16, 2009**

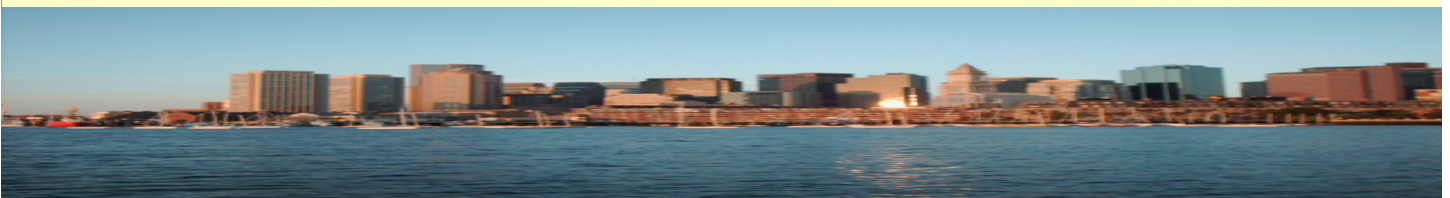
**Spring Workshop  
JFK Federal Building  
4 CPEs**

**May 13, 2009**

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

**May 2009**

**Chapter End of Year  
Appreciation Dinner  
Boston Museum of Science  
Boston, MA**



## ***Which Issues Should AGA's Intergovernmental Partnership Tackle?***

By: Martin Benison, CGFM

AGA has established an intergovernmental partnership to foster collaboration among governments and open lines of communication, eliminate duplication and waste, and improve performance and accountability. The Partnership for Intergovernmental Management and Accountability (Partnership) is comprised of high-ranking officials from the federal, state and local governments and higher education. The most fundamental goal of the Partnership is to enhance governments' ability to effectively and efficiently serve citizens..

The Partnership's initial project was the issuance of the first of an occasional Intergovernmental Alert, which highlights federal initiatives that will have a significant impact on state and local governments. Issued on January 15, 2008, the Alert was emailed to more than 17,000 people and generated an unusually high level of interest among readers.

The Steering Committee also established work groups to implement two additional projects. The members of each work group will be announced shortly and they will begin work within two weeks. Additional information on the work groups is available on the Partnership's website. In general, the work groups will focus on:

**Federal Cost Allocation/Improving Implementation of OMB Circular A-87:** This work group will identify how the process for preparing, submitting and negotiating Statewide Cost Allocation Plans in accordance with OMB Circular A-87 can be made more efficient and effective. The group, which is expected to complete its work in 12 months, will identify and prioritize issues or concerns, and provide recommendations for alternative approaches that could enhance implementation of Circular A-87 and provide benefits to all levels of government.

While the scope of the project will be further refined by the work group, possible areas of exploration include reviewing possible alternative approaches for the federal government to participate in the funding of working capital reserves for infrastructure and shared services arrangements for services such as information technology; and exploring whether there should be a central adjudication process for issues arising between federal awarding agencies and other units of government.

**Leveraging the Single Audit/Strategies for Reducing Erroneous Payments:** This work group will determine how all levels of government can work smarter to leverage audit resources, including the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 (SAA) and the Improper Payments Act of 2002 (IPIA), while improving the usefulness of both acts to improve program integrity and reduce improper payments. SAA and IPIA both involve sampling at the grantee level (state, local, nonprofit organization) to determine whether federal awards were properly expended (the right payment to the right person for the right amount). Currently, these two efforts function independently with limited reliance on each other. The work group, which is expected to complete its work in one year, will strive to develop ways in which the two acts can be coordinated and leveraged to increase reliance between the two efforts and minimize the duplication of work.

Since the work group members have just been appointed and will begin their work within the next two weeks, this is the perfect time to provide them with input. Are you aware of any issues the Partnership should include in its next Intergovernmental Alert? Is there an issue or issues that you have encountered in negotiating or implementing Circular A-87 that should be addressed by the work group? What are some ways in which the SAA and IPIA can be leveraged and better coordinated? What steps can the various levels of government take together to enhance stewardship over taxpayers' dollars? What are additional projects the Partnership should undertake

*Martin Benison, CGFM, a member of AGA's Greater Boston Chapter, is the controller for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He is the state co-chair of AGA's Partnership for Intergovernmental Management and Accountability, which was created by AGA's National Executive Committee in September 2007. Opinions expressed here are those of Mr. Benison and do not represent the views of the Partnership.*

## Community Service Notes

### Annual Holiday Party / Charity Fundraiser December 4, 2008.



The Boston Chapter of the AGA hosted its annual Holiday Party / Charity Fundraiser at **Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant** in Boston.

This fundraiser was for the benefit of **Christmas in the City**, a local organization that provides a fun-filled party for children (and their parents) from local homeless shelters.

We raffled off many great prizes (list of winners and prizes on page 6) and thanks to the generosity of the members and guests, the Chapter donated \$1,000 and a van load of toys to the organization. Hope to see you there next year.



*Pictured at the annual Holiday Party is Boston Chapter President Kim Rapoza, CGFM (center), surrounded by Melinda Brown and Sparky Kennedy from Christmas in the City.*



*Chapter members and guests that attended the event brought a "van load" of toys and games to donate to Christmas in the city. Some of them are pictured above.*



*Above are some of the raffle prizes that were awarded during the annual charity fund raiser. Participants were allowed to choose which items they wanted to win by selecting where their ticket were placed.*

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. Thank you, in advance, for your assistance on this project.

**The following is a list of the raffle prizes donated for the Annual Holiday Luncheon and Fundraiser with all of the receipts going to Christmas in the City.**



**AGA - Boston Chapter  
Annual Holiday Luncheon and Charity Raffle  
Thursday, December 4, 2008**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Donation</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Prize Winner</b>
Boston Red Sox	Autographed picture of Jason Varitek	unknown	Dave McBride
Cape Code Winery	Bottle of Wine	\$ 15.00	Dianne Handrahan
Children's Museum	4 Passes	\$ 40.00	Dianne Handrahan
Elephant and Castle	\$25 Gift Certificate	\$ 25.00	Maggie Trudel
Elephant and Castle	\$25 Gift Certificate	\$ 25.00	Andrea Rousseau
Hartford Wolf Pack	Program signed by former team captain, Andrew Hutchinson - currently of Tampa Bay Lightning	unknown	Maggie Trudel
JFK Library and Museum	2 Buy One Get One Free Pass	\$ 20.00	Diana Galatian
JFK Library and Museum	2 Buy One Get One Free Pass	\$ 20.00	Mike Wilson
Julie's Skin Care, Pembroke	\$50 Gift Certificate	\$ 50.00	Mike Wilson
Lowell Devils	4 Passes, Pennant and Hockey Puck	\$ 72.00	Mike Gagan
Middleton Golf Course	One Round of Golf for Two Persons	\$ 44.00	Mike Wilson
Museum of Fine Arts	2 Passes	\$ 34.00	Julie Burns
New England Aquarium	2 Complementary Passes	\$ 39.90	Jim Constantino
New England Revolution	4 Passes - Fidelity Investment Box Seats	\$ 260.00	Kelly Lanier
Pat's Peak	2 Weekday/Night Lift Vouchers	\$ 80.00	Al Franklin
Peabody Essex Museum	4 Passes	\$ 60.00	Mary Beth Farrelly
Plimoth Plantation	2 Passes	\$ 56.00	Dave Clinton
Roger Williams Park Zoo	2 Passes	\$ 24.00	Dave Clinton
Zoo New England	4 Passes	\$ 48.00	Brenda Delasanta
Julie Burns	\$25 Ruby Tuesday Gift Certificate	\$ 25.00	Gayle Walley
Maryann Costello	\$25 Barnes & Noble Gift Certificate	\$ 25.00	Maggie Trudel
Nick Dahl	\$25 Barnes & Noble Gift Certificate	\$ 25.00	Kathie Still
Al Franklin	World Time Calculators	unknown	Tom Bobrowski
Al Franklin	World Time Calculators	unknown	Eric Berman
Kelly Lanier	Holiday Candy Wreath	unknown	Julie Burns
Dave LeBlanc	Bottle of Merlot Wine	\$ 25.00	Peter Babachicos
Kim Rapoza	Comic Book Collection	unknown	Kelly Lanier
Kim Rapoza	\$50 Outback Gift Certificate	\$ 50.00	Karen Lowe
		28	
50/50 Raffle		\$ 79.00	Mike Armstrong



## CGFM NEWS



### Dear Certified Government Financial Manager,

As we approach the 2009 renewal time, we want to let you know about the important new developments that affect your CGFM certification.

1. **The CGFM Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Requirements have been updated.** [The updated document is available on AGA website.](#) While there have not been any major changes to the CPE policies, a number of provisions were clarified, modified or updated. Here is the summary of main updates (with references to the specific sections of the CPE Requirements document):

- **Section 2**—clarified the applicability of CPE requirements to all active CGFMs and the fact that there is no minimum number of hours required each year.
- **Section 3**—updated the section on retired status to reflect the recent changes to the retired status definition.
- **Section 4**—clarified circumstances warranting an exception.
- **Sections 7 and 12**—addressed the topic of taxation.
- **Section 9**—added clarification on criteria used to determine if programs qualify for CPE hours.
- **Section 10**—provided additional guidance on internal training programs; added additional examples of applicable activities such as web-based programs and audio conferences.
- **Section 11**—included specific questions to ask when making the determination of applicability of the hours.
- **Section 12**—updated the examples of topics and subjects list.
- **Section 13**—clarified applicability of basic or elementary courses and repeated courses or presentations.
- **Section 14**—explained the calculation of partial hours and updated the calculation of hours for self-study programs.
- **Section 15**—specified how CPE hours are awarded for course development.
- **Section 16**—updated the acceptable CPE documentation guidelines

If you have any questions on the CPE Requirements update, please contact [Katya Silver](#) at 800.AGA.7211, ext. 305.

2. **The names of all active CGFMs will be published on AGA website in 2009.** We want to recognize your accomplishment of achieving the CGFM designation by proudly displaying a list of the active CGFMs on our website. The list will include your name, state and AGA chapter (if applicable). If you do **NOT** want to have your name published as part of this listing, please let us know—[e-mail](#) or fax (703.562.0361) the AGA's Office of Professional Certification by **February 28, 2009**.

3. **Retired status definition for AGA membership and CGFM has been changed.** At its July 2008 meeting, AGA's National Board of Directors approved a new definition for retired status for membership and CGFM certification. While the new definition does not affect the status of active CGFMs, we want you to be aware of the [changes to the retired status definition](#) in case you have already retired or plan to retire in the near future.

We appreciate your ongoing support of the CGFM Program. As we get ready for 2009 renewal, we ask you to make sure that your contact information is correct. You can update your contact information by going to the [Member Login section of the AGA website](#), or if you have any questions, please contact our Customer Service Center at 800.AGA.7211 or 703.684.6931. The renewal invoices should go out in February and the payment is due by **March 31, 2009**.



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



**Catherine Warren**  
US HHS OIG

**Edward Jeye**  
Homeland Security OIG

### Go for Growth!

#### Membership Update

The Boston Chapter membership includes:

- 234 Active Members
- 15 New Members
- 0 Members Transferred In
- 0 Members Transferred Out
- 29 Suspended Members

\*\*\*\*\*

The Boston Chapter recognizes and thanks the following new member sponsors since May 2008:

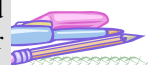
- Rachel D. Trant ..... 2
- David A. LeBlanc, CGFM... .. 2
- Joseph Valchuis ..... 1
- Howard Olsher, CGFM ..... 2
- Kathleen Cushing, CGFM ..... 2
- Joanne St. Pierre ..... 1
- Judy Blodgett..... 1
- Kimberly Rapoza, CGFM.....1
- Barry Russell.....1

### 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!



### Member News

**Wallace Alan (Al) Franklin, CGFM**, has been nominated to become the AGA Senior Regional Vice President for Region I.



### SUDOKU

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

### 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 April 1<sup>st</sup> and concludes on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Boston Chapter credits as of December 31, 2008 are:

Categories	Maximum Credits	Credits Earned	Credits Allowed	% of Avail
Leadership, Planning & Participation	3,000	4,050	3,000	100%
Education & Professional Development	4,000	3,575	3,575	89%
Certification	4,000	2,850	2,850	71%
Communications	3,000	6,877	3,000	100%
Membership	3,000	4,450	3,000	100%
Early Career	2,000	750	750	38%
Community Service	2,000	9,125	2,000	100%
Awards	1,000	5,000	1,000	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>36,677</b>	<b>19,175</b>	<b>87%</b>

### Boston Chapter Balance Sheet December 31, 2008

#### Assets

Cash	
Checking Account	\$ 4,221
Savings Account	12,235
Certificates of Deposit	<u>13,566</u>
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>\$30,022</b>
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b><u>\$ 2,685</u></b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>\$32,707</u></b>

#### Liabilities and Fund Balance

Accounts Payable	\$ 0
Current Fund Balance	<u>32,707</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<b><u>\$32,707</u></b>



### 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@osc.state.ma.us](mailto:Julia.Burns@osc.state.ma.us)



### January Quote

*"Informed decision making comes from a long tradition of guessing and then blaming others for inadequate results."*

**Scott Adams**  
*(Dilbert creator)*

### SUDOKU ANSWER

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



### TRIVIA QUESTION!

What high school did Mattel's Barbie attend?

Answer found elsewhere in the newsletter.

### Websites of Interest

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



### CEC Meeting Highlights

The Boston Chapter of the AGA Executive Committee met on December 9, 2008. The following items were discussed:

- The reports from the various committees were read and accepted.
- Community Service activities recap:
  - Annual Holiday Lunch at Maggiano's - voted to make a \$1000 donation to Christmas in the City based on receipts and chapter support.
  - AGA National's New Orleans's Habitat for Humanity Project - tabled a discussion regarding sponsoring members this year due to financial considerations.
- Investigated providing accommodations for the hearing impaired at our functions.
- Voted to reduce member fees to all of our training functions for the remainder of the program year.
- Established a subcommittee to work on national award nominations.
- Voted to invite the Presidents of the other New England Chapters to our regional PDC in March.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2008.



*Maybe this explains why I didn't get the wide screen, plasma TV for Christmas*



### Just a Thought

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

Have you noticed since everyone has a camcorder these days no one talks about seeing UFOs like they used to?

Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day; teach that person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks.

If quitters never win, and winners never quit, then who is the fool who said, "Quit while you're ahead?"

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

A .jpg is worth a thousand .txts



### Trivia Answer

**Willow High**

## News from National

### Call for National Awards Nominations

Who do you know that deserves special recognition for contributions to our field? Please help us acknowledge financial professionals at the federal, state and local level and private sector who are leading the way. (You might even consider nominating yourself.) Note that nominees do not have to be AGA members.

The federal leadership awards include the Distinguished Federal Leadership Award, the Elmer Staats Award and the Andy Barr Award. The state and local leadership awards are the Excellence in Government Leadership Award, the William R. Snodgrass Distinguished Leadership Award, the Distinguished Local Government Leadership Award, and the Private Sector Financial Excellence Award.

These awards will be presented at AGA's Seventh Annual National Leadership Conference, set for **Feb. 19–20, 2009** in Washington, D.C. Submit your nominations today. Contact Michiyo Wheeler or 703.684.6931, ext. 321, with questions.

### Third Annual National Community Service Project Set for April 27-May 1, 2009

Community service and helping those who are less fortunate than ourselves is an important part of what AGA is about. The dates for our Third Annual National Community Service project are April 27-May 1, 2009, again sandwiched between the two weekends of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festivals. We will seek lodging in the beautiful, new University of New Orleans dormitory (two-bedroom, furnished apartments) with a rate of only about \$20 per night, per person.

Due to popular demand, we have created a second opportunity next year to experience what it's like to work with Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans. Since AGA's National PDC is in New Orleans June 21-24, 2009, we will also have a one-day community service event with Habitat on Thursday, June 25, the day after the PDC ends. For this event, we will seek to extend AGA's special hotel rate to include this extra night. We hope you will pencil in these dates on your calendar and join us for some of the fun!

### AGA Announces Four New Courses

Four new AGA-sponsored courses are designed to help financial managers and auditors add value to government performance. The courses are presented in cooperation with The Auditor Roles in Performance Measurement Project Team of The Institute of Internal Auditors, which developed the courses under a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. These courses can be customized to an organization's needs, to immerse participants in high-value audit skills and to provide additional ways to apply them. The four courses include:

*A New Service Model: Auditor Roles in Government Performance Measurement*

*Assessing the Reliability and Relevance of Performance Information*

*Assessing the Quality of Performance Information and Performance Reports*

*Auditing Performance Management Systems*

Read more details about these and other AGA-sponsored training courses at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org), or contact AGA Director of Education Joe Jozefczyk at 800.AGA.7211, ext. 307.

### Finalists Announced for AGA Government Finance Case Challenge

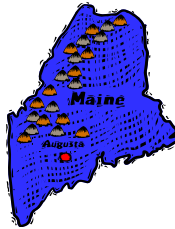
AGA would like to congratulate the **University of North Carolina at Pembroke** and the **University of Nebraska at Omaha**. Both have been named as the finalist teams in [AGA's Second Government Finance Case Challenge](#).

Both teams will join AGA at our upcoming National Leadership Conference (NLC) in Washington, D.C. Feb. 19-20, 2009. Each team will offer a 20-minute presentation about their case response. This year's case asked our 17 entrants to design a Citizen-Centric Report for a city in North Carolina. Follow the results of the competition.

## 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



### Maine Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) Meetings

Held once each month, typically following the Chapter Meetings They are held as needed during the summer months. Minutes will be posted in the following month's newsletter. Maine Chapter at [www.gwi.net/~aga/](http://www.gwi.net/~aga/)

### The Maine Chapter has two upcoming Training meetings scheduled.

On **January 13, 2009**, Dennis Doiron will be speaking on Tax Changes For Upcoming Tax Season.

And on **February 10, 2009**, Wayne Jortner will be discussing the Role of Public Advocate's Office

For more information, contact Suzanne Hammer at 623-6747 or email at [suzanne.hammer@maine.gov](mailto:suzanne.hammer@maine.gov)

### News:

Jenny Boyden has been nominated to become the next AGA Regional Vice President Elect for New England.

### Aroostook County Chapter

The Aroostook County's next major chapter event is scheduled for February,



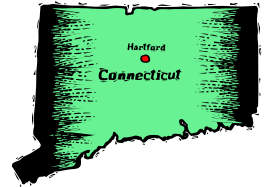
They're calling it a "**Membership Mardi-Gras**"!!!! It is planned as a social event to gain new members as well as show appreciation for all of the current members!!

### 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)



### **New England Region Vice President Team**

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Kathie Still, CGFM  
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Jody L. Breton, CGFM  
Immediate Past Regional Vice President  
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# 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

Signature

Advancing  
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Accountability

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of Government  
Accountants

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