

## Calendar of Events Boston Chapter Local

### March 5, 2008

Audio Conference  
Environmental Fraud  
Federal Reserve  
Building  
Boston, MA



### March 11, 2008

Regional Professional  
Developmental Conference  
Bentley College, Waltham, MA

### April 10, 2008

Spring Workshop  
Immigration / Customs  
Enforcement

## National

### July 27-30, 2008

AGA National  
Professional  
Developmental  
Conference  
Atlanta, GA



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## Regional Professional Developmental Conference

**Bentley College**

**March 11, 2008**

### Program

**Keynote:** Richard L. Fair, CGFM, CPA, AGA National President

### Morning Sessions

Track 1 – State Auditor Panel

Richard L. Fair, CGFM, New Jersey State Auditor

Ken Marchurs, Massachusetts State Auditor's Office

Thomas M. Salmon, CPA, Vermont State Auditor

Track 2 – GASB Update

Eric S. Berman, CPA, Massachusetts Comptroller's Office

Track 3 – Computer Security

Jim Laky, VA OIG ISO

Jim O'Neill, VA OIG

Track 4 – Performance Auditing

Beth L. Ashcroft, CIA, ME Office of Program Evaluation & Government  
Accountability

Track 5 – Finding Fraud

David R. Hancox, CGFM, CIA, NY Office of the Comptroller

### Afternoon Sessions

**Keynote:** Gregory W. Sullivan, MA Inspector General

Track 6 – Ethics Panel

Ed Lukey, Dept. of Veterans Affairs

Jenny Hedderman, Massachusetts Comptroller's Office

Gary Mathison, KPMG

Track 7 - Managing Multiple Generations

Jeffrey H. Davis, M.Ed.

Track 8 – e-Commerce

Robert Buchanan, MA Office of the State Auditor

Sean Carter, NEACH

Patricia Davis, MA Office of the Comptroller

Track 9 – Performance Auditing (Repeat of Track 4)

Track 10 – Finding Fraud (Repeat of Track 5) [*Track is closed*]

**To register please contact Julia Burns, at [Julia.Burns@osc.state.ma.us](mailto:Julia.Burns@osc.state.ma.us)  
or via phone at 617-973-2452**

## Candidates for Office



The Boston Chapter's Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for office. Chapter officer elections will be conducted at the  
Regional Professional Development Conference  
(Bentley College) on March 11, 2008



### **President Elect**

**Joseph Vachuis, CFE**

Massachusetts Office of the State Auditor

### **Treasurer**

**Kelly Lanier**

Massachusetts Department of Education

### **Secretary**

**Scott Lennon**

Massachusetts Office of the State Auditor

### **Vice President for Education and Programs**

**Julia P. Burns, CGFM**

Massachusetts Office of the Comptroller

### **Vice President for Planning**

**Brenda Delasanta**

US HHS OIG

### **Vice President for Communication**

**David A. LeBlanc, CGFM**

Massachusetts Department of Education

## **President's Message**

March is upon us and there is a lot to look forward to. Daylight savings time will come early this year, Easter will also be observed, and don't forget St. Patrick's day. We can also look forward to the end of winter, snow and ice driving, and the colder weather. However, for the Boston Chapter of AGA, we are looking forward to our Regional Professional Development Conference to be held at Bentley College this year on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Education Committee has been working hard on this conference all year and has come up with a very exciting program. We will have two Keynote speakers, Rick Fair, State Auditor New Jersey, and AGA National President, who will open the conference in the morning and Greg Sullivan, Massachusetts Inspector General who will give a keynote speech after lunch. There will be five concurrent sessions in the morning and five in the afternoon.

In the morning we will have a State Auditor Panel, a GASB update; a session on Computer Security; Performance Auditing; and presentation on "Finding Fraud".

In the afternoon we will have a panel on E-Commerce, a session on Managing Multiple Generations, and an Ethics Panel along with a repeat of the Performance Auditing and the presentation on "Finding Fraud". The day will run from 8:30 am until 4:45 pm and award 8 hours CPE's. Hope to see everyone there.

In our effort to give back to the membership of the Boston Chapter of AGA, the Chapter Executive Committee voted to purchase and give to each member a "Brief Bag" with the "AGA" logo and "Boston Chapter" printed on the outside. We will start giving these out at the RPDC in Bentley and other training session. Members who do not make a training session will receive their bags in the mail. It is a great bag, which you should be proud to use. Hope to see you at the conference or at a future Boston Chapter event.

*Wallace Alan Franklin*



## Regional Professional Developmental Conference - March 11, 2008

### Keynote Speaker

**Government Auditing: Where are we going?**

**Richard L. Fair, CGFM, CPA**

AGA National President



This discussion will cover the role of Government Auditing and cover the topics of Historical Audit Roles, Forces Causing Change, Visions of the Future, and What We Need to Do to Prepare for the Future.

### Track 1 State Auditor Panel

**Richard L. Fair, CGFM, CPA**

New Jersey State Auditor

**Ken Marchurs, CPA**

First Deputy Auditor,  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**Thomas M. Salmon, CPA,**

Vermont State Auditor



This group will discuss issues and topics that have become central issues to their respective states.

### Track 2 GASB Update

**Eric S. Berman, CPA,** Deputy Comptroller, Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Council Member



The session will review the upcoming statements to be implemented from GASB and the technical plan for the next few years. The following statements will be discussed: Statement Nos. 43 and 45 on OPEB, Statement 48 on sales of receivables and pledges of revenues, Statement 49 on Pollution Remediation, Statement 50 on Pensions are to be implemented for June 30, 2008. Statement 52 on Land held in Endowments will be implemented by June 30, 2009 and Statement 51 on Intangible Assets will be implemented by June 30, 2010.

### Track 3 Computer Security

**Jim Laky, VA OIG ISO**

**Jim O'Neill, VA OIG**



The term Computer Security can refer to a product, or a service, or a branch of technology known as information security as it applies to computers. .

Computer security imposes requirements on computers that are different from most system requirements because they often take the form of constraints on what computers are not supposed to do. This makes computer security particularly challenging because we find it hard enough just to make computer programs just do everything they are designed to do correctly. Furthermore, negative requirements are deceptively complicated to satisfy and require exhaustive testing to verify, which is impractical for most computer programs.

For this reason, computer security is often more technical and mathematical than some computer science fields.

### Tracks 4 & 9 Performance Auditing

**Beth L. Ashcroft, CIA,**

Maine Director of the Office of Program Evaluation & Government Accountability

Performance auditing involves evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of a function, activity or program. Answering the question of whether an activity is achieving intended results often requires delving into areas where traditional audits do not usually tread. The answer to the question, however, can be critical – especially in the government arena where it is important to be spending the taxpayers' money wisely and success cannot be measured in terms of profit. In this session, you will learn what's involved in performance auditing and how it differs from financial and compliance auditing. We will also take a look at performance auditing in the government sector and how that contrasts with the private sector.

## Regional Professional Developmental Conference - March 11, 2008

### Tracks 5 & 10 Finding Fraud

**David R. Hancox, CGFM, CIA,**  
Director, Division of State Services  
State Audit Bureau  
NY Office of the Comptroller



Finding fraud is a significant challenge to the auditing profession and the managers of an organization. Auditors need to re-examine the approach they have historically taken to their work. Auditors have to get back to basics and ensure that they are using up-to-date techniques to find the fraud, waste and abuse that may exist in the system. Traditional audit techniques relying on examining documents are simply ineffective. Documents can be manufactured or altered with the technology that is readily available today. But documents are also disappearing in this electronic age. Confronted with literally millions of transactions, what do we do?

### Keynote Speaker

#### Roles & Responsibilities of the Office of the Inspector General and Current Initiatives

**Gregory W. Sullivan**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Inspector General



The Inspector General of the Commonwealth is charged with detecting and preventing fraud, waste and abuse in the expenditure of public funds. The Inspector General oversees the expenditure of public funds relating to programs and operations involving the procurement of any supplies, services, or construction, by any state agency, department, board, commission, institution of higher learning, authority, county, city, or town. This appointment is made jointly by the Governor, Attorney General, and State Auditor for a period of five years

### Track 6 Ethics Panel

**Ed Lukey,** Chief Counsel US VA  
**Jenny Hedderman,** Office of the Comptroller  
**Gary Mathison,** KPMG



The theory of right action and the greater good is just one of the topics that will be discussed by the panel. Discussions will help you re-think your definition of ethics so that you can work through ethical challenges more easily, how to help yourself, colleagues, and co-workers keep ethical principles constantly in mind throughout the course of day-to-day decision making.

### Track 7

#### Managing Multiple Generations

**Jeffrey H. Davis, M.Ed.**

Senior Consultant, Organization Renewal Associates



For the first time we have four distinct generations at work in the workplace. They each come with different values, perspectives, strengths and challenges. Come learn about these multiple generations, and how you as a leader can increase your ability to motivate and manage them.

### Track 8

#### E-Commerce

**Robert Buchanan,** MA Office of the State Auditor

**Sean Carter,** NEACH Senior Director of Education and Rules Development

**Patricia Davis,** e-Commerce Coordinator, MA Office of the Comptroller



Electronic commerce consists of buying and selling of products or services over electronic systems such as the Internet and other computer networks. A wide variety of commerce is conducted this way, spurring and drawing on innovations in electronic funds transfer, online transaction processing, electronic data interchange, etc.

## News from National

### AGA's 57<sup>th</sup> Annual PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

July 27–30, 2008  
24 CPE hours  
Atlanta, GA

Join us for AGA's Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC)—the premier education and networking event for government financial management and accountability professionals.

AGA has been a leader in providing the best training for more than 57 years, and this is the place where it all comes together: the profession's top leaders, the latest technological advancements, more than 1,700 practitioners and daily networking events.

Offering 24 CPE hours, timely topics and an impressive lineup of speakers, PDC 2008 promises to be one of the Association's best. With the theme, *Building on the Dream: Creating a Culture of Accountability*, this event will convene government financial managers and accountability professionals from around the country for three and a half days of knowledge building and networking.

The PDC is the authoritative source for the knowledge and contacts you need to succeed in today's constantly changing environment. Learn about the newest research in the field. Find out about tools and techniques that have advanced the profession. Hear dynamic speakers. Discuss hot topics and trends. Meet the top leaders from federal agencies, state and local governments, the private sector and academia. Take part in small-group discussions, explore current issues and find answers.

From the practical to the theoretical, sessions will help attendees hone their skills to bring greater efficiency and effectiveness to government operations. Exhibitors are available to demonstrate the newest products to help your agency achieve its mission, and the networking events should not be missed.

General sessions feature speakers of national prominence and encompass the overarching tracks of the conference; concurrent sessions address current issues and best practices in the field. Create your own curriculum from more than 90 educational sessions organized around the following tracks:

- Auditing Tips, Tools & Techniques
- Accountability and Ethics
- Financial Management Strategies
- Management Challenges

The PDC is also about networking. Take advantage of the many receptions and social events that are planned, and enjoy the historical landmarks, good food and fun that Atlanta has to offer. Bring your family and explore the Georgia Aquarium, Centennial Olympic Park, the new World of Coca-Cola®, The King Center, Atlanta Botanical Garden and other area attractions.

Add sizzle to your summer... Join AGA for PDC 2008 in Hotlanta. Build on the dream... register today, and demonstrate your commitment to a more accountable future!



## ***Boston AGA Annual Awards – Brief Descriptions***

### **AGENCY CHAPTER SERVICE AWARD**

**Purpose:** To recognize an agency that has made significant contributions to AGA

**Eligibility:** All agencies who have exhibited support for AGA

**Criteria:** The award is given for outstanding support provided by an agency to the Local Chapter and or National AGA. Eligible agencies will have consistently made important contributions in support of the development and enhancement of AGA.

2007 winner - Massachusetts Department of Education

### **ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**Purpose:** To accord recognition for leadership or outstanding achievement in developing, implementing, and improving financial management in government service in the past year.

**Eligibility:** The individual nominated must have been employed in government service at the time the work being recognized was performed. Nominees do not have to be members of the AGA.

**Criteria:** Selection criteria for the award will be generally limited to achievements accomplished in the preceding calendar year.

2007 winner –Ron Twing & Peter Bates, Mass State Auditor’s Office

### **MEL PARTOL MEMORIAL AWARD**

**Purpose:** To recognize an individual for superior dedicated service that enhanced the Chapter.

**Eligibility:** Any AGA member of the Boston Chapter.

**Criteria:** Superior and dedicated service will be considered on a broad basis of acts, achievements or service that enhanced the prestige of the Boston Chapter, enabled the Chapter to provide greater service to its membership, or brought a sense of continued dedication to the Boston Chapter.

2007 winner –David A. LeBlanc, CGFM Mass Department of Education

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

**Purpose:** To annually recognize an AGA – Boston Chapter member who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to volunteer community service by participating in a volunteer community service project or projects.

**Eligibility:** Current AGA – Boston Chapter member.

**Criteria:** Superior and dedicated volunteer community service will be considered on a broad basis of acts, achievements or service.

2007 winner – Kimberly D. Rapoza, CGFM, CPA, US HHS OIG

### **CHAPTER EDUCATOR AWARD**

**Purpose:** To annually recognize an AGA – Boston Chapter member who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to providing educational opportunities to the AGA and other regional groups

**Eligibility:** Current AGA – Boston Chapter member.

**Criteria:** Superior and dedicated educational service will be considered on a broad basis of acts, achievements or service.

2007 winner – Not Awarded

## ***Boston Chapter AGA Annual Scholarships***



The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) - Boston

Chapter is pleased to offer one (1) **Walter Frese Memorial Scholarship** of \$1,000 to a high school, undergraduate, or graduate student enrolled in a financial management related program.

The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) - Boston Chapter is pleased to offer one (1) **George E. Brady Memorial Scholarship** of \$1,000 to an AGA – Boston Chapter member or an immediate family member that is enrolled in an institution of higher education with no limitation as to educational major.

Applications are available at [www.aga-boston-chapter.org](http://www.aga-boston-chapter.org)

These scholarships will be presented at the Chapter’s annual awards dinner later this year.

## **Job Shadow Day 2008!**



On Friday, February 1, 2008 - Groundhog Day - countless working professionals along with their "student shadows" celebrated the 10th Annual Job Shadow Day!

Job shadowing is a yearlong national effort to enrich the lives of students by acquainting them with the world of work through on-the-job experiences and a carefully crafted school curriculum that ties academics to the workplace. The effort helps young people understand how what they learn in the classroom leads to success in the workplace.

National job shadowing is a coordinated effort of Junior Achievement, America’s Promise - The Alliance for Youth, the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Labor.

A number of our members stated that their offices participated this year.

## Community Service News

*Community Service, Leadership and Music: April 2008 New Orleans Habitat for Humanity Trip*

By: Jeff Hart, CGFM, CFE, Denver Chapter, Immediate Past AGA National President

What do these three activities have to do with each other—*community service, leadership and music*? First, I will be leading a group of AGA members, family and friends on our second national community service project in New Orleans April 28 – May 2. Second, an AGA Sectional Leadership Meeting (SLM) for selected AGA chapters and other leaders will be held May 2 – 3. And third, the New Orleans Jazz Festival is set for the weekend before and after our community service project (actually, for three days before our work project, and for four days at the end). So, you have more than one good reason to come to New Orleans that week.

Why are we going back again this year? New Orleans still needs our help. By one estimate, as many as 20,000 buildings in the city remain uninhabitable. In fact, 27,500 families, mostly from New Orleans, are still living in tiny, 300-square-foot, government-issued travel trailers across the state, waiting for their homes to be repaired or for some kind of affordable housing to become available. Many other people remain in faraway cities. And hundreds—by some accounts, thousands—live on the city streets.

What are we going to do exactly? The work may be similar to what we did last year: installing floor joists, siding, soffits and fascia (exterior trim), interior molding, kitchen and bath cabinets, doors and door hardware, fencing and address numbers. We painted and scraped. Two volunteers spent a day playing with and reading to elementary school students whose parents were overstressed and overworked as they put their lives back together.

For me, it was one of the best vacations I have ever had. It was so uplifting to be working with my own hands, alongside like-minded people, knowing that we were making a difference with every hour we spent there. We also had plenty of time to go to a ballgame, check out the casino and visit some of the best restaurants and music haunts in the city famed for its food and music. In the end, nine people volunteered from around the country last year, members of the New Orleans chapter also joined us at the work site, and two volunteers came from the USDA National Finance Center. Volunteer Raul Fierros, a member of AGA's Inland Empire Chapter, also made an inspirational DVD of our experience last year. If you'd like a copy, please contact him at [rfierros@dph.sbcounty.gov](mailto:rfierros@dph.sbcounty.gov)

This year, anyone can volunteer for any period of time, or for any kind of job (construction or administrative tasks, for example). Volunteers are responsible for their own accommodations and expenses. Last year, some chapters sponsored a member from their chapter by paying some of the travel expenses.

Here's the calendar of activities:

April 25 – 27: New Orleans Jazz Festival

April 28: AGA volunteers may do various volunteer tasks in St. Bernard Parish (suburban New Orleans)

April 29 – May 2: AGA volunteers may build houses or other volunteer work in New Orleans for Habitat for Humanity (probably in Musicians' Village in the upper Ninth Ward again)

May 2 and 3: Select Section II AGA volunteer leaders attend SLM in New Orleans (by invitation only)

May 1 – 4: New Orleans Jazz Festival, including performances by the Neville Brothers, Stevie Wonder, Billy Joel, Jimmy Buffett, Tim McGraw, Santana, Maze, Sheryl Crow, Widespread Panic, Dr. John, Al Green, Diana Krall and many more. (<http://www.nojazzfest.com/>)

The Embassy Suites New Orleans Convention Center (downtown, where the SLM will be held for selected AGA leaders) has set aside 10 rooms for each night, Sunday through Wednesday, for \$79. This is a great rate—almost 50 percent off the government rate, thanks to AGA's "mission," as the hotel refers to it.

Make reservations by calling the hotel directly at 1.800.EMBASSY.

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



**Sheila Remondi**  
Commonwealth of Mass

**Alessia Manfrini**  
Mass Turnpike Auth

**Edward Giroux**  
Mass Turnpike Auth



### Go for Growth! Membership Update

The Boston Chapter membership includes:

- 248 Active Members
- 21 New Members
- 1 Members Transferred In
- 2 Members Transferred Out
- 17 Suspended Members

\*\*\*\*\*

The Boston Chapter recognizes and thanks the following new member sponsors since May 2007:

- David A. LeBlanc, CGFM ..... 3
- Joseph Valchuis..... 2
- Howard Olsher, CGFM.....1
- Susan Perna-Damon, CGFM ..... 1
- John Picuch..... 1
- Patricia Raymond ..... 1
- Kathleen Cushing ..... 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!



### 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 February 29, 2008 were:

Categories	Maximum Credits	Credits Earned	Credits Allowed	% of Avail
Leadership, Planning & Participation	3,000	4,375	3,000	100%
Education & Professional Development	4,000	4,350	4,000	100%
Certification	4,000	3,675	3,675	92%
Communications	3,000	8,350	4,000	100%
Membership	3,000	5,400	4,000	100%
Early Career	2,000	3,650	2,000	100%
Community Service	2,000	3,750	2,000	100%
Awards	1,000	3,500	1,000	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>37,050</b>	<b>23,675</b>	<b>99%</b>

### Boston Chapter Balance Sheet February 29, 2008

#### Assets

Cash	
Checking Account	\$ 1,589
Savings Account	24,183
Certificates of Deposit	<u>13,391</u>

Total Cash \$39,163

Total Accounts Receivable \$ 1,120

Total Assets \$40,283

#### Liabilities and Fund Balance

Accounts Payable	\$ 0
Current Fund Balance	<u>40,283</u>

Total Liabilities and Fund Balance \$40,283



### 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 Vice President of Education - Julia Burns, CGFM at [Julia.Burns@osc.state.ma.us](mailto:Julia.Burns@osc.state.ma.us)

### March Quote

*"People will forget what you said  
People will forget what you did  
But people will never forget how  
you made them feel"*

*Anon*

I made myself a snowball,  
As perfect as could be,  
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,  
And let it sleep with me.  
I made it some pajamas,  
And a pillow for its head,  
Then last night it ran away,  
But first-- it wet the bed.



### TRIVIA QUESTION!

*What was the first board game designed for young (pre-school) children?*

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.massspa.org](http://www.massspa.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 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)
- 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)

## CGFM NEWS

### CGFM Examinations Update

In 2007 AGA undertook a psychometric review and update of the three CGFM Examinations. To ensure that the examinations content reflects the current industry practices, AGA conducted a full-scale Job Analysis Study of the role of the Certified Government Financial Manager. While the core of the examination content remained the same, the three examination content outlines were updated, refreshed and streamlined. The weighting among the sub-content areas within each examination was adjusted, and the language of the content outlines was revised to provide additional depth and detail to support candidates preparing for the examinations.

The updated CGFM Examinations will be offered for the first time at the Intensive Review Course/ CGFM Examinations event to take place before the Professional Development Conference in Atlanta on July 24-27, 2008. The updated examinations will be available in Prometric testing centers starting on August 15, 2008. CGFM Examinations taken prior to that date will follow the existing examination content outline.

AGA is in the process of revising the three CGFM study guides to reflect the updated examination content outline. The updated study guides will be available in March 2008.



## Education Update

### Winter Workshop Homeland Security Issues

The Boston Chapter of the AGA's held its annual Winter Workshop at the Federal Reserve Building in Boston, MA on Thursday, February 21, 2008.

This workshop covered several subjects related to homeland security and showed how accountants and auditors could benefit from the knowledge and experience of the speakers.

**Scott Lennon**, Mass State Auditor's Office addressed Homeland Security and Public Safety Issues.

**Mary Yebba**, US Food and Drug Administration spoke on the topic of the 2002 Bioterrorism Act and issues of what FDA is doing in the area of Homeland Security.

**Michael Dinning**, Director of Business Development, Volpe National Transportation Systems spoke about relevant transportation and technology issues.

Over forty chapter members and guests attended this half day workshop. Each participant was awarded four CPE's.

**Free Free Free Free Free**

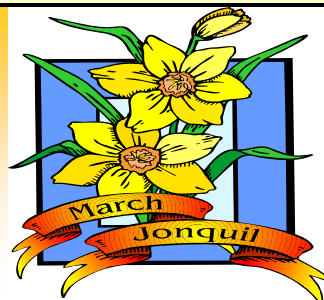
**March 5, 2008**

Audio Conference– Environmental Fraud - Federal Reserve Building, Boston, MA

**Free to members**, \$20 for non members  
Register online at [www.aga-boston-chapter.org](http://www.aga-boston-chapter.org)

TRIVIA ANSWER!

*Candy Land  
(in 1949)*



## New England Regional News



The Maine Chapter of the National Association of Government Accountants serves government accounting professionals by providing quality education and fostering professional development and certification. Monthly meetings provide a chance for State of Maine and local government accounting employees to meet and network, and to discuss pertinent accounting and management issues.

2005 marked the 55th anniversary of the national AGA while the State of Maine Chapter will celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2007. The Maine Chapter has nearly 150 members as of November 2006 with several members holding professional certifications such as CGFM, CPA, CIA and CFE.

Monthly lunchtime meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, September through May of each year, featuring keynote speakers discussing timely topics.

Throughout the year, Maine AGA members perform several community service events, and provide support to local children, veterans and homeless citizens.

Maine Chapter at [www.gwi.net/~aga/](http://www.gwi.net/~aga/)



### 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)

Chapter Contact:  
Michael Grip Jr., CGFM, CFE  
Phone: 860.240.4271  
E-mail: [info@agahartford.com](mailto:info@agahartford.com)

### New England Region Vice President Team

Jody L. Breton, CGFM  
Regional Vice President  
[Jody.L.Breton@maine.gov](mailto:Jody.L.Breton@maine.gov)

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

Julia P. Burns, CGFM  
Immediate Past Regional Vice President  
[Julia.Burns@osc.state.ma.us](mailto:Julia.Burns@osc.state.ma.us)

### New England Regional Coordinators

Joseph Valchuis, CFE  
Regional Coordinator for Certification  
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### AGA Maine Chapter Chapter Lunch Meeting

Speaker: **Ron Cox , CGFM**, AGA Regional  
Senior Vice President  
Subject: The National Perspective  
Date: March 26, 2008  
Location: Maple Hill Farm Bed & Breakfast



## CEC Meeting Highlights

The Boston Chapter Executive Committee met on February 12, 2008. Please note the following:

- The Education Committee has confirmed the speakers, locations and subjects for the March and April training sessions.
- Final plans are being made for this year's Regional PDC in March.
- Flyers are being prepared and will be posted on our web site.
- The CEC committee confirmed a slate of Chapter Officers for the upcoming 2008-2009 year along with Directors and committees.
- Final preparations are being made for our annual appreciation dinner this May.
- A decision was made on purchasing promotional AGA Boston chapter duffel bags for members.
- The CGFM, Treasurer's and Membership reports were read and approved.
- Discussions were held regarding attendance at the AGA SLM in Cleveland in April.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, 2008.

## Interview Problems and Issues

The following items all came from real interviews and job applications.

*On a warehouse job application.  
Emergency contact and phone number: 911*

*While reviewing an applicant's resume, I noted that she had included the usual list of references -- but noted that one was now deceased!*

*One time, during the interviewing process, I had to tell a candidate that, unfortunately, we would not be able to offer him a job, even if he qualified for the position, his drug test came back positive, and our company is a drug/alcohol-free environment. He sadly said, "Oh, that is too bad." After thinking for a few minutes he looked up at me and said, "Can you tell me which one showed up on the test results?"*

*We recently interviewed an applicant, and after inquiring about his strengths, we followed up by asking about his weaknesses. He said, "women!"*

*Reaching the end of a job interview, the human resources person asked a young applicant fresh out of business school, "And what starting salary are you looking for?"*

*The applicant said, "In the neighborhood of \$125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package."*

*The interviewer said, "Well, what would you say to a package of five weeks' vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50 percent of your salary, and a company car leased every two years, say, a red Corvette?"*

*The applicant sat up straight and said, "Wow! Are you kidding?" And the interviewer replied, "Yeah, but you started it."*





# 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

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