



# AGA NEWSLETTER

MAINE  
CHAPTER

September 2008

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### September 9

Monthly Chapter Meeting and  
Executive Committee Meeting

### September 10

Audio Conference – Fraud  
Prevention and Detection

### October 7

Monthly Chapter Meeting and  
Executive Committee Meeting

### October 15

Audio Conference –  
AGA Research Project on  
Performance Based Reporting

See page 2 for more information.

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## President's Message, from Bill Fox

Greetings to one and all,

Welcome to the start of the 2008-2009 Association of Government Accounts (AGA) program year. The Association of Government Accounts is a professional association offering many benefits, including: continuing professional education and networking opportunities; keeping up-to-date on current issues, the latest technologies and financial systems; professional guidance and certification; committee involvement and awards/scholarships. You can earn professional recognition through certification as a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM). This designation provides evidence of your expertise in a broad range of government financial management. You can also enhance your leadership skills through active participation in the local AGA chapter and AGA national committees. You may know the benefits of AGA membership, but others may not. Let's spread the word! If you know of someone who is interested in or might enjoy the benefits of membership in our Chapter, please have them contact our Director of Membership, Bert Batchelor at (207) 287-4568 for more information.

Our Chapter provides a variety of audio conferences which meet needs for continuing education credits. During this program year, ten audio conferences are offered, at 2 CPEs each. See page 2 for more information.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 11:30am, September 9<sup>th</sup> at the Senator Inn in Augusta. David Leach, Principal Consumer Credit Examiner with the Bureau of Consumer Protection, is our guest speaker. His presentation will address credit card fraud. Please join us for this important presentation. We welcome you and look forward to seeing you there!

**Welcome to our  
Newest Members!**

Dana Bonenfant, DHHS  
Sarah Gove, DHHS  
Kimberly Powers, MSHA

**Introducing the  
Officers and Directors**

President  
Bill Fox, DHHS

Treasurer  
Shirley Browne, OSC

Secretary  
Donna Wheeler, DHHS

Director of Communications  
Kim Smith, DAFS

Director of Community  
Service  
Donna Ferenc, DOT

Director of Education  
Sue Hammer, DAFS

Director of Membership  
Bert Batchelor, DHHS

Director of Professional and  
Technical Meetings  
Connie Warren, DHHS

**Upcoming Audio Conferences**

All audio conferences run from 2:00-4:00, and are held at the Central Maine Commerce Center, in the Frances Perkins Room. 2 CPEs are earned at each conference. For members, the cost is \$30 per session; or, \$200 for all ten. Non-members are charged \$40 per session.

To register, please contact Sue Hammer at 623-6747 or at [Suzanne.Hammer@Maine.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Hammer@Maine.gov).

**Fraud Prevention and Detection**  
September 10

**AGA Research Project on Performance Based Reporting**  
October 15

**Internal Controls**  
November 12

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Financial Managers (Workforce Planning)**  
December 10

**XBRL to Improve Financial and Performance Reporting**  
January 21

**Fraud**  
February 11

**Internal Controls**  
March 11

**Auditing**  
April 8

**Ethics**  
May 13



## New England Region Vice President Team

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

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

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

## 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  
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[j\\_gustowski@mwcc.mass.edu](mailto:j_gustowski@mwcc.mass.edu)

Bill Fox  
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Jody L. Breton, CGFM  
Regional Coordinator for  
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## Community Service Corner

By Donna Ferenc

Good day all: Just wanted to give a grand applause and sincere thank you to all who participated and donated towards the Family Violence Project School Supply collection!



Through our efforts we were able to donate two full car loads of supplies! Supplies very much needed! When I dropped off the first load the Family Violence Project representative I spoke with, Lori, said she had been receiving requests for assistance and had to turn them away as they had no supplies on hand. All she could do was inform them that there was a possibility of some supplies being donated around the first of September. She was so amazed at the amount of and so very grateful and thankful for the donations provided. On behalf of the Family Violence Project and those in need thank you all! And to all who assisted me as being the "collection coordinators" within the various offices, thank you so very much! It would not have gone as smoothly as it did without your efforts!

As a reminder, the next Community Service event will be in October. This event will be the collection of hats, gloves and socks for the Bread-of-Life Homeless Shelter here in Augusta.



As this shelter provides for families, the collection will be for adults and children. So, as you prepare and shop for the upcoming winter season, if you could grab one more package of socks, a hat or a pair of gloves it would be appreciated. Donations will be accepted at the October AGA meeting.



## Data Breaches Have Surpassed Level for All of 2007, Report Finds

By Brian Krebs,  
*The Washington Post*  
August 26, 3008

More data breaches have been reported so far this year than in all of 2007, according to a report released yesterday by a nonprofit group that works to prevent fraud. Identity Theft Resource Center of San Diego found that 449 U.S. businesses, government agencies and universities have reported a loss or theft of consumer data this year. Last year, the center tallied 446 breaches involving 127 million consumer records. About 90 million of those records were attributed to a single retail chain, TJX, which operates T.J. Maxx stores. Officials said they do not know whether there have been more breaches this year or if there is better reporting of the incidents. So far this year, at least 22 million consumer records have been the target of data breaches, according to the report. But resource center founder Linda Foley cautioned that the true number of records affected is likely far higher, noting that in 41 percent of the cases the number of consumer records affected was not disclosed.

Read more of the article at <http://www.agacgfm.org/publications/agatoday/090208/databreaches.aspx>

## Monthly Meeting Speakers

Join us for this month's featured speaker – David Leach of the Bureau of Consumer Protection. David will be talking with us about Consumer Fraud.

In the upcoming months, we'll here from Jonathan Wayne on Legislative Ethics and Dennis Doiron on Tax Changes for the Upcoming Year.

If you have any suggestions on a topic that you'd like to hear about, please contact Connie Warren at 287-8640 or at [Constance.Warren@Maine.gov](mailto:Constance.Warren@Maine.gov).



## New Study Guides for Certified Government Financial Manager Exam! By Jeff Toothaker, CGFM

The Maine Chapter of AGA has purchased a set of the new study guides that have been updated to reflect recent changes in the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) exam. The exam has changed but the three parts have remained the same:

- ✓ Governmental Environment;
- ✓ Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting
- ✓ Governmental Financial Management and Control.

So if you've been thinking about getting into the study mode, the new guides provide a great tool for preparing for the exams, with easy to follow text and review questions at the end of each section. Please contact me if you would like to use the guides or if you have any questions about the CGFM.

Check out the link below that for provides information about the CGFM.

<http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/cgfmdefault.aspx>



## Excellence in Government Fellows Program

AGA and The Council for Excellence in Government (CEG) have combined their strengths to create a financial management careers focus of the Excellence in Government Fellows program. A special area of emphasis has been added for mid-level managers with responsibility in financial management specialties. Specific occupations include budgeting, accounting, auditing and investigations, financial systems and program management.

The Excellence in Government Fellows Program is CEG's flagship program. This hands-on, results-based leadership development program is central to the missions of both CEG and AGA: to improve the performance and accountability of government.

### Who Should Apply

The Financial Fellows program is for exceptional individuals in federal, state and local government financial management and related careers who are committed to enhancing their leadership skills and accomplishing significant results in their organizations. Financial Fellows should:

- Have a record of strong accomplishment and demonstrate high potential.
- Rank at the GS-14 or GS-15 level (or equivalent in the military or other pay systems). Exceptional individuals at the GS-13 or equivalent level are

also encouraged to apply.

- Find a sponsor in their organization that will support them throughout the program year.

### Time Commitment

During the course of a year, Fellows will meet every six weeks or so for three or four days. The program consists of large group meetings, small coaching team meetings, and financial management and leadership benchmarking site visits.

### Register Today

The next Financial Fellows program begins **October 20, 2008**. We strongly encourage early applications (before Oct. 10) to ensure a space in this exciting program. CEG may request an interview during the application process.

Applicants are encouraged to apply online or printed applications may be requested via email. Fax your application to 202.728.0422 or mail to The Council for Excellence in Government, 1301 K St., NW, Suite 450 West, Washington, D.C. 20005, Attn: Financial Fellows. If you have questions, contact Joe Jozefczyk, AGA, at 703.562.0088 or Chris Wingo, CEG, at 202.728.0418.

## From the Desk of Dave LeBlanc, CGFM Regional Vice President, New England

The summer is ending with the start of school and the Chapter's program years here in New England are proceeding along. Let's highlight a few of the things going on in the region.

### Education:

Boston is having a September lunch meeting offering 1 CPE on the subject of National Transportation Issues. Aroostook County is planning their first full day of training to be co-sponsored with the American Society of Military Comptrollers in mid October. The Maine and Hartford Chapters are also planning to begin their monthly meetings. Also the New England Chapters are focusing on the schedule of audio conferences offered by AGA National.

### Community Service

The Maine Chapter recently held a successful Family Violence Project sponsoring Back-to-School items for children. Boston is planning a number of upcoming projects including: The annual collection of new socks, new underwear or new or slightly used men's suits or business wear for the guests of the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans, participating in "The Light The Night® Walk" and serving lunch on Veterans' Day to the guests of the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Boston. Hartford is planning to collect personal items to donate to various charities. Also the different chapters are encouraging their members to personally volunteer their time to various charitable

organizations and especially use their financial skills to help non profits in their area.

### Other

Discussions & conversations have helped lay the groundwork to possibly establish a new chapter in Vermont. After watching the successful start of Aroostook County this could be a real possibility within the next year. Also, we have just been informed that AGA National President Sam Mok, CGFM has accepted the invitation to be the keynote speaker of the Boston Chapter's Regional PDC next March. This RPDC usually has well over 200 attendees from all of New England.

Until next time.

Sincerely,  
Dave LeBlanc, CGFM



**Know the Candidates and the Issues**  
**From US Budget Watch – learn more at [www.usbudgetwatch.org](http://www.usbudgetwatch.org)**

**McCain**

**Obama**

**TAXES**

Will make permanent most of the Bush tax cuts, eliminate the AMT, reform the estate tax, cut corporate income taxes, create a new, permanent R&E tax credit, raise the dependent child exemption, close corporate tax loopholes, and create an alternative tax system with fewer rates and deductions.

Will renew the Bush tax cuts for those making under \$250,000, offer new tax credits for workers and homeowners, eliminate income taxes for many seniors, make permanent the R&E tax credit, expand the EITC and saver's credit, and close corporate tax loopholes.

**HEALTHCARE**

Will replace the current employer healthcare exclusion with a flat refundable tax credit for those who purchase insurance, while implementing measures to reduce healthcare costs such as prescription drug reimportation, tort reform, better Health IT, and more consumer driven medicine.

Will move toward universal health coverage through mandates for employers and children as well as large public subsidies while enacting measures to reduce healthcare costs such as prescription drug reimportation, better Health IT, and incentives to increase efficiency.

**SOCIAL SECURITY**

Will reform Social Security in a bi-partisan manner, or by submitting a comprehensive proposal for an up or down vote if necessary; opposes increasing taxes and supports private accounts to complement, rather than replace, Social Security.

Will raise additional Social Security revenue by applying new taxes to income above \$250,000 and will reform Social Security in a bi-partisan manner; has ruled out privatization and opposes raising the retirement age or cutting benefits.

**ENERGY**

Will implement a cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gasses with both auctioned and freely distributed permits, encourage energy conservation and diversification, and end several energy subsidies.

Will implement a cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gasses with fully-auctioned permits, fund the development of new and better green technology, and end tax subsidies to oil and gas companies.

**OTHER NEW SPENDING**

Will increase the size of the military, develop a missile defense shield, and reform unemployment insurance.

Will introduce a number education reforms, while increasing basic research, growing the size of the military and increasing foreign aid.

**SPENDING CUTS**

Will eliminate all earmarks, freeze discretionary spending for a year, reform the defense procurement process, reduce agricultural subsidies, and cut wasteful spending.

Will eliminate the guaranteed student loan program, cut earmarks, reform contracting procedures, reduce wasteful spending, and realize savings from ending the Iraq war.

**BUDGET PROCESS REFORM**

Will make budget rules more balanced, require a 3/5 majority to raise taxes, and seek a line-item veto.

Will re-instate pay as you go (PAYGO) rules to restore fiscal discipline.

## 2008-09 Maine Chapter Officers and Directors

President Bill Fox Dept. of Health & Human Svcs. (207) 624-7935 <a href="mailto:Bill.Fox@Maine.gov">Bill.Fox@Maine.gov</a>	Director of Bylaws and Procedures Suzanne Hammer Security & Employment Svc. Ctr. (207) 623-6747 <a href="mailto:Suzanne.Hammer@Maine.gov">Suzanne.Hammer@Maine.gov</a>	Director of Education Suzanne Hammer Security & Employment Svc. Ctr. (207) 623-6747 <a href="mailto:Suzanne.Hammer@Maine.gov">Suzanne.Hammer@Maine.gov</a>
President-Elect Open Please contact Bill Fox if you are interested	Director of Communications Kimberly Smith Security & Employment Svc. Ctr. (207) 623-6740 <a href="mailto:Kimberly.A.Smith@Maine.gov">Kimberly.A.Smith@Maine.gov</a>	Director of Membership Bert Batchelor Dept. of Health & Human Svcs. (207) 287-4568 <a href="mailto:Bert.Batchelor@Maine.gov">Bert.Batchelor@Maine.gov</a>
Immediate Past President Jenny Boyden Dept. of Health & Human Svcs. (207) 287-5270 <a href="mailto:Jenny.Boyden@Maine.gov">Jenny.Boyden@Maine.gov</a>	Director of Community Service Donna Ferenc Dept. of Transportation (207) 624-3038 <a href="mailto:Donna.Ferenc@Maine.gov">Donna.Ferenc@Maine.gov</a>	Director of Prof. Certification Jeffrey Toothaker, CGFM Bureau of the Budget (207) 624-7814 <a href="mailto:Jeffrey.Toothaker@Maine.gov">Jeffrey.Toothaker@Maine.gov</a>
Secretary Donna Wheeler Dept. of Health & Human Svcs. (207) 287-1860 <a href="mailto:Donna.Wheeler@Maine.gov">Donna.Wheeler@Maine.gov</a>	Director of Early Careers Darryl Stewart, CIA Dept. of Health & Human Svcs. (207) 287-5499 <a href="mailto:Darryl.Stewart@Maine.gov">Darryl.Stewart@Maine.gov</a>	Director of Programs/Technical Meetings Connie Warren Dept. of Health & Human Svcs. (207) 287-8640 <a href="mailto:Constance.Warren@Maine.gov">Constance.Warren@Maine.gov</a>
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Many thanks to webmaster Angela Dickinson, Office of the State Controller.

Thanks to GWI for sponsoring  
 the Maine Chapter's website.  
 Visit GWI at [www.gwi.net](http://www.gwi.net).



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