



AGA NEWSLETTER

MAINE
CHAPTER

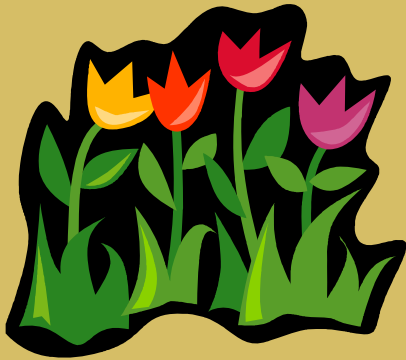
Spring 2009

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 12th
Chapter Meeting
End of Year Pizza Buffet

May 13th
Audio conference
Ethics in the Workplace

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Call for Officers!

As we end this year's AGA term, it is time to elect the new batch of Officers. We have received some nominations for positions, but many are still open. We really need your help to make our Chapter a successful one! Every one of us is busy, but we can do this together, and have some fun along the way!

The following positions are open for one-year terms:

President – presides over the monthly Chapter and CEC meetings; track chapter recognition points; liaison with National Office; and promote AGA. Bill Fox served in 2008-09. As there is currently no President-Elect, this position is also up for election. Won't you be our fearless leader?!

President-Elect – assists the President, and will become President in the following year. This position was vacant in 2008-09.

Treasurer – maintains the financial records for the Chapter; reconciles bank statements; pays bills; invoices meeting attendees. Shirley Browne served in 2008-09. Become the accountant for the accountants!

Secretary – registers meeting attendees; keeps meeting minutes; coordinates monthly meeting with the banquet facility. Donna Wheeler served in 2008-09.

The following positions are open for two-year terms:

Director of Bylaws and Procedures – verifies that Chapter activities are in compliance with Chapter and National guidelines. Sue Hammer has served in this position. Please help keep us in line!

Director of Membership – develops annual recruitment plan, with the support of the Executive Council; encourages enrollment in the AGA; sends welcome letters to new members. This position was vacant. Won't you help welcome new members?

Director of Early Careers – encourages those new to our profession to take advantage of the networking and education opportunities. Darryl Stewart has served in this position. These times are uncertain for those just starting out – help them find their way!

Director of Professional Certification – provides guidance to those seeking the CGFM, and promotes the certification within the Chapter. Become certifiable!



May Chapter Meeting

Join us for the final Chapter Meeting before the summer break! We'll be dining from the Senator Inn's Pizza Bar. Drawings will be held for various prizes.

Check-in begins at 11:00, and lunch will be served at 11:30.

We Need Your Input!

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.



Upcoming Audio Conference

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. Non-members are charged \$40 per session.

To register, please contact Sue Hammer at 623-6747 or at Suzanne.Hammer@Maine.gov.

Ethics in the Workplace Wednesday, May 13, 2009

This Ethics audio conference will be somewhat different from past programs. The speaker will discuss ethics in the workplace and will explain the thinking and understanding elements of ethical behavior. Real examples will be used as well as describing the differences between being ethical and legal. Other topics will include organizational tone with examples from the top of organizations, risk taking, the need for written policies, the requirement for uniform enforcement, and other requirements of the Federal code of ethics.

During the presentation, the speaker will answer your questions and will provide guidance in various ethical situations. To accomplish this in an audio conference environment, participants are asked to submit written questions to Raymond Harris, CGFM at rharris@agacgfm.org by May 4 to give the speaker sufficient time to incorporate them into his presentation. This should make it a lively session which you should find helpful.

To discuss the ethics challenge is Leon Young, MA, adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Maryland, University College. Leon is a motivational speaker for Leadership and Ethics throughout the United States. He is a recognized expert on Ethics in organizations in both the public and private sectors. Leon is a sought after keynote speaker for conferences and professional development workshops. He is known for his ability to present serious subjects with humor and to involve his audiences in the subject through interaction. Leon imparts both knowledge and understanding to his audience.

Green Corner

Water is expensive and precious! Save up to 1,000 gallons of water per year by watering your lawn and gardening with captured rain water. Rain barrels are fairly inexpensive and directions can be found on many websites.

Ever been tempted to purchase one of those fancy air purifiers for your home or office? Save your money. Beautify your living / work space with houseplants. Many plants can act as natural air filters; improving your indoor air quality by absorbing contaminants and, of course, all plants contribute to healthy air by converting carbon dioxide to oxygen. Studies have shown that some common plants can be effective at removing formaldehyde, benzene, carbon monoxide and other nasty pollutants. The best plants for cleaning the air are:

- Peace Lily
- Areca Palm
- Lady Palm
- Ficus Alii
- Golden Pathos
- Purpose Waffle Plant
- English Ivy
- Purple Heath
- Foxtail Fern, and
- Wax Plant.

If you have pets or young children that may be prone to eating things they shouldn't, always check to see if a plant is hazardous if ingested.

Install motion sensors that turn lights off when not in use.

Thank you to the Boston Chapter for this article.

**Welcome to the new members
who joined in 2008-09!**

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Dana Bonenfant | Daniel Peavey |
| Natalie Bragan | Kimberly Powers |
| Mary Colson | Nichole Ross |
| Amy Dumeny | Mark Schussler |
| Mark Fisher | Stacey Thomas |
| Sarah Gove | Sherry Tripp Vandrell |

With the addition of these folks, our Chapter now has 138 active members.

Treasurer's Report, as of April 3, 2009

Assets

Cash and Bank Accounts	
Change Fund, for meetings	\$ 23.50
AGA Checking	71.05
AGA Savings	<u>7,126.77</u>
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	7,197.82
Other Assets	
Customer Invoices	<u>374.00</u>
Total Other Assets	374.00
Total Assets	7,571.82

Liabilities

Other Liabilities	
Sales Tax	0.00
Business Bills	<u>0.00</u>
Total Other Liabilities	0.00
Total Liabilities	0.00
Overall Total	\$7,571.82

Submitted by Shirley Browne, Treasurer



**From the
National Office**

Keeping Track of the Recovery Act

The AGA has added a website to provide recipients with information on the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. Resources include Federal, State, and Local Government links, Training and Tools for tracking ARRA funds, and links to various articles relating to the funds.

Visit the site at: [www.agacgfm.org/
intergovernmental/recovery.aspx](http://www.agacgfm.org/intergovernmental/recovery.aspx)

Pilot Program for Federal Reporting

The OMB requested the AGA evaluate the pilot program they started as an alternative to the Federal Performance and Accountability Reports (PAR). Many agencies have complained that the PAR is too lengthy and wanted a way to report their financial data in a more concise form.

In response to the complaints, the OMB enacted a pilot program to test a way agencies could report their performance information in a more effective way than PAR. The new form consists of only three sections which are streamlined to present highlights of each agency's financial position. Nine federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security, participated in the pilot program.

Determining that the OMB's objectives are transparency, internal controls, sound information for decision-makers and process improvement, the AGA undertook an evaluation of the new program.

The AGA found that the pilot program "can provide a foundation for meeting the reporting objectives," however they also provided the OMB with recommendations to make the program better, many of which could also be applied to the original PAR.

The full report can be read here:

[http://www.agacgfm.org/publications/
EvaluationPilotProgram.pdf](http://www.agacgfm.org/publications/EvaluationPilotProgram.pdf)



The AGA Weblog

Think Big! Act Courageously! Make a Difference! AGA = Leadership!

By: William A. (Billy) Morehead

Mr. Morehead, Ph.D., CGFM, CPA, is chair of the Division of Accountancy, CIS, and Finance at Delta State University; and AGA National President-Elect.

As I have traveled around the country visiting chapters, I am reminded of the important role I play as a leader in AGA. Steven Covey says: *"Leadership is a choice; not a position."* Therefore, I am reminded—Leadership is NOT about me; it is about YOU—our members! Leadership in AGA is also about the citizens we serve in our respective governmental entities.

As a leader, I see that part of my role is to gauge the pulse of our organization and her members. This past week, I came face to face with a few members who have lost their jobs due to layoffs within state government. I'm sure there are others. Despite this occurrence, one particular AGA member's optimism was amazing and worth noting. He had a "can do" attitude. He was not going to allow this set back to derail his or his family's life—he has been immediately moving on and forward to what is next for him and his career. It appears he will "land on his feet" with another good job as several AGA members are recommending him for other government financial management jobs in his area. This early careers member is an excellent example someone who is *"Thinking Big!"* and *"Acting Courageously!"* This local chapter is also noted for *"Making a Difference!"* by rallying around her members.

I found another chapter which has been paying the dues for members who have lost their jobs or who cannot make the payment themselves due to the personal impact of the economic crisis. This chapters has stepped up to the plate and is *"Making a Difference!"* in the lives of her members.

Another chapter I visited was raising monies through a

community service raffle. These funds were headed to purchase school supplies for a deserving K-12 school in their state. This chapter has done this service event for several years and has provided over \$10,000 in school supplies to various schools throughout their state. This chapter has moved to the "front of the class" and is *"Making a Difference!"* in the lives of children in their state.

AGA is *Leading* in ARRA by focusing on our members and our citizens! Over the past three months, we have been and are working fast and furiously to stay on top of the ARRA of 2009 to keep you and our governmental entities informed of the ever evolving volume of information regarding the stimulus money. Check the AGA website for frequent updates. By doing so, we support you, the entities you are responsible for, and the citizens of our respective governments. AGA is raising the flag of accountability over these funds; AGA is *"Acting Courageously!"* and *"Making a Difference!"*

Today, April 27, 2009, marks the beginning of the Third Annual Habitat for Humanity week in New Orleans sponsored by AGA. I appreciate those AGA members from around the country who have unselfishly taken time off from their jobs, given up part of their retirement schedules, and used their own financial resources to join New Orleans and Baton Rouge AGA members and others as they provide sweat equity to help individuals they don't know build a place to call "home". This is another group of AGA members who are *"Making a Difference!"*

I could go on and on—many of you are doing remarkable and noteworthy tasks around the country. I'm aware of various initiatives of others throughout AGA who are working diligently in academia, federal, state, and local governments, and private sector government financial management firms to *"Make a Difference!"*

You make me proud to be a member and an AGA leader!

2008-09 Maine Chapter Officers and Directors

President Bill Fox Dept. of Health & Human Svcs. (207) 624-7935 Bill.Fox@Maine.gov	Director of Bylaws and Procedures Suzanne Hammer Security & Employment Svc. Ctr. (207) 623-6747 Suzanne.Hammer@Maine.gov	Director of Education Suzanne Hammer Security & Employment Svc. Ctr. (207) 623-6747 Suzanne.Hammer@Maine.gov
President-Elect <i>Open</i> <i>Please contact Bill Fox</i> <i>if you are interested</i>	Director of Communications Kimberly Smith, CGFM Security & Employment Svc. Ctr. (207) 623-6740 Kimberly.A.Smith@Maine.gov	Director of Membership <i>Open</i> <i>Please contact Bill Fox</i> <i>if you are interested</i>
Immediate Past President Jenny Boyden Dept. of Health & Human Svcs. (207) 287-5270 Jenny.Boyden@Maine.gov	Director of Community Service Donna Ferenc Dept. of Transportation (207) 624-3038 Donna.Ferenc@Maine.gov	Director of Prof. Certification Jeffrey Toothaker, CGFM Bureau of the Budget (207) 624-7814 Jeffrey.Toothaker@Maine.gov
Secretary Donna Wheeler Dept. of Health & Human Svcs. (207) 287-1860 Donna.Wheeler@Maine.gov	Director of Early Careers Darryl Stewart, CIA Dept. of Health & Human Svcs. (207) 287-5499 Darryl.Stewart@Maine.gov	Director of Programs/Technical Meetings Connie Warren Dept. of Health & Human Svcs. (207) 287-8640 Constance.Warren@Maine.gov
Treasurer Shirley Browne Office of the State Controller (207) 626-8457 Shirley.Browne@Maine.gov		



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.



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