



## ABOUT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2003**

**CAPITAL DISTRICT HABITAT  
FOR HUMANITY  
COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT**

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2003**

**BUDGETING IN AN UNCERTAIN  
FISCAL ENVIRONMENT**  
AT THE QUALITY INN,  
WATERVLIET AVENUE EXT., ALBANY, NY.

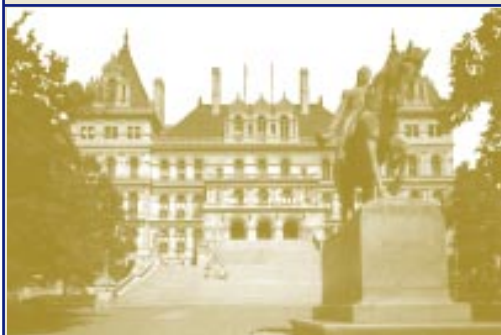
**OCTOBER 28, 2003**

**ADAPTING TO THE FUTURE  
AUDIT ENVIRONMENT**  
AT THE CENTURY HOUSE,  
ROUTE 9, LATHAM, NY.

**NOVEMBER 25, 2003**

**FRAUD SEMINAR**  
AT THE CENTURY HOUSE,  
ROUTE 9, LATHAM, NY.

RESERVATIONS: ONLINE AT  
WWW.AGANYCAP.ORG OR  
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NO-SHOWS WILL BE BILLED THE  
FULL COST OF THE EVENT.



## New York Tallies \$13 Billion Toll of Corporate Scandals

New York State Comptroller Alan G. Hevesi has done the math and doesn't like what he sees. By his count, in the past two years New York State has taken a \$13 billion hit as a direct result of corporate scandals of the past two years.

The \$13 billion consists of a \$2.9 billion loss in the State economy, \$1 billion in lost tax proceeds, and over \$9 billion in declines in State pension fund value.

In 2002, the Brookings Institute published a report called, "Cooking the Books: The Cost to the Economy," which used the stock market decline to estimate that corporate malfeasance cost the U.S. economy \$35 billion in the twelve months following the meltdown of Enron.

Taking into consideration that New York accounts for about 8.4 percent of the nation's economy, Hevesi arrived at his \$2.9 billion estimate of the impact on the State economy. In a release issued by Hevesi's office, he estimates that New York City alone lost about \$260 million in tax revenue and scandals cut the value of the city's pension fund by \$7 billion.

"The wave of corporate corruption scandals didn't just hurt the companies involved and their employees," Hevesi said in the release. "The scandals imposed a huge cost on every American. As investors, they lost hard-earned savings. As honest business people, they faced unfair competition and higher costs

of capital. As workers, they confronted increased job losses. As taxpayers, they have to pay higher taxes and face cuts in services."

He added that, "New York was hurt particularly hard."

In response to the scandals, Hevesi said his office has taken the following steps:

- Successfully implementing pension fund reform that both strengthens the fund and provides a gradual increase in contributions for State and local governments.
- Joining in and in some cases leading class action suits against corporations involved in scandals and against the accounting and investment banking firms that aided and abetted the fraud.
- Working with other investors to strengthen corporate governance rules and regulations to safeguard against future scandals.

"Since this March, the market has been showing welcome signs of improvement," he said. "But much of the damage from the scandals remain. The loss to State and local budgets is irretrievable. Individual investors, particularly those who are 50 years and older, are unlikely to fully recoup their losses to their retirement. This outrage can never be repeated."

Source: AccountingWEB US

# CAPITAL IDEAS

PUBLISHED BY: NEW YORK CAPITAL CHAPTER  
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS

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ALBANY, NY 12201



## President's Message

from  
Kirk Schanzenbach



Since this is my first letter to our members since becoming Chapter president, it's my first opportunity to publicly recognize Linda Zinzow, last year's Chapter President, and all of the officers, committee members, and others who helped make the last year such a resounding success for the Chapter. There are a lot of measures of success, but outside recognition is one of the most significant. The AGA National Association recognized our Chapter as an outstanding leader in developing our education programs, our Web Site design and highest overall membership growth. We also received the platinum award for all around Chapter excellence (the Chapter recognition program). In addition, Ray Harris was awarded several well-deserved National AGA honors.

On a related note, the Chapter's officers and committees have been very busy this spring and summer. They have been planning for our upcoming program year that starts in September. That planning focused on our strategic plan, developing operating plans and agreeing on the budget needs and sources of income that will cover those operating plans. We also developed ways that we could measure our success. The culmination of that planning process produced the Chapter operating plan, budget and events brochure. All of these are available on our Web site <http://www.aganycap.org/> for viewing and comments.

On behalf of the Chapter Executive Committee and our members, I want to invite you and your colleagues to participate in the New York Capital Chapter's high quality, award winning training and other events. In fact, our Chapter was ranked as the #1 provider of education programs for AGA Chapters this past year!

Did you also know:

- The average continuing professional education (CPE) credit cost to members for our training program this coming year is just over \$12? You can get 40 CPEs for less than \$500?
- There are 50 CPEs' of outstanding education topics, great speakers and emerging issues in this brochure?
- If you register for The Conference That Counts (March 15 to 17, 2004) or the Fraud Seminar (November 25, 2003) as an AGA member, rather than as a non-member, you have already saved more money than the cost of your AGA government membership? If you register for the Technology Seminar and any one of the half-day seminars, you have saved more than the cost of your AGA government membership?
- You can get even more discounts on this training by registering and paying in advance?

*Continued on page 10.*

# Looking To The Future: AGA's Name

by William J. Anderson Jr., CGFM, Immediate Past AGA National President

Upon completing my term as AGA National President and reflecting upon numerous discussions with both AGA members and nonmembers throughout the United States, I want to start a discussion among AGA members on a subject that I have been thinking about for some time. Please hold on to your chairs. I am going to infuriate some of you. I am going to make sense to some of you. And, I may have some of you thinking, "So what is the big deal?"

We need to seriously consider and openly discuss changing our name to the Association for Government Accountability—still AGA, and this is why.

During my presidency, I chose "AGA—The Organization for Accountability Professionals" as my theme. No one can doubt that AGA has much to offer all those who work toward Advancing Government Accountability at all levels of government. For almost 53 years we have been dedicated to advancing government accountability. We also have grown and prospered from two major changes during those years.

First, in 1971, the Federal Government Accountants Association (FGAA) opened active membership to their state and local colleagues, and four years later in 1975, the name was changed from the Federal Government Accountants Association to the more inclusive Association of Government Accountants (AGA). The second major change occurred almost 20 years later in 1994, with the establishment of the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Program, which expanded our reach into the wide range of disciplines that make up the accountability profession.

We know ourselves as government accountability professionals. However, in talking with potential members and other individuals about AGA, there is a consistent misconception that the Association is just for "accountants" since that is the Association's name. This misconception causes confusion and hinders our attracting and recruiting multi-disciplinary accountability professionals to AGA.

Today I am asking all of you to consider and support a third major change, one that gives recognition to our evolution into an organization for accountability professionals. We are so much more than an Association for accountants and auditors, and we must continue to emphasize that which makes us appeal to the wide range of disciplines that make up the "government accountability profession." It is through this emphasis that we will see AGA grow and become a more effective advocate of those we serve—government accountability professionals. It is time for us to take AGA to the next level by making our name reflect who and what we are.

As I said all last year, I believe AGA is the organization for accountability professionals in the 21st century. One year later I am more certain than ever that is the case and now, we should celebrate our successes by going from the present AGA "Association of Government Accountants" to the 21st century AGA "Association for Government Accountability." I strongly believe this change is consistent with our mission. "Accountability" is one of AGA's core values and strategic themes in our Long-Range Strategic Plan. More importantly, it will support the Association's message in its recruiting and communications efforts.

The name Association of Government Accountants was reflective of the Association's membership in its initial decades of existence. However, it is not fully reflective of AGA today. The addition of the Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) program in 1998, and the Certificate of Excellence in Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA) Reporting program in 2002, has moved AGA to the forefront of the government accountability community. Today AGA is focused on improving performance and assuring accountability of federal, state and local government for the benefit of the American people. For those holding tightly to their chairs, I do want to give some comfort to you. Even though I am recommending a name change, of paramount importance to all of you, the well-known logo/ acronym, "AGA," remains the same. In doing so we maintain the great contributions the AGA logo has stood for while expanding our impact on government organizations well into the future.

## National President's Bio

# Jullin Renthrope, CGFM, CPA, CFE, CGFO

Jullin is a certified government financial manager, a certified public accountant, a certified fraud examiner; a certified government finance officer, and manager of the New Orleans area Office of the Legislative Auditor, State of Louisiana. He is responsible for audits of State governmental agencies in the southern section of the State.

Jullin has 28 years of governmental auditing experience with the Office of Legislative Auditor and 2 1/2 years of governmental accounting experience with the Louisiana Department of Revenue and Taxation. As he has progressed from staff auditor to audit manager, Jullin has gained extensive experience in the audit of a wide variety of state and local governmental agencies. For several years, he served as senior auditor in charge of audits of universities, including the University of New Orleans, and of the audit of Charity Hospital of Louisiana at New Orleans, as well as other state government audits. In addition, he was the senior auditor on audit engagements for police juries, school boards, parish wide elected officials, and numerous others.

Jullin is a native of Kinder, Louisiana, and attended schools there. He received a bachelor of science degree in accounting from Southern University in Baton Rouge, where he completed 42 semester-hours in accounting and auditing courses.

Jullin is the AGA National President of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) for the 2003-2004 program year. Since 1979, he has been professionally active in AGA and was the Regional Vice President for 1998-99 and President of the New Orleans Chapter for 1986-87 and 1995-

96. As president, he served on the Host Committee to assist in the responsibility for planning and coordinating the AGA's National Professional Development Conference, which was held in New Orleans in 1987 and 1999. Jullin has served the AGA as Chapter Treasurer, Chairman of the National Public Service Committee, Chairman of the Programs Committee, and Chapter Membership Chairman. Jullin received a national AGA award for his achievements as Membership Chairman and in 1994, he received the Financial Manager of the Year Award from the New Orleans Chapter. In addition, he obtained certification under the AGA's Certified Government Financial Manager Program.

Jullin is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants; Louisiana Association of School Business Officials; Secretary-Treasurers' Organization of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana; the National Association of Black Accountants, Incorporated; the National Association of Certified Fraud Examiners; and the Governmental Finance Officers Associations of Louisiana (GFOA). In 1992, he obtained designation as Certified Government Finance Officer with the GFOA Certification Program. He presently serves on the Governmental Accounting and Auditing Committee and is a board member for the New Orleans Chapter of the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants. He also served several years on the Personnel Committee of the Office of Legislative Auditor. In addition, Jullin is a member of GFOA Special Review Committee for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in the Financial Reporting Program. Jullin is a volunteer instructor for the American Red Cross, Southeast Louisiana Chapter.

## Executive Director's Bio

# Relmond P. Van Daniker, DBA, CPA

Relmond P. Van Daniker, DBA, CPA, executive director of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT), has been named AGA executive director by the AGA National Executive Committee (NEC). The appointment is effective October 1, 2003. Van Daniker replaces Charles W. Culkin Jr., CGFM, who retired in July.

Van Daniker has worked in the government financial management field for 30 years, including 26 years with associations. Van Daniker is currently president of the International Consortium on Governmental Financial

Management (ICGFM) and was a professor of accounting at the University of Kentucky for more than 30 years. He said he is looking forward to the new challenge. "I am very excited about the opportunity to lead AGA, an organization I have long admired through my years of membership and during my tenure at NASACT," he said. "I look forward to working with the members and staff to keep AGA at the forefront of the government accountability profession."

He spent three years as assistant director with the Cost Accounting Standards Board and chaired a task force to

develop and implement a new statewide accounting system for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Van Daniker was also the principal investigator for the National Science Foundation grant to develop generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for state governments.

He is a frequent contributor to financial management industry professional journals and is the co-author of 10 books and monographs. Van Daniker received AGA's Author Award in 1983, and the AGA National President's Award in 2001.

A native of Baltimore, MD, Van Daniker received his undergraduate degree in accounting from Loyola College, an MBA in finance and a DBA in accounting from the University of Maryland. He is a member of AGA, the National Council on Governmental Accounting, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

In his capacity as the Executive Director, Van Daniker will oversee the Association's day-to-day management. Under the direction of the NEC, he will provide leadership in planning, organizing and directing AGA programs, including the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Program, the Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) Program, the Certificate of Excellence in Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA) Reporting Program, the Corporate Partner Program, the Membership Program, the Education Program and other AGA initiatives. He will be charged with aligning programs and services to the Association's mission statement and long-range strategic plan.

AGA members and staff look forward to working with Van Daniker, whose record of success in the government financial management field speaks for itself.

## State Budgets: Is the Worst Over?

by Alan Greenblatt, *Governing.com*

**SAN FRANCISCO** — State budgets have been in the red for the past three years, but as the new fiscal year gets underway, some officials are cautiously optimistic that the worst may be over. "There is some guarded optimism around the nation that at least we've bottomed out and things are stabilizing," says Corina Eckl, finance analyst for the National Conference of State Legislatures.

States have closed collective budget gaps totaling \$200 billion over the last two years. Forty-three states have completed their fiscal 2004 budgets and, in contrast to recent years, none are predicting deficits by the end of the year. Eckl says that states are increasing their collective spending by 1 percent, while revenues are currently projected to increase by a little more than 4 percent. She also notes that we are now nearly two years past the official end of the economic recession, historically the time when state revenues begin to pick up.

Of course, revenues falling short of projections has been a major problem for states recently, which is why many legislatures have repeatedly gone back into session to close billion-dollar holes. Scott Pattison, the executive director of

the National Association of State Budget Officers, says that he is skeptical that the bad times are over for the states. "The data doesn't bear it out," Pattison says, although he notes that budget officers in small and medium-sized states are sounding much more hopeful than they did a year ago, when professional depression was the watchword of the day.

At a news conference today at NCSL's annual meeting in San Francisco, Eckl and other NCSL officials reported on state budget and tax action in 42 states in 2003. Their study found that 31 of the states cut spending this year, including 14 states that made across-the-board cuts of up to 15 percent (in Minnesota). Nearly half the states cut their workforces or state employee benefits. The 42 states raised taxes by \$6.9 billion, or 1.3 percent, while raising fees by \$2.6 billion.

NCSL also issued a study examining rates of growth in state spending during the 1990s. Much of the political debate over state budget problems has centered on the question of whether states are the victims of bad economic trends and federal mandates, or whether they spent themselves into a hole, as Wells Fargo Bank economist Sung Won Sohn told the assembled legislators on Tuesday.

NCSL Executive Director Bill Pound noted that state spending as a percentage of gross domestic product has stayed largely flat over the past decade, making up 9.8 percent of GDP in 1991 and 10 percent in 2001. Most of the rise in spending was due to inflation and increased population, Pound says, with the lion's share of spending growth taking place in the areas of education, health care and corrections.

Noting that states raised their reserve funds to record highs during the boom years and also provided hefty tax cuts, Pound says, "You could say that we wouldn't be in as difficult a position as we're in now if we didn't have \$35 billion in tax cuts. But to say that is politically naive."

Pound admits that most states have not corrected their structural deficit problems, related to unchecked growth in Medicaid costs and tax systems that are designed for an outdated manufacturing economy. That means that if revenues do not pick up as projected, NCSL will once again have bad budget news to present at its convention next year.



*Advancing  
Government  
Accountability*

## NEW YORK CAPITAL CHAPTER

**TOPIC:**

**- BUDGETING IN AN UNCERTAIN FISCAL ENVIRONMENT**

**DATE:**

**- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2003**

**TIMES:**

**- 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM – REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**  
**- 8:30 AM – 12:15 PM – PANEL PRESENTATION**

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

**- LOUIS RAFFAELE, DOB**  
**- ROBERT MEGNA, DOB**  
**- JAMES POOLE, SUNY**  
**- THOMAS MAHONEY, OSC**  
**- HELEN FANSHAWE, OSC**  
**- RICHARD LONGHURST, BURNT HILLS BALLSTON LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**CPE: FOUR (4)**

**LOCATION:**

**- QUALITY INN – WATERVLIT AVENUE EXTENSION, ALBANY, NY**

**COST:**

**- \$40 FOR AGA MEMBERS**  
**- \$80 FOR OTHERS**

(SAVE \$10 IF PREPAYMENT IS RECEIVED BY THE AGA BY SEPTEMBER 12, 2003)

Ever wonder what goes into preparing, implementing and monitoring the New York State budget?

This half-day panel workshop will include key officials of the Division of the Budget, the State Comptroller's Office and State and Local agency representatives. Hear how the Division of the Budget plans and manages the State budget, how the State Comptroller's Office reviews and facilitates implementation of the budget and how State agencies and local governments plan and manage their budgets and finances in the current fiscal environment.

The workshop will surely be informative and educational for all budget, finance and other accountability professionals. Bring your own questions about how this entire complex system functions in these uncertain fiscal times.

### WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR?

**WE NOW ACCEPT PERSONAL CREDIT CARDS AND GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT CARDS**

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF "EARLY BIRD" PREPAYMENT DISCOUNTS**

Registration: Online at [www.aganycap.org](http://www.aganycap.org) or contact Rebekah Stanton at [rstanton@kpmg.com](mailto:rstanton@kpmg.com) - (518) 427-4811



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## NEW YORK CAPITAL CHAPTER

**TOPIC:**

- **ADAPTING TO THE FUTURE AUDIT ENVIRONMENT**

**DATE:**

- **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2003**

**TIMES:**

- **7:30 AM – 8:30 AM – REGISTRATION AND  
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

- **8:30 AM – 12:15 PM – PANEL PRESENTATION**

- **12:15 PM – 1:30 PM – LUNCH AND NETWORKING**

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

- **LYNN CANTON, OSC (HOST)**

- **MICHAEL CONNORS II, ALBANY COUNTY**

- **JAMES COX, US DHHS**

- **JOHN SAMANIUK, DOT**

- **NANCY VALLEY, KPMG**

**CPE: FOUR (4)**

**LOCATION:**

- **CENTURY HOUSE – RTE 9, LATHAM, NY**

**COST:**

- **\$60 FOR AGA MEMBERS**

- **\$100 FOR OTHERS**

(SAVE \$15 IF PREPAYMENT IS RECEIVED BY THE AGA  
BY OCTOBER 14, 2003)

The recent financial failures and the subsequent response of regulators and legislators have certainly put the auditing profession in the limelight. One example is the heroic work of internal auditors at WorldCom. Auditors today are now faced with more challenges and whether we seize the opportunity or live to regret their passing is in itself a challenge.

In the government audit arena, resources are dwindling due to poor fiscal conditions at the Federal, State and Local levels, while demand for our services is growing. Government executives are expecting auditors to speed up their processes to the point that “real-time” auditing may soon become the norm, not the exception. How should the government audit community re-invest and retool their operations to be more responsive to their customers and stakeholders? What should the staff composition be to address these changes? Who will lead this new charge into the future when many of the current audit executives retire in the next few years?

During this panel workshop, a group of audit executives from the Federal, State and Local government operations, as well as an audit partner from a major accounting firm specializing in government services will address a series of thought-provoking questions regarding the government audit communities’ ability to adapt to a quickly changing landscape.

Registration: Online at [www.aganycap.org](http://www.aganycap.org) or contact Rebekah Stanton at [rstanton@kpmg.com](mailto:rstanton@kpmg.com) - (518) 427-4811

## Linda Zinzow's Comments at the Chapter Business and Awards Luncheon June 10, 2003 at the Quality Inn in Albany, NY

**Linda recognized some people in attendance at the Chapter's Business and Awards Luncheon:** Bob Attmore, formerly from the Office of the State Comptroller; Diana Ritter, from the Office of the State Comptroller; and Dr. Henry Hess, from the Town of Queensbury and our Chapter's newest CGFM.

**Linda gave the Chapter members in attendance a recap of the year's activities** and thanked all who participated in the events.

**September 2002** - Early Careers Social Event at Jillians, Civil Service Battery Exam Training Seminar, and the Habitat for Humanity Community Service Project.

**October 2002** - Yellow Book & Where Did We Miss the Boat? Training Seminar, and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Dinner with special guests: AGA National President Bill Anderson, AGA Senior Vice President for Regional Services Bobby Derrick, AGA Regional Vice President Frank Gatti, and our Chapter's First President John Wrafter. Three new award categories were created: Corporate Partner Award, Tone at the Top Award (to an individual who sets the tone of organizations for professional development), and Chapter Champion (to members with ten years active service with our Chapter).

**November 2002** - Fraud Conference with a donation to the Regional Food Bank, and the second Early Careers Social Event at Jillians.

**December 2002** - Holiday Luncheon with Benita Zahn including a donation to the Ronald McDonald House, and the Chapter's By Laws were revised.

**January 2003** - Technology Conference, and the Chapter's new website was launched.

**February 2003** – The first ever Professional Certification Information Seminar.

**March 2003** – The Conference That Counts 2003 with a donation to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowl-A-Thon Community Service Event.

**April 2003** –March of Dimes WalkAmerica Community Service Event.

**May 2003** – State Comptroller Alan G. Hevesi presentation.

**June 2003** - Business and Awards Luncheon, WMHT Membership Drive Community Service Event, and the Charity Golf Tournament for the Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center.

The Chapter also held an Audit Director Roundtable and an Early Careers Roundtable.

This year there have been more Early Careers and Community Service events than ever before and there will be more to come. It was a busy year and Linda said she was proud to have been a part of it.

**This year, our Chapter received a number of AGA National Awards, including:**

- The Platinum - All Star Level in the AGA Chapter Recognition Program.
- Jim Nellegar won first place in AGA's Chapter Website Award Competition.
- Jill Flinton, Vice President for Membership, was instrumental in our Chapter receiving AGA's Highest Overall Membership Growth Award. For her personal efforts, Jill won two free airline tickets to anywhere in the continental United States.
- Ray Harris picks up two national awards: the AGA National Award for Chapter Service and the AGA National President's Award for his contributions in support of the National Executive Committee.
- We also won a new AGA National Award – the Chapter Education Award – for our excellent educational program.

**This year's Chapter Service Award Certificates** went to the following people:

- Marty Chauvin - for his work on the Chapter's Program Committee.
- Jill Flinton - for her work as the Chapter's Vice President for Membership.
- Denise Grebert - for her work as a Board Member and coordinator of the Chapter's Community Service Events.
- Rose Johnson - for her work as the Chapter's Vice President for Programs and Education.
- Brian Lotz - for his work as a Board Member.
- Francine Marzinsky - for stepping into the Chapter's Secretary position midway through the program year.
- Brian Mason - for the special perspective he gave to the Chapter's Program Committee.
- Kirk Schanzenbach - President-Elect who filled in for Linda on several occasions.

- Gary Simpkins - for his work as The Conference That Counts program chair.
- Lori Vaccaro - for her work as the Vice President for Certification and CGFM Regional Coordinator.
- Nancy Varley - for her logistics work at The Conference That Counts and other Chapter events.
- Donna Moretti - for her work in making sure all proposed Chapter By Law changes were highlighted and made.
- Barbara Wampole - for her work as Chapter Registrar.
- Brian Gee - for his assistance in planning the Chapter's Charity Golf Event.

- Roger Mazula - for his work as Vice President for Communications and his work as editor of the various Chapter publications and as the Chapter's unofficial photographer.
- Ray Harris, a.k.a., "Mr. AGA" - for his work as Vice President for Public Relations, Senior Vice President At Large, member of the Chapter's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and Awards Committee, and advisor to the Chapter's Nominating Committee.



**This year's Chapter Champions Awards** went to the following people:

- John Samaniuk - for his long-term work as a Chapter Board Member and Officer.
- Dan Tworek - for his long-term work as a Chapter Board Member, Officer, and Regional Vice President.



**This year's Chapter Service Award Plaques** for service above and beyond the call of duty went to the following people:

- Ann Marsh - for being the Chapter's Community Service organizer and handling the Chapter's e-mail notification system.
- Ken Evans - for his work in organizing Early Careers events, Community Service events and the Golf Tournament.
- Jim Nellegar - for his work as Chapter Webmaster and redesigning the Chapter's website.
- Marcella Junco - for her efforts as bringing renewed fiscal accountability to the Chapter and The Conference That Counts.

**Linda also presented the Slate of Board Members and Officers** for the Chapter's 2003-04 Program Year. She introduced those individuals to the group after the slate was ratified.

**In closing**, Linda said it was her pleasure and honor to have served the Chapter's members as President and she will always cherish the experience. She thanked everyone who played a part in making this a stellar year and welcomed Kirk Schanzenbach as her successor.

## Scenes from the WMHT Membership Drive



## Scenes from the AGA Professional Development Conference in Chicago



### President's Message

*Continued from page 2.*

- You can register for any of the training events in this brochure painlessly and easily online at <http://www.aganycap.org/education/> And you can even use a credit card to pay for the training?
- In addition to our training program, included in this year's Chapter events brochure are the Chapter social, networking and community service events to make it even easier for you to participate in having fun, advancing your career and giving something back to the community?
- You can look forward to the highly attended seminars on fraud, technology and the ever-popular three-day, multi-track TCTC. In addition, this year's education program will include emerging issues on:
  - Budgeting in an Uncertain Environment



- Adapting to the Future Audit Environment
- Fraud and Ethics in Procurement
- Technology Tools in Auditing and Investigations

Whether you are an audit or financial management director, in your early career, or somewhere in between, we think our education and other programs will help advance your career. We hope you will take advantage of what the New York Capital Chapter of the AGA has to offer!

As always, we welcome your feedback on any of our programs, events or other activities at any time. To make providing

your feedback easier, we have developed a Chapter member survey. Understanding your needs is the first step to trying to accomplish meeting those needs. Your opinions and needs are very important to us. Please help us by taking a few minutes to fill out your survey, hard copy, e-mail or Internet version when you receive it.

We also invite you and your staff to participate in any way possible in the continued success of our Chapter. Feel free to contact me, or any of our officers listed in the back of this newsletter with your comments, ideas or suggestions or to volunteer to actively participate in the Chapter leadership.

# Early Careers Center



## The Resume Pyramid: Building a Great Resume from the Top Down

by Deborah Walker, CCMC;

If you have experienced writer's block while trying to construct your resume, you might find it helpful to think of your resume as a three-layered pyramid. All the elements of an effective resume will fit within those three layers.

### Layer #1: The Pyramid Pinnacle: Your Job Focus

The top layer of the pyramid is your career focus—the starting point of a great resume. Think of a focused resume as the opposite of a one-size-fits-all resume. An early lesson I learned as a headhunter was that employers are suspicious of candidates whose resumes don't focus on one career objective. They assume the candidate doesn't know what he/she wants to do, or that the candidate isn't really very skilled in either objective.

If your career background allows you options for two or more career objectives, that's great; just make sure that you create a separate resume for each objective.

### Layer #2: The Pyramid Midsection: Your Selling Points.

The midsection of the pyramid is made up of the selling points that support your career focus. Selling points are all the qualifications that make you a strong candidate for your particular career focus or objective. For example: the selling points of a sales professional might consist of "New Account Generation", "Major Account Penetration" or "High Volume Closer." Whatever your career focus, determine the best selling points to prove that you match the qualifications for the job.

If you are attempting to cross industry or occupational lines in your next career move, think of your transferable skills as your selling points. Communicating transferable skills allows prospective employers to see your expertise and accomplishments outside the context of your former industry or occupation.

### Layer #3: The Pyramid Base: Your Accomplishments.

The largest part of a pyramid is its base; likewise, your accomplishments should comprise the largest part of your resume. Like a pyramid's base, your accomplishments support your selling points, which in turn support your focus.

Your accomplishments illustrate the strength of your qualifications. Quantifiable accomplishments that relate to bottom-line corporate objectives are more significant. If you express your accomplishments as benefits rather than as features, they will appeal more to your readers.

### Example

Feature: "Developed and implemented 24-hour pricing turnaround."

Benefit: "Increased sales closure rate 35% by implementing 24-hour pricing turnaround."

Thinking of your resume as a three-layered pyramid will help you to break down the complexity of your work history and simplify your resume content into a concise, comprehensive marketing message that will capture the attention of your next employer.

Deborah Walker, CCMC; Resume Writer ~ Career Coach; 888-828-0814; Deb@AlphaAdvantage.com; Visit the job-search article archive at [www.AlphaAdvantage.com](http://www.AlphaAdvantage.com); Call for FREE resume critique

## Early Careers Schedule of Events 2003-04

### September 8, 2003

Night out at Jillians, North Pearl Street, Albany, NY

### October 23, 2003

Night out at the Bayou Café, Albany, NY

### January 2004

AGA Informational Breakfast

### February 2004

Ski Trip to Jiminy Peak, Hancock, MA

### March 2004

Another Night out at (TBA)

### April 2004

Early Careers Round Table

### Summer 2004

Dutch Apple Cruise on the Hudson River

(For more information, contact Ken Evans at [kevans@dot.state.ny.us](mailto:kevans@dot.state.ny.us))

## Chapter Community Service Activities

## Community Service Corner

The New York Capital Chapter has been active in community service for many years. In addition to individual members volunteering their services for a variety of activities, the chapter continues to be dedicated to give back to the community in which the members live. Last year, the Chapter participated in the various events to help raise funds for several organizations including the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, the Ronald McDonald House, the American Cancer Society, the March of Dimes, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Albany Medical Center Children's hospital, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and WMHT. In addition, we participated in the IRS's VITA Tax Preparers program and Habitat for Humanity. This year's Community Service projects are listed below.

The Community Services Committee:

- Jim Cox - (518) 437-9390 ext. 222 or [jcox@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:jcox@oig.hhs.gov)
- Karen Cushman - (518) 402-9379 or [kacushma@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:kacushma@gw.dec.state.ny.us)
- Denise Grebert - (518) 408-5350 or [dgrebert@lumsden CPA.com](mailto:dgrebert@lumsden CPA.com)
- Ann Marsh - (518) 473-2020 or [amarsh@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:amarsh@mail.nysed.gov)
- Diane Palmer - (518) 402-6866 or [dpalmer@dhcr.state.ny.us](mailto:dpalmer@dhcr.state.ny.us)

The Committee is seeking volunteers to participate in the following events in the upcoming year. Feel free to contact any committee member for more information or to share your ideas for events or visit our website at [www.aganycap.org](http://www.aganycap.org)



### ***Capital District Habitat for Humanity***

**When:** September 20, 2003 – **Time:** 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Where:** To be determined

Over 5,000 families in the Capital District live in substandard housing for which they pay as much as 50% of their income. Capital District Habitat for Humanity is a not-for-profit, interfaith housing partnership dedicated to provide simple, decent and affordable housing for these families.

Capital District Habitat for Humanity builds so much more than houses. We build relationships, a sense of community and the opportunity of home ownership for those who would otherwise never realize the dream. Last year the AGA helped construct a home for a family of 7. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Ann Marsh at (518) 473-2020 or [amarsh@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:amarsh@mail.nysed.gov)



### ***Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk-A-Thon***

**When:** October 19, 2003 – Registration 10 a.m. or Pre-register under the Association of Governmental Accountants Team at [www.cancer.org/](http://www.cancer.org/)

**Where:** Washington Park Lake House, Madison Ave., Albany

If it hasn't already, breast cancer will likely touch you or someone you know. The disease will strike more than 200,000 times this year and claim more than 40,000 lives. Join Making Strides and help make breast cancer a thing of the past. Making Strides is a non-competitive walk designed to raise awareness, foster camaraderie, and raise funds for breast cancer research, patient services, education, and advocacy. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Jim Cox at (518) 437-9390 x222 or [jcox@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:jcox@oig.hhs.gov)



### ***Lights in the Park***

**When:** December, 2003

**Where:** Washington Park, Albany

Volunteer for an evening to collect admission and direct cars through the park to view the beautiful light displays. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Ann Marsh at (518) 473-2020 or [amarsh@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:amarsh@mail.nysed.gov)



### ***IRS Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA)***

**When:** January 2004

VITA involves IRS-trained volunteers who provide free tax assistance at community locations to individuals who need assistance with basic income tax return preparation. VITA is aimed at those for whom paid professional assistance may be out of reach, those who are non-English speaking, persons with disabilities, those with a low to fixed income, the elderly, and other individuals with special needs. For more information or to volunteer, contact Kirk Schanzenbach at (518) 473-2662 or [kschanzenbach@osc.state.ny.us](mailto:kschanzenbach@osc.state.ny.us)



### ***Big Brothers Big Sisters "Bowl for Kids Sake" Bowl-a-thon***

**When:** March 2003

This event raises funds, through amounts pledged for participating bowlers, for the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. Due to the past success of the BFKS, Big Brothers Big Sisters has been able to provide hundreds of children, from their waiting list, with the friendship and guidance of a Big Brother or a Big Sister. For more information contact Marcella Junco at (518) 427-4753 or [mjunco@kpmg.com](mailto:mjunco@kpmg.com).



### ***Golf Tournament for Albany Medical Center's Children's Hospital***

**When:** To be determined

The Children's Hospital is the only hospital of northeastern New York and western New England that is just for kids. It serves 35,000 children each year. The children's Hospital brings together the full array of pediatric, medical, and surgical specialties essential to caring for critically ill children. It offers an environment specifically designed to ease the worry of childhood hospitalization, for both kids and their families. The physicians and staff of the Children's Hospital have assumed a leading role in the development of a comprehensive, multidisciplinary team approach to caring for children. As part of the region's only academic medical center, we offer patients and families the benefit of the most informed and experienced experts who are pioneering new treatments everyday. For more information contact Ken Evans at (518) 485-5181 or [kevans@dot.state.ny.us](mailto:kevans@dot.state.ny.us)



### ***WMHT Membership Drive***

**When:** To be determined

**Where:** The WMHT Studios

As our local public broadcasting station and a non-profit organization, WMHT relies heavily on the support of the community. The membership drives enable the PBS station to provide quality television programs. This will be the second year that the AGA has participated in the live broadcast to answer phones to collect pledges for the station. For more information contact Ann Marsh at (518) 473-2020 or [amarsh@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:amarsh@mail.nysed.gov).



### ***The Stratton VA Medical Center***

**When:** To be determined

The Stratton VA Medical Center, part of the VA Healthcare Network Upstate New York, is located in the heart of Albany, New York. Opened in 1951, the Medical Center serves veterans in 22 counties of upstate New York, western Massachusetts and Vermont. In 1990 this facility was named in honor of Samuel S. Stratton, U.S. Congressman for 30 years of the 23rd District, a staunch supporter of veterans and a frequent visitor to the hospital.

This Medical Center provides comprehensive inpatient care as well as a full range of outpatient services. The primary care program provides services at this facility as well as in 11 Community-Based Outpatient Clinics. For more information contact Karen Cushman at (518) 402-9379 or [kacushma@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:kacushma@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

For updates on events, visit the Community Services Corner in our newsletter or on our website regularly.

**C G F M**o  
r  
n  
e  
rby Joan  
Schwartz  
AGA Deputy Executive  
Director, Professional  
Certification

## Growing Demand for the CGFM Certification



This year promises to be a banner year for the CGFM Program. The Exam Two study guide is out and sales are brisk. Chapters are talking to their membership about sponsoring study groups using the new study guide. AGA chapter members are seriously working towards recognition of the CGFM certification within their state and local governments. The activity in the Federal government is increasing because agencies have, or are formulating, policies that support reimbursement of professional certification examinations.

We have over 700 applicants in some phase of the CGFM Program process. If you are one of these people, don't procrastinate! Now is the time to gain that added advantage in your career development. As Shaun Bridge, an AGA member and CGFM holder indicated recently, "Being a member of AGA as well as participating in the CGFM

Program has enhanced my opportunities for promotion." Mr. Bridge's supervisor commented that his commitment to certification gave him the edge in being promoted.

Nationally, there is a growing demand by employers for a certification credential. The first few years of this decade has seen a greater growth in certifications than at any other time. If the trend continues, there will be more certifications available by 2010 than in any past decade according to the National Certification Commission. More employers are looking for a tangible way to measure employees' knowledge and skills. Training budgets may be shrinking, but demand for knowledgeable, skilled and experienced personnel is increasing.

For those of you who have already begun the CGFM Program and for those of you who are thinking about it - just do it!!

Here are some of the reasons why you should pursue the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) designation:

- Increases your overall skills and knowledge of government accounting, financial reporting, budgeting, management and control.
- Demonstrates your proficiency and commitment to the government sector.
- Enhances your credibility and the overall credibility of the organization you represent.
- Commits you to high ethical and professional standards.
- Improves your opportunities for career advancement.
- Provides you personal satisfaction of achievement.
- Distinguishes you from your peers.

Seriously consider pursuing the CGFM.

More and more government entities are recognizing the CGFM and are encouraging their staff to pursue the designation. Check with your Human Resources Department to learn what incentives your organization may offer which encourage professional development.

Return the lower portion to receive periodic updates on the availability of review material, study groups, discounts, scholarships, and support from the New York Capital Chapter of the AGA.

Return to Francine Marzinsky, NYS Dept. of Taxation & Finance, State Office Campus, Bldg. 9, Room 463, Albany, NY 12227 or send an email to Francine\_Marzinsky@tax.state.ny.us

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Sponsor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in pursuing the CGFM or learning more? ( ) Yes ( ) No

Contact Information:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

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## CGFM Referral

Which of your associates would benefit from your encouragement to pursue the CGFM designation? Perhaps a co-worker, someone you supervise, or a friend in the government financial management field?

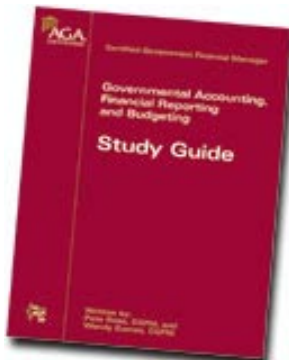
Please join the CGFM Committee of the New York Capital Chapter in actively promoting the CGFM designation. Present the prospective CGFM candidate with the flyer which outlines the benefits of obtaining the CGFM designation.

Make sure your referrals list you as their sponsor. The AGA members who sponsor the most CGFM candidates will earn a gift certificate in appreciation for your efforts.

If you would like to receive additional flyers or brochures for distribution, please contact Francine Marzinsky, Vice President for Certifications at 457-6536. Thank you for your assistance.

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## Study Book for CGFM Exam #2 released 24 CPE credits are available, too



Finally! The study material for the CGFM Exam #2, Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting, is available in one resource. Practice quizzes are included at the end of each chapter.

Also need to earn CPE credits? Passing a separate, end-of-course exam will earn you 24 CPE hours and will allow you to test your

knowledge of governmental financial management.

The order form can be found at <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/downloads/CGFMOrderform.pdf>

(At the end of 2003, study guides are expected to be published for Exam 1 and Exam 3.)

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## Retired CGFMs – Notification Request

Individuals who are retired from and are no longer substantially working in the government financial management community are not required to remit the CGFM

renewal fee or earn the required 80 CPE hours, but should notify AGA of their retirement status. Please contact Katya Silver, Director of Professional Certification Administration, at 1-800-AGA-7211, ext. 313 or email her at [ksilver@agacgfm.org](mailto:ksilver@agacgfm.org). If you prefer, you may contact Francine Marzinsky, Vice President of Certification, at 518-457-6536 or [Francine\\_Marzinsky@tax.state.ny.us](mailto:Francine_Marzinsky@tax.state.ny.us). Thank you for helping us update our records!

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## CGFM CPE Requirements Reminder

Our chapter has scheduled a wide variety of continuing professional education (CPE) seminars to help you meet your CPE requirements. Please see the schedule listed in this newsletter.

As a reminder, CGFMs must complete at least 80 hours of CPEs every two years in government financial management topics or related technical subjects. During the first year of your CPE cycle, you must earn at least 20 hours of CPE. By close of your second year of the cycle, you must have earned at least 80 hours of CPE.

Your first CPE cycle starts on January 1st of the year following the one when your CGFM was earned. If you have any questions about your CPE cycle, please contact the Office of Professional Certification at 800.AGA.7211, ext. 313.

Once you have determined the number of CPEs you need to earn this year and next year, mark your calendar for the AGA New York Capital Chapter events that interest you!

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## The CGFM Committee:

The CGFM Committee is responsible for developing, promoting, and supporting members and non-members in their earning the CGFM designation. An operational plan has been developed by the CGFM Committee which will assist us meet our goals. Our major goal is to obtain NYS Civil Service recognition of the CGFM. Although other states already recognize the designation, this is challenging goal for the Committee and our chapter. Other Committee goals include encouraging individuals to pursue the CGFM and aiding individuals who are currently studying for the exams. Our progress towards our goals will be reported in the newsletter and chapter website.

The members of the CGFM Committee are: Francine Marzinsky, Vice President of Certifications; Lori Vaccaro, President-Elect, Thomas Goodfellow, Brian Gee, and Henry Hess.

## **Back to Basics Membership Challenge**

### **What is the membership challenge?**

The challenge is a chapter recruitment tool.

### **Who can participate?**

All members are able to participate.

### **What do I have to do?**

When you recruit a new member, make sure your name is on the sponsor line of their application. (You don't need your member number!)

### **What do I get?**

Every new member you recruit increases your chances of winning. The top three sponsors will receive either an AGA saddlebag, an AGA travel mug or an AGA portfolio.

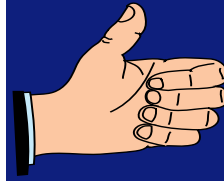
### **What if I have questions?**

If you have any questions, please contact Jill Flinton, Membership Vice President at 518-437-9390 ext 241 or [jflinton@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:jflinton@oig.hhs.gov)



# Membership News

by Jill Flinton



## “Member Items”

### Chapter Membership Contest



This year’s contest will award AGA merchandise to the top three sponsors. The top sponsor will receive a handsome Executive Saddlebag. The second top sponsor will receive a Canvas

Portfolio and the third top sponsor will receive the always-useful Steel Travel Mug.

With the training sessions starting just around the corner, now is a good time to recruit your colleagues. If you have any questions, or need a membership application, please contact Jill Flinton at [jflinton@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:jflinton@oig.hhs.gov) or 518-437-9390 ext. 241.

### Keep an Eye Out

#### Coming this fall: The first annual membership survey



This survey is designed to obtain feedback from our members and identify ways to improve our chapter. As a benefit for returning the survey, you can be entered into a drawing to receive a complimentary registration to one of our educational events (except TCTC or the Fraud Seminar). We will be distributing the survey by e-mail, so please take a moment and complete the survey and get it back to us. Thanks!!

**Michael Abbott** is now the Director of Audit Services at the New York State Education Department, replacing **Daniel Tworek, CGFM** who recently retired.

**Michael Connors II** has won the primary election for his party and will run for re-election as Albany County Comptroller in November.

**Ray Harris, CGFM**, has been appointed Internal Control Officer at the Office of the New York State Comptroller.

**Katie Meyer, CGFM**, has been appointed as Assistant Director at the Bureau of Management Services, NY State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

**Mark Mitchell** will run for Albany County Executive in November.

**Linda Zinzow, CGFM** has been appointed Director of Contract Audit at the New York State Department of Transportation replacing **Thomas Goodfellow** who has retired and is now with BST Advisory Network, LLP.

### Welcome and Thanks

Welcome to the following new members:

- Danielle Caruana, Lumsden & McCormick, CPA, LLP
- Tina Colosimo, Lumsden & McCormick, CPA, LLP
- Kevin King, CPA, Town of Malta
- David Malone, NYS Thruway Authority
- Ryan Messier, Lumsden & McCormick, CPA, LLP
- Stephen Raptoulis, Lumsden & McCormick, CPA, LLP
- Sharon Salembier, CPA
- David Sears, Lumsden & McCormick, CPA, LLP
- Nancy Stone, Lumsden & McCormick, CPA, LLP
- Jennifer Switzer, Town of Queensbury
- Courtland VanDeusen, Lumsden & McCormick, CPA, LLP
- Mary Zysinski, Lumsden & McCormick, CPA, LLP

Thanks to the following sponsor:

- Denise Grebert, CPA, Lumsden & McCormick, CPA, LLP

### Chapter Membership Statistics as of August 29, 2003

	<u>National Goal</u>	<u>Actual Number</u>	<u>Percent of Goal</u>
Current Members	413	328	79%
New Members	75	12	16%
Retained Members	338	315	96%

Membership questions? Contact Jill Flinton at [jflinton@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:jflinton@oig.hhs.gov) or 518-437-9390 extension 241.

## True Quotes From Managers

“That really burns my craw!”

“Don’t bite the gift horse.”

“That makes the hair on the back of my neck really stick in my craw.”

“He’s trying to pull the buffalo over our eyes.”

“I’ve got a real beef to grind with that guy.”

“A penny saved is worth two in the bush.”

“He opened up that can of worms, let him swim in them.”

“I don’t know about him, but it’s completely win-win for me.”

“I don’t want to put all my monkeys in one barrel.”

“Please don’t leave me out with the wolves to dry!”

“I have ears like a hawk.”

“We don’t want to go at it like a wild bull in Chinatown.”

“We shoot ourselves in the wrong feet sometimes.”

“You gotta walk with your pants on.”

“Layoffs are extremely difficult for all of us — especially those at risk of losing their jobs.”

“We better cover our ass and put it on their heads.”

“Sometimes you’ve just got to grab the cow by the tail and face the music.”

“I don’t know what else I can do...my shoes are tied.”

“Sounds like we’re swimming an uphill battle.”

“Get on with the bandwagon, or get out of the pot.” “You’re opening a complete can of Pandora’s worms there.”

“Don’t cry wolf until it’s soup...and it’s not soup yet.”

“Our product will eat the pants off the competition!”

“Utopia? What’s that, a country?”

“Let’s all corrugate over here to view the artist’s contraception of our new building.”

“If you’re sick, you’d better not come in. I don’t want you to start an academic.”

“They want the site to be designed in such a way that it eludes professionalism.”

“We gotta get our soup and nuts together.” (Ouch!)

“Deep down, she’s shallow.”

“If you are left holding the bag, we will fill it.”

“He’s as slow as malaria.”

“He exhumes confidence.”

“I describe false symptoms to my doctor to keep him on his toes.”

“Is everyone else in the world a moron, or is it just me?”

“I slept like a banshee.”

“They’re throwing us a blind herring.”

“That’s putting the chicken before the cart.”

“We’re going to be doing some manual automation.”

“I’d like to be a fish on the wall at that meeting.”

“I’ve been thinking about giving that some thought.”

“You have to shoot where the fish are barking.”

“It goes in one ear and down his back like a duck’s water!”

“You’ve buttered your bread, now lay in it.”

“He’s going to Hell and a handkerchief.”

“He’s not the brightest cookie in the lamp.”

“I’m sure he was drunk, he was driving erotically.”

## Supplemental Security Income Moved Off “High Risk” List

Like a patient being upgraded from “critical” in the intensive care unit to “stable” condition, the GAO has recognized management improvements and has removed the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program from its high-risk list.

GAO has recognized the Social Security Administration’s (SSA) efforts to improve the management of the program. SSI, administered by SSA, is a needs-based financial assistance program that makes monthly payments to people who are disabled or aged and have limited income and assets. “The removal of the SSI program from the high-risk list is an example of our commitment to good stewardship.” said Jo Anne Barnhart, Commissioner of Social Security. I want to thank the Deputy Commissioner, Jim Lockhart, for his leadership in developing a corrective action plan that ultimately led to GAO’s favorable decision.”

SSA established a task force that outlined initiatives to improve the management of the SSI program. This task force meets monthly to discuss progress and a newly designed management report. Some of the key initiatives include: increasing the number of financial reviews which verify SSI beneficiaries continued eligibility; increasing access to online data from financial institutions, federal and state government agencies and nursing homes to verify information about applicants; and improving SSI overpayment collections through tax and Social Security offsets.

SSI is the nation’s largest cash assistance program for the poor. SSI is a means-tested program to provide or supplement the income of disabled, blind, or aged individuals with limited income and assets. In 2002, SSA made \$38 billion in payments to more than 6.8 million SSI beneficiaries. Approximately 36 percent of SSI beneficiaries also receive Social Security retirement, survivors or disability benefits. “I agree with GAO’s assessment that SSA must remain vigilant on issues of program integrity,” said Commissioner Barnhart. “I’m pleased that the Comptroller General agrees with me and shares my commitment to improving the disability process and to assisting people with disabilities go to work.”

*This article was submitted by Barbara Ricks for the Baltimore AGA Chapter’s Newsletter.*

### Advancing Government Accountability

Surf over to the New York

Capital Chapter’s <sup>new</sup> Website

<http://www.aganycap.org>



### AGA New York Capital Chapter Chapter Recognition Program As of July 31, 2003

<u>Section</u>	<u>Earned</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Chapter Leadership	1,550	3,000
Education/Professional Dev	0	4,000
Certification	225	4,000
Communication	1,278	3,000
Membership	925	3,000
Community Service	1,700	2,000
Awards	4,350	1,000
Total	<u>10,028</u>	<u>20,000</u>

### AGA New York Capital Chapter Financial Condition As of September 8, 2003

Assets		
Checking/Savings		\$4,451.77
Accounts Receivable		568.51
Other Current Assets		<u>3,800.44</u>
Total Assets		<u>\$8,820.72</u>
Liabilities and Equity		
Accounts Payable	\$1,084.16	
Other Current Liabilities	<u>30.00</u>	\$1,114.16
Equity		
Retained Earnings	10,368.65	
Net Income	<u>-2,680.09</u>	<u>7,706.56</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity		<u>\$8,820.72</u>

# Chapter Executive Committee

August 4, 2003  
Minutes

The Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) held a meeting on August 4, 2003 at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs.

In attendance were: Mike Abbott, Eileen Chambers, Marty Chauvin, Ken Evans, Jill Flinton, Ray Harris, Kevin King, Ann Marsh, Roger Mazula, James Nellegar, Kirk Schanzenbach, Shelly Taleporos, Nancy Varley, Linda Zinzow, and Brian Gee.

Minutes were adopted for the June 10, 2003 CEC meeting.

**Operating Plans** - Representatives from the various Chapter operating committees presented their proposed operating plans to the CEC.

- Education Plan - Ray Harris presented the Education Operating Plan and Budget. The Plan had been recently updated. Roger Mazula is currently working on the brochure for the upcoming education events. Prices for education training will be slightly higher this year to ensure that the surplus from the education programs covers the budget expenses. Some programs this year will not have a lunch. The price for the Fraud conference will be higher this year, however, it is not anticipated that this will affect attendance, due to the high demand of the conference. There will be two major improvements this year: First, pre-paid discounts will be available to attendees who register at least 2 weeks in advance. This will help to gauge the program attendance and allow for the Chapter to get the money up-front for the programs. Also, new this year is the ability for attendees to pay by credit card. The cost for credit card registration is only 2 percent, since it will be going through the National's program. Also phone, e-mail and on-line registration will be available for attendees. The education committee is looking to obtain corporate sponsors to help defray the costs of the brochure. Sponsors will pay \$125 each. The committee is asking for everyone's help in promoting the educational programs coming up within the next year. Two more people are needed to help with registration at programs, as well as individuals familiar with the CGFM certification to be available to pass out materials and talk with potential candidates at the programs. Events will be publicized in the Legislative Gazette or Times Union once a month, however newspapers tend to only publish announcements for events a few days before the event takes place. A question will be added to the program evaluations and the Internet registration inquiring how the attendee heard about the event.

- Budget and Finance Operating Plan - The Budget and Finance Committee has several priorities for the year. The budget has been completed. The committee will provide the CEC with financial statements and analysis of the statements throughout the year. New this year, the committee will also try to put together a brochure to distribute to sponsors listing all the programs that will need sponsorship. The committee will concentrate on finding sponsors for the large programs first; since this is the first year sponsorship has been attempted. Eileen Chambers suggested that for some programs it might be beneficial to guarantee that there would only be one sponsor, this may entice businesses to sponsor a program if they know they are the only one sponsoring the program. The committee will also try to put together policies and procedures for their area. A long-range financial plan will also be put together. The estimate of the fund balance is between \$8,000 and \$10,000.

- Communications - Communications is the largest cost center, and in an effort to cut costs, the newsletter will only be published 6 times this year, instead of 10. It will also be published to coincide with the training/educational events. The committee is trying to cut back on the printed copies of the newsletter to save costs; however, the newsletter will not be totally electronic. Members will be asked if they would like an electronic or hardcopy version, or both on the survey that Jill Flinton is creating for members. For the electronic version of the newsletter, an email containing a link to the newsletter on the website will be sent to members, not the actual newsletter. It is anticipated that this may help increase the number of members using the website. Jim Nellegar will also create a mailbox on the website for membership that will point to Jill. Due to all of the other outreaches for sponsors, the newsletter will probably not look for advertisers this year. The Communications committee is requesting that all other committees provide information for the website as well as feedback on the website. The committee is working on refining the emails sent to members to update them, as well as create a list of non-members emails, so they may also be updated on upcoming events. Jill will start creating the non-member list using the TCTC attendee list as well as lists from the national chapter. All emails sent to non-members will include an unsubscribe feature. Reminder e-mails for an entire month's upcoming events will be sent to both members and non-members on a monthly basis, with a focus on the educational events. Each e-mail will include a link to the website.

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- Membership - Currently there are approximately 321 members. Goals for this year include: identifying unrepresented groups for membership, and having open houses and recruitment drives. The implementation plan for unrepresented groups is to use the database to identify and brainstorm and then hold open houses to bring in new members. A couple open houses will be planned and the committee is considering inviting other organizations. The committee is also looking to staff a booth at local government meetings and other association meetings. The committee is asking for suggestions of unrepresented groups. A copy of the membership survey was sent to the CEC for feedback and suggestions. Jill is currently entering all of the information and hopes to have the surveys out by mid-August. The plan is to send the surveys electronically to valid e-mail addresses and then send hard copies to the invalid e-mail addresses. The committee is trying to put together an electronic directory with members' names and certifications. The membership directory will have more of a telephone book look and feel to it (name, certification, office phone) and will be sent to all members.

- CGFM Certification - The CGFM committee is holding a "Sponsor a Candidate" contest to get people interested in the CGFM. Francine Marzinsky is putting together a list of people interested in obtaining study materials and possibly getting past study materials to build up a library. The committee is also working on getting Civil Service recognition in the promotion and hiring process for Civil Service titles. The plan is to get as many organizations on board and do a joint proposal to Civil Service to have all of the other organizations certifications as well as the CGFM recognized. The committee is trying to determine if other states have been able to get the CGFM recognized and how that recognition was accomplished. The committee will have a booth/table containing CGFM information at meetings and events to try and reach out to potential candidates. The committee is considering to, at the larger events, waiving registration for one person to attend event and work at the CGFM booth. The person does not necessarily need CGFM certification as long as they are familiar with the requirements.

- Community Service - The Community Service committee is looking to get more people involved in outside community service events. The goal is to increase participation among members. Ann Marsh will work with Jim Nellegar to get event information and registration within the website. The community service events may also be included in the monthly email outlining all AGA events for the month.

- Early Careers - The Early Careers committee has planned a number of events for the year. All events with the exception of the roundtables and open houses will be of no cost to the AGA. The committee is looking into sponsoring a ski trip this upcoming winter, however 30 people would be needed for the group rate. Ken Evans will look into other sporting events in place of the ski trip. The early careers committee is focusing their attention on not only being a social aspect of the AGA, but also being used as a membership drive. Ken will get a schedule of upcoming events to the communications committee for promotions and for the brochure.

- Budget - There is a lower cash balance than the previous year, and the goal this year is to increase the fund balance. All categories of expenses (except for the education expenses) have been reduced compared to the prior year. Education budget has increased which will be achieved by increased fees, sponsorship income and lower expenses. The estimate of net income for the TCTC is conservative due to the fiscal constraints of the State government. Jill will look into the possibility of adding a line to the survey noting by sending the newsletter electronically it is a cost-savings to the AGA. An amendment was made to the budget to display all income and expenses for all programs in the budget separately, showing gross revenues and expenditures. It appears that the Golf Outing was not included in the budget. The budget was adopted unanimously and all VPs now have the authority to spend up to their budget. Amendments over 10 percent a variance must be brought to the CEC for approval and amendments of fewer than 10 percent variance should also be brought to the CEC at least informally.

**Golf Outing Charity** - The charity selected for the past Golf Outing did not receive the check yet. Kirk will talk to Marcella Junco about getting the check out to the Children's Hospital and adding an extra \$20 to make the check an even \$900.

**New Members** - Jill will get together a list of new members to acknowledge them at training sessions.

## New York Capital Chapter Schedule of Events: 2003-2004

September	8	Early Careers	<i>Night Out at Jillian's</i> North Pearl Street, Albany, NY
September	20	Community Service	<i>Capital District Habitat for Humanity</i> Rehabilitation Project
September	25	Seminar <b>CPE: 4</b>	<i>Budgeting in an Uncertain Fiscal Environment</i> <b>Louis Raffaele, DOB; Robert Megna, DOB; James Poole, SUNY; Thomas Mahoney, OSC; Helen Fanshawe, OSC; Richard Longhurst,</b> Burnt Hills - Ballston Lake School District Quality Inn, Watervliet Avenue Extension, Albany, NY
October	19	Community Service	<i>Making Strides Against Breast Cancer</i> Walk-A-Thon
October	23	Early Careers	<i>Night Out at the Bayou Cafe</i> North Pearl Street, Albany, NY
October	28	Seminar <b>CPE: 4</b>	<i>Adapting to the Future Audit Environment</i> <b>Lynn Canton, OSC; Michael Connors II, Albany Co.; James Cox,</b> DHHS; <b>John Samaniuk, DOT; Nancy Valley, KPMG</b> Century House, Route 9, Latham, NY
November	25	Seminar <b>CPE: 8</b>	<i>Fraud Seminar</i> <b>James Vaughn, ATF; Michael Kramer, US Attorney; Jill Konviser-Levine, OIG</b> Century House, Route 9, Latham, NY
December		Luncheon	<i>Holiday Luncheon - Humor for the Health of It</i> <b>Joel Weintraub</b> Wolfert's Roost Country Club, Van Rensselaer Boulevard, Albany, NY
December	16	Community Service	<i>Lights in the Park</i> Washington Park, Albany, NY
January	29	Seminar <b>CPE: 8</b>	<i>4<sup>th</sup> Annual Technology Seminar</i> <b>Michael Farber, DOH; Frank Risler, Tax &amp; Finance; Thomas Hurbanek,</b> State Police; <b>Keith Rhodes, GAO (invited)</b> State Museum Theatre, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY
January		Community Service	<i>Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)</i>
January		Early Careers	<i>AGA Informational Breakfast</i>
February		Early Careers	<i>Ski Trip to Jiminy Peak</i>
March	15-17	Conference <b>CPE: 21</b>	<i>The Conference That Counts 2004</i> Joint Conference with IIA and ISACA Holiday Inn Turf, Wolf Road, Colonie, NY
March		Community Service	<i>Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids Sake</i> Bowl-A-Thon
March		Early Careers	<i>Another Night Out</i>
April	27	Luncheon <b>CPE: 1</b>	<i>Spring Luncheon</i> <b>Rob Lanier, Siena Men's Basketball Coach (invited)</b> Crowne Plaza Hotel State and Lodge Streets, Albany, NY
April		Early Careers	<i>Early Careers Round Table</i>
May	27	Seminar <b>CPE: 4</b>	<i>Fraud and Ethics in Procurement</i> <b>David Hancox, OSC; Joan Sullivan, OSC; Attorney General Office Rep</b> Century House, Latham, NY
June	17	Luncheon	<i>Annual Business Meeting and Awards Luncheon</i> Quality Inn, Watervliet Avenue Extension, Albany, NY
June		Community Service	<i>Golf Tournament</i>
June		Community Service	<i>WMHT Membership Drive</i>
June		Community Service	<i>The Stratton VA Medical Center Fund Raiser</i>
July		Early Careers	<i>Dutch Apple Cruise on the Hudson River</i>

Register Online for any Chapter event at [www.aganycap.org](http://www.aganycap.org), or contact Rebekah Stanton at [rstanton@kpmg.com](mailto:rstanton@kpmg.com) or (518) 427-4811

## AGA TAKING ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE NEXT LEVEL

**The Association of Government Accountants** was founded in 1950 and has grown into an international organization embodying the professional efforts of more than 16,000 distinguished members representing all forms and levels of government. AGA is a professional organization dedicated to the enhancement of public financial management and the safeguarding of the public trust by ensuring compliance and accountability for public funds and efficient and effective delivery of services.



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Name	<input type="radio"/> Mr.	<input type="radio"/> Ms.	Employer
Job Title			
Employer Address	City	State	Zip
Home Address	City	State	Zip
Work ( )	Home ( )	Fax ( )	
Preferred mailing address	<input type="radio"/> Business	<input type="radio"/> Home	
Sponsor's Name (if applicable)	Membership# (if known)		
Employer:	<input type="radio"/> Federal	<input type="radio"/> State	<input type="radio"/> County
	<input type="radio"/> City	<input type="radio"/> Private	<input type="radio"/> Academia
Field:	<input type="radio"/> Accounting	<input type="radio"/> Auditing	<input type="radio"/> Budgeting
	<input type="radio"/> Systems	<input type="radio"/> Financial Management	<input type="radio"/> Other
How did you hear about AGA	<input type="radio"/> Friend.CoWorker	<input type="radio"/> AGA Chapter	<input type="radio"/> AGA Conference
	<input type="radio"/> Employer	<input type="radio"/> AGA Website	
Age	<input type="radio"/> Below 20	<input type="radio"/> 21-30	<input type="radio"/> 31-40
	<input type="radio"/> 41-50	<input type="radio"/> 51-60	<input type="radio"/> 61 and above
Education: Highest degree attained	Year	Accreditation & Certificates:	
Please list any other financial management or accounting associations you are a member of:			
Dues: AGA dues (full government member \$90/private sector member \$150/early career member \$45/student member \$30) \$			
Chapter dues \$ -0-	Chapter: 77 - New York Capital Chapter	(contact the National Office for chapter information)	
Payment Method:	<input type="radio"/> Check enclosed (payable to AGA, including Chapter dues)		
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