

Disclosures



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT



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Do you hear that? It's the sound of me beating my training drum again.

From my standpoint, both as a member and the Chapter President, one of the main purposes of your Greater Lansing Chapter of AGA is to provide plenty of quality training. That's where I believe the value of your AGA membership resides.

Your chapter accomplishes that in several methods – monthly luncheons, regular audio conferences, and semi-annual professional development training. In total this program year we will provide 32 hours of continuing professional education credit. Now most, if not all of us, are accountants. I'm very confident that you all can calculate the per CPE cost. Regardless of how you calculate it the cost is very affordable.

The bottom-line is that, if you choose to, you can obtain a great deal of value from your AGA membership even if you only participate in the training offered by our local chapter.

One last training-related item, the Greater Lansing AGA Chapter Spring Professional Development Conference is being held at the Okemos Conference Center on March 26th. See the next page for more details.

I hope to see you all there!

Chris O'Bayley



REGISTER NOW!
 Greater Lansing AGA Chapter
 Professional Development Conference
 Ahead of the Curve – Dynamic Finance and IT
March 26, 2015
 8 hours CPE
Okemos Conference Center
note the location change
2187 University Parkway

Vision
 AGA is the premier association for advancing government accountability.



Mission
 AGA fosters learning, certification, leadership and collaboration for professionals and stakeholders committed to advancing government accountability.

Core Values
 Service, Accountability, Integrity, Leadership

Eye Opener **1 in 26,315 years**

The statistical probability of Boston having a 30-day stretch of winter like this one.

SOURCE: Washington Post | February 27, 2015

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

2015 Spring Professional Development Conference Ahead of the Curve

Thursday, March 26, 2015

8:00am – 4:55pm

Okemos Conference Center

2187 University Parkway, Okemos, Michigan

note the location change

just off 96 East/West, Okemos Exit 110

free parking

You can register online at <http://www.lansing-aga.org>. Click on Events.

Registration Ends Friday, March 13, 2015

7:30 – 8:00	Registration. Coffee, juice, continental breakfast.
8:00 – 8:05	Welcome and Opening Remarks
8:05 – 9:45	GAAP Updates Stephen Blann, CPA, CGFM, CGMA - Rehmann 2.0 hours CPE Accounting
9:45 – 10:00	Break
10:00 – 10:50	Public/Private Cloud Rod Davenport, Chief Technology Officer, DTMB 1.0 hour CPE Accounting
10:50 – 11:40	Emerging Technologies and the Impact on Financial Practices Data Strategy 1.0 hour CPE Accounting
11:40 – 12:00	Awards Presentation
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch sponsored by 
1:00 – 1:50	Ethics in Government Frank Monticello, Division Chief, Attorney General Ethics Officer 1.0 hours CPE Ethics
2:55 – 2:55	Break
2:55 – 3:15	SIGMA Project Update Ruth Schwartz, CPA, Director Project SIGMA, DTMB 1.0 hour CPE Accounting
3:15 – 4:55	Technology Tranformation 2.0 hour CPE Accounting

\$70 for AGA members
\$100 for non-members
MAIN ID 2521858718-005
qualifies for 8 hours of CPE
Registrants are responsible
for payment unless a
cancellation is received by
the deadline.

Payment

- can be made by credit card when you register on-line
- checks can be sent to AGA at PO Box 12159, Lansing, MI 48901
- checks or cash will be accepted at registration

Questions?

contact
Anshu Varma
varma@michigan.gov
517-241-2002

SIREN/Eaton Shelter

Chapter Community Service Project

Helping Victims of Domestic Violence and the Homeless

see next page more for information



SIREN / Eaton Shelter

Serving survivors of domestic violence and homeless families in Eaton County.

The mission of the SIREN/Eaton Shelter is promote the elimination of domestic violence and homelessness by providing temporary housing, support, advocacy, education, and information to the community. SIREN/Eaton Shelter is committed to holding batterers responsible for their actions.

SIREN/Eaton Shelter houses more than 100 people; 25 to 28 families on a typical night. Close to two thirds of those housed are young children seeking shelter with their parents. Approximately 40 percent of the people housed at SIREN are women and children who are homeless because they are fleeing family violence.

SIREN/Eaton Shelter depends on donations from people like you to help victims of domestic violence or are homeless. Immediate needs include:



towels (any kind)
pillows (new only)
blankets (new or clean used)

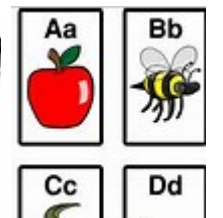
tissues
sanitary products
shampoo and conditioner
toothbrushes and toothpaste
dental floss
deodorant
toilet paper



paper towels
zip lock bags
aluminum foil
plastic wrap
laundry supplies
household cleaning supplies



diapers
wipes
formula
baby food (no cereal)
flashlights with batteries
mittens, gloves, scarves
children's card games
flash cards
phone cards
gas cards
school supplies



non-perishable food items
especially fruit, chunky soup, and
microwave meals for families
housed in a motel



cash/check donations
always accepted

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR DONATION TO THE SPRING CONFERENCE

If you cannot attend the conference, please contact a board member to pick up your contribution.

EVERYBODY'S DOING IT. YOU SHOULD TOO.

It is membership renewal time. Renew online. It's quick, easy, and secure. Visit agacgfm.org and click on the renew button.

Quick Links

[Join AGA](#)[Renew Now](#)

**WEB CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY
March 18, 2015
2:00pm to 3:50pm**
Constitution Hall
Conference Rooms A B
Lansing, Michigan

PUT INTERNAL CONTROLS INTO PRACTICE

REGISTRATION

Register on-line at www.aga-lansing.org.
Click on events.
Register before Monday, March 16, 2015

COST

AGA members - FREE
non-members - \$20

Registrants are responsible for payment unless
cancellation is received by the registration deadline.



**MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY
April 22, 2015
11:45**
Capitol View Building
201 Townsend Street,
Lansing, Michigan

MICHIGAN'S BUDGET – WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU

REGISTRATION

Register on-line at www.aga-lansing.org.
Click on events.
Register before Friday, February 20, 2015

COST

\$12 AGA members
\$16 non-members

Registrants are responsible for payment unless
cancellation is received by the registration deadline.



**The Mark of Excellence in
Federal, State, and Local
Government**

March is CGFM Month!

Governor Rick Snyder has proclaimed March as CGFM Month

CGFM is a professional certification recognizing the unique skills and special knowledge required of today's government financial managers. It covers governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls, and budgeting at the federal, state, and local levels. As part of CGFM Month, let's take an opportunity to recognize members of the Greater Lansing AGA chapter who have the CGFM designation.

Valerie Wales Beatty, CGFM
Pratin Trivedi, CGFM
Scott Strong, CGFM
Karen Stout, CGFM
Karen Spak, CGFM
Linda Shepard, CGFM
Charlotte Roper, CGFM
Marcellet Reynolds, CGFM
Jean Ramsey, CGFM
Cynthia Osga, CGFM
Thomas McTavish, CGFM
Lisa Mazure, CGFM
Bobbie Marr, CGFM
Uday Malavia, CGFM
Margaret Maday, CGFM
Janet Luplow, CGFM
Jackie Lawson, CGFM
Leo LaPorte, CGFM
Elden Lamb, CGFM
Cinda Lou Karlik, CGFM
Michelle Hiliker, CGFM

Kenji Griffith, CGFM
Mary Elizabeth Gienapp, CGFM
Eric Formberg, CGFM
Annette Eustice, CGFM
John Daly, III, CGFM
Mary Cupp, CGFM
Vickie Crouch, CGFM
Thomas Colosimo, CGFM
Beth Colosimo, CGFM
Deborah Christopherson, CGFM
Robert Brackenbury, CGFM
Joseph Asghodom, CGFM
Jeffrey Allen, CGFM

Jon Wise, CGFM-Retired
Therese Regner, CGFM-Retired
Jerry Kulka, CGFM-Retired
Calvin Cladder, CGFM-Retired
Lilia Denney, CGFM-Retired
Carol Carlson, CGFM-Retired
Doreen Brown, CGFM-Retired

**AGA's
NATIONAL
PRESIDENT
2011-2015**



**William D. Miller
CGFM**

This year started off with a blast to the top. In January, we held our annual Federal Financial Systems Summit and it was very well received by the attendees. We had more than 400 participate in person; and provided a live-streaming option, of which more than 300 took advantage. This is one of the member service and member values we have been working on, to make AGA even more accessible to its members. This technology brings AGA right to our members who cannot travel to the events we hold. I am proud of our staff and the innovation that is going on in this part of our organization. We can do more as we make the necessary investment to modernize and acquire the tools needed to maximize the potential of this delivery mode.

Members may ask, "What am I getting for my money?" AGA is an intricate organization based on member representation and national management and initiative. Both are intertwined to make AGA the premier organization it has become over the years. The backgrounds of our members allow the organization to be representative of every level of government and to interchange ideas, problems and needs throughout the government. This unique collaboration of skills and knowledge allows AGA to be a player on the government scene. AGA has been able to conduct 36 research projects to address key questions and issues in government. The value to the member is knowing their organization is relevant, respected and able to help improve government through its programs. The organization is highly respected on the national scene; members can take pride in their contribution, helping build AGA to the level it has attained. Our national training events cannot happen without the support and attendance by our members. The chapter events I have attended have been equally impressive and directed toward the needs of their respective members.

The members receive exceptional value for their dollar through our training events. AGA awards 100,000 hours of continuing professional education (CPE) each year. CPE is required for anyone who is certified and suggested for those who are not yet certified. AGA offers registration discounts to members for our training events, offers 14 hours free CPE per year, and provides \$650 cumulative savings for the major national training events. These programs are truly impressive and all told provide more than a 500% return on investment for your AGA member dollars.

AGA's Certified Government Financial Management program has more than 9,000 individuals and provides a comprehensive training program for candidates. Three exams provide extensive coverage of government financial management at all levels and prepare the candidate for a career in public service.

A major member value deals with personal interaction and relationships. I have said in previous articles that the nexus between AGA and the members' current employment is the opportunity for leadership. There are many opportunities at the chapter and several layers of National leadership for members to participate in. This opportunity is terrific for the member. Taking on leadership at the chapter level prepares the member for higher levels within AGA and gives a perspective that transfers to their immediate job. The people the member works with outside their organization, and within AGA, they may never have met. No one knows where their career could lead down the road. Have they plateaued? How long does one wait for the next promotion? What can the member learn to help career development? AGA is a leader in developing leadership skills just by the organizational makeup and opportunities.

AGA has fared far better than many professional organizations during the economic downturn and reduced federal budgets. We continue to examine and implement cost savings opportunities. We are subject to the similar challenges as other professional organizations in terms of increasing costs, (including facilities and meeting expenses) as well as the trending down of corporate sponsor dollars based on market conditions, mergers and acquisitions. We know we can continue to capitalize on our success, increase our virtual footprint, and begin to generate new and innovative revenue streams – but we also know this will require resources in a resource-constrained environment. Therefore, the National Executive Committee and Chief Executive Officer are evaluating all revenue sources including our dues (which have not changed since 2003), and our revenue mix (and related risks) to ensure we continue to be the thought and value leaders to our members in the future.

With this wonderful New Year underway, I look forward to AGA continuing its progress and reputation as a national leader in government.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William D. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William D. Miller, CGFM, CIA
2014-2015 AGA National President

What Can Cities Really Do About Climate Change?

Grand Rapids, Michigan stands as tangible evidence of what cities can do to reduce the human impact on the environment. But the city's efforts also underscore its limitations.



Grand Rapids, Michigan is among more than 1,000 American cities that have pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the absence of a national policy. (photos by David Kidd)

Almost a decade ago, then-Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels challenged fellow mayors around the country to abide by the Kyoto Protocol, the international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that the United States refused to support when it was drafted in 1997. His goal was to sign up

141 American cities -- one for every nation in the protocol. By 2013, the number of cities that had joined was nowhere near 141. It was over a thousand. "We hoped to send a message to places around the world that at some point the United States would rejoin the effort to protect the climate," Nickels says. "I think we sent that message far more powerfully than we anticipated."

With so many mayors promising to curb their cities' emissions, the agreement evolved from a symbolic document to a potential catalyst for nationwide change. Some 70 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions are estimated to come from urban areas, a number expected to rise as more people move into cities.

Over its 10 years, the Mayors' Climate Protection Center has documented the efforts of cities in switching to hybrid-electric vehicle fleets, installing solar panels on rooftops and replacing streetlights with LED bulbs. But while the unexpected popularity of the mayors' agreement created new optimism about what cities could accomplish together, it also made obvious one serious flaw: Mayors can't say how much their combined efforts have affected the nation's greenhouse gas emissions. The agreement didn't require that cities track their progress or use uniform measurement tools. The data that cities do report are difficult to compare or aggregate.

When the mayors' group surveyed its members at the end of 2013, only 106 were able to say for sure that they had recorded a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Staff from the group concluded the figure was likely an underestimate because most cities participating in the agreement didn't respond to the survey. But it's possible that more cities didn't respond because they didn't have progress to report. Either way, the exercise illustrates just how difficult it is to know if the climate pledges have translated into results.

One way to measure the impact of the climate agreement is to look at cities that have made measurable policy changes in compliance with the national initiative. One such place is

Grand Rapids, Michigan, where Mayor George Heartwell has used the agreement to drive a full-fledged environmental agenda. Unlike many of the original mayors who signed the agreement in 2005, Heartwell remains in office. Midway through his third term, he has overseen an expansion of renewable energy usage, transit ridership and city parks, among other projects. Grand Rapids offers tangible evidence of what cities can do to reduce human impact on the environment. But it also underscores the limitations that mayors face when trying to influence systems outside their direct control.

Grand Rapids maintains a meticulous system for setting goals and tracking progress toward sustainability. Every year since 2009, the city has conducted an inventory of its greenhouse gas emissions. In that time, the city government has cut its emissions by 20,098 metric tons, a 23 percent reduction. Aside from the broad goal of bringing down emissions, the city's sustainability plan includes dozens of related objectives, such as planting trees, adding bike lanes and buying vehicles that run on alternative fuels -- each with its own deadlines and numerical targets.

Most of the city's reductions in emissions so far have come from greater reliance on renewable energy by government agencies. Grand Rapids has begun to generate its own electricity by installing solar panels on a water services facility and geothermal wells in several fire stations. The city commission decided to buy slightly more expensive electricity generated from biomass and wind to meet its 20 percent renewable energy goal. Now Heartwell has set a new goal of making the municipal government 100 percent reliant on renewable energy by 2020.

The data from Grand Rapids sounds impressive, and they reflect a great deal of effort. But it's important not to overstate their impact. Only a small portion of the city's overall emissions come from government activity. When the city conducted an inventory of emissions in 2009, it found that municipal operations accounted for about 5 percent of the community's overall output.



Grand Rapids sustainability strategy includes the use of rain gardens to control water runoff.

That raises an important question for the climate agreement and the cities seeking to honor it: If mayors have direct control over just a small slice of emissions, can their combined efforts ever serve as a substitute for federal action on climate change? Since the agreement was drawn up in 2005, total emissions in the country have declined over several years, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. But the EPA credits those reductions to factors that were not the result of municipal policy, such as increased fuel prices, lower natural gas prices and moderate seasonal weather that resulted in less home energy use.

[continued on page 10]



Carolee Walker

Posted
January 14, 2015



THE BEST WAYS TO HANDLE MISTAKES AT WORK

In a perfect world we learn from our mistakes and don't make the same ones twice.

In a more perfect world we don't make mistakes.

Ah, if only everything were perfect.

No one likes to make honest mistakes but of course we all do. In the private sector, "failing" has become a trendy step in the path to success with books, articles, and TED talks praising the benefits of picking yourself up after falling down on the job.

The stakes can be high when public servants misstep, and many employees may think a mistake will make it into their permanent personnel file, affecting them for years to come. Yet corrected mistakes can be seen as a powerful sign of growth and preparation for more demanding tasks. And although embarrassing, mistakes are rarely as serious as they may seem.

So how do supervisors in the public sector manage mistakes in the workplace?

For me, I take positive measures that are both preemptive and reactive.

Know when a mistake is just a mistake

There's more than one way to make a mistake, but most importantly if your employees make one, you want it to be an honest mistake. Employees who consistently make honest mistakes may have a performance issue, which supervisors should handle privately and swiftly, as honest mistakes are often also training issues.

Unethical or illegal activity should be handled in accordance with your bureau's rules and regulations. Any federal government employee who observes malfeasant or illegal activity is obligated to report it through appropriate bureau channels or through the OIG (Office of the Inspector General) Hotline.

Take fear out of the picture

Most of us were, at one point, petrified that a single mistake would end our careers or cause irreparable damage to our agency's mission. Remind your employees that they've been hired and trained in order to make judgment calls when those are necessary and sometimes they might make the wrong one – but that you will support them if they followed standard procedure and guidance. What you don't want are employees who are unable to make the call when it's needed because they fear the fallout from you more than they appreciate the importance of doing the job.

Beef up your trainings

Set your employees up for success by ensuring they have the trainings they need before they work independently with minimal oversight. This takes

organization and commitment. No matter how high the grade or how senior the position, no one can be expected to set foot in an office on Day 1 or even Day 10 on top of their game. Setting aside time for training is a workforce issue for many agencies. In my office, it's not just a priority, it's mandatory. On my team, colleagues brief each other at our weekly team meetings on any trainings that might be relevant to everyone else. New employees shadow more seasoned officers as often as necessary and for as long as makes sense.

Be a coach, not a pacesetter

I wasn't surprised to learn at a leadership training class that my natural management style was pacesetter. As a type-A overachiever, I set my team up to meet a high standard of excellence, sometimes doing tasks myself and expecting them to learn by my example.

I learned pretty quickly that pacesetter can lead to poor employee morale, creating an atmosphere where employees are reluctant to report any mistakes because they fear they cannot live up to their supervisor's high expectations. Through oversight you might still learn about mistakes but it is much better to hear about them directly and immediately from an employee so that you can work together to identify corrective action and bring in other colleagues as necessary.

You may get better results by incorporating a coaching management style, which would foster both a desire to achieve and a sense of engagement in the learning process.

Take the oops out of the closet

Once you and your employee have taken corrective action, consider whether the team could learn something from the mistake. One idea is to create an Oops blog on your team's intranet such as SharePoint. Another is to ask the employee who made the mistake to organize a briefing, perhaps inviting an expert on the subject, or a brown bag lunch where colleagues can weigh in on how they've dealt with similar challenges.

Own up to your mistakes

Lead by example and hold yourself to the same standards of accountability that you hold your team to. When you've made a mistake, say so, and if it's a mistake your employee made but you should have caught, take responsibility for that one too.

**If you're wrong, own up to
what you didn't do right.**

**That's how you learn
and earn respect.**

As a supervisor, do not make any assumptions in your work. You can be sure that if you do not understand something it's probably not clear. Ask as many questions as necessary to get it right. In my office we aim for consensus and bring in many colleagues with different levels of expertise before sending something out the door or making that judgment call.

Community Service

Your assistance to the VITA program in our tri-County region is a gift that keeps on giving. These individuals and families need quality tax preparation and the tax return dollars support our local economy.

Please do all you can. On behalf of the County, City, United Way partnership that supports this program throughout the year – THANK YOU!

Eric

Eric A. Schertzing
Ingham County Treasurer and Land Bank Chair
C: 517.303.7233

“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little”

FDR, 1937 inaugural address

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HELP **4,500 local families** as a trained, IRS-certified volunteer. You can be **VITAL** to the region's economy through this important community **VITA** program.

Time Commitment:

- 16 hours of training
- 5-10 hours per week (January-April)
- daytime or evening hours available

In 16 hours of training, you'll:

- become IRS-certified
- gain experience for your resume
- earn CEU credits (for your CPA)
- gain information for your own taxes
- help the community in an important way

Online or In-Person Training Available
Invite friends & colleagues!

(517) 285-1466

www.lansingfreetaxes.org

Early Career Center

13 Types of Meeting Attendees You Don't Want to Be

by Hannah Morgan



Do any of these sound like you?

In a recent study released by Clarizen, 35 percent of employees said status meetings were a waste of time. Participants also reported spending about nine hours per week preparing for and attending these time-sucks.

Unfortunately, meeting organizers usually have the upper hand in determining how it runs, but you do have control over how you can contribute and personally benefit.

These are 13 types of meeting attendees you do not want to be. Do you recognize any?

1. The Meeting Misser:

Are you MIA again? Being absent from meetings sends the message that you do not care or have more important things to do.

If you need to miss a meeting, be sure you notify the meeting organizer and provide any updates you are expected to deliver.



2. Ms. Side Tracker: Meetings get side tracked when you bring up unrelated issues. Keep on topic, write down your brilliant ideas and choose who you need to follow-up with outside the meeting.

3. The Silent Observer: You may be sending the message that you are disinterested or unprepared when you don't contribute during meetings. Plan in advance to strategically make one or two comments or questions during the meeting to raise your perception among the team.

4. The Kiss Up: Learning how to respectfully disagree or raise alternative solutions takes practice. Don't be that person who always says "yes" or agrees with your manager's ideas to make yourself look good.

5. The Day Dreamer: Do you find yourself drifting off in another world during meetings? One way to stay present is to assign yourself a role. Volunteer to keep meeting minutes or keep track of time.

6. The Phone Checker:

When you are the person who regularly looks down at his or her phone, it sends a message that the meeting is not important. It also distracts you. Keep your phone off the table or of reach so you are not tempted.



7. The Late Comer:

Are meetings not starting on time because you are late? Not arriving on time is a sign of disrespect to the meeting attendees who arrive on time. It is also unproductive for them to have to wait for you to arrive.



8. The Rambler: You don't want to be the person who hogs the meeting's air time with your long-winded update. Give some thought to what you will say before the meeting so you present your ideas clearly and concisely.

9. Mr. It's All About Me: Say you are concerned about how upcoming changes will impact you, or you want to highlight an upcoming event you are hosting or participating in. Assess how relevant your issues are to everyone in the meeting, and avoid using valuable meeting time discussing details that impact only you.

10. The Eater: Your chowing down on a granola bar can be disruptive, and some even consider it rude or unprofessional. Don't be the only one bringing food to a meeting. A cup of coffee or water is more appropriate.



11. The Nay Sayer: Nothing kills a good brainstorming session like someone who shoots down ideas. While you may know for a fact that the suggestion will not work, carefully consider your perspective during the meeting or wait until afterward. Being right is not always as important as being a team player.



12. The Side Conversationalist: If you have something to say during a meeting, either pose it to the whole group or not at all. Whispering with the person sitting

next to you is distracting, and when you talk, you aren't paying attention. Furthermore, your actions may convey you don't care what others have to say.

13. The Whimp: Eliminate passive or doubtful words from your vocabulary, such as "I think," "maybe," or "I just wanted." When asked to respond to a question or provide your thoughts, communicate your ideas with authority, sit up straight and project your voice so people don't miss important details.

What Can Cities Really Do About Climate Change?

[continued from page 6]

If mayors want to have a substantial impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, they have to engage the entire community. That's difficult because mayors cannot realistically mandate fewer emissions from private citizens. They have to persuade residents and business owners to become willing partners. Grand Rapids has sought to build popular enthusiasm for its climate change efforts by publishing annual progress reports pointing to the city government's incremental successes in conserving energy and reducing air pollution.

"The well-defined policy goals have been crucial at the political level," says Nicholas Occhipinti, policy director for the West Michigan Environmental Action Council. "All of that is used constantly in speeches, in messaging and in materials to the voters."

And there are signs that it has paid off. When the city sought to expand its single-stream recycling program in 2010, it saw voluntary participation increase by 80 percent, with more than half of Grand Rapids households recycling by 2013. After six years of promoting transit as a cleaner alternative to commuting by car, the average number of weekday bus trips had increased by 44 percent. When the city won a grant two years ago for home energy audits and the installation of energy-saving devices, roughly 2,500 private households signed up.

"Sustainability has weaved into the basic culture of the community," says Daniel Schoonmaker, director of the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum. When residents think of their city, he says, they think of "sustainability, beer and maybe office furniture." (The Grand Rapids metro area is home to several breweries and five of the world's largest office furniture companies.)



Grand Rapids has many LEED certified buildings, including the new Downtown Market.

"A lot of companies see it as a priority," says Joshua Lunger of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce. He touts the fact that Grand Rapids ranks fifth in the country in LEED-certified buildings per capita, and first for a midsize city.

Businesses see economic value in maintaining the community's environmental reputation. "We can't have a sludgy river when attracting people to our city," Lunger says.

The transformation of Grand Rapids into a green city is part of the larger story of how places that didn't used to be leaders in environmentalism have moved in that direction under the mayors' climate agreement. Two Republican mayors, Jim Brainard of Carmel, Ind., and Shane Bemis of Gresham, Ore., are among the leading advocates for environmental stewardship and energy efficiency.

Western Michigan in general is a conservative part of the state. Eighteen of the region's 21 state legislators

are Republicans. Grand Rapids is more moderate, but it's hardly an outpost of left-leaning progressivism. When Heartwell, who is politically an independent, became one of the first mayors to sign the climate agreement in 2005, he didn't have a reliable liberal constituency at home that would automatically approve initiatives aimed at reversing the effects of climate change. Instead, he framed his environmental goals as smart financial decisions, a strategy that has worked for mayors across the country. "For whatever reason," says Nickels, "that long-term view of making the planet more livable down the road is not as compelling as saving a buck."

Grand Rapids and several other cities offer evidence that local government can have a significant impact on climate change. But for the most part, it is anecdotal evidence; the data simply aren't there. For the country as a whole, the climate agreement's record is restricted to fragmented information from individual cities.

In June, Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, current president of the Conference of Mayors, announced a renewed climate agreement for today's mayors to sign. As with the old agreement, mayors are encouraged to conduct inventories and measure progress, but aren't offered tools to do so. The position of the conference is that centralized data collection should be the responsibility of the EPA, not the cities that subscribe to the agreement.

But new methods of data collection appear to be on the horizon. C40, an international network of mayors from some of the world's largest cities, has developed a standard way of collecting communitywide data on greenhouse gas emissions. Unlike the inventories that most American cities currently maintain, data collected under the C40 system could be compared against numbers from other cities and aggregated to arrive at a sum total of urban emissions each year.

The C40 auditing tool would look at all emissions from a city, not just those generated by government. The more comprehensive picture would include important sources of emissions that cities often ignore, such as fuel combustion from flights departing at local airports. It would also include six types of greenhouse gases, such as methane and nitrous oxide, in addition to the greenhouse gas that mayors discuss most often, carbon dioxide.

Expanding the definition of each city's climate impact could prompt resistance by mayors whose environmental work looks less impressive when considered in the broader context of communitywide emissions. Switching to a more accurate but less flattering measurement tool, Schultz says, "is an extremely hard issue to convey to the public."

Nonetheless, it may be time for American cities to consider using a universal measurement tool. Ten years ago, the agreement's initial aspirations were mostly symbolic: 141 signatories to send a political message. At that level of participation, the combined impact on national emissions might not have been worth reporting. "There was no way to know that we would have so many cities," Nickels says. "Now we need a level playing field where everyone can measure where they are and what impacts their efforts are having."

By J.B. Wogan, Staff Writer, Governing

governing.com/topics/transportation-infrastructure/gov-climate-change-grand-rapids-michigan.html

CHAPTER EDUCATIONAL EVENTS



You can register for all chapter events at www.aga-lansing.org. Click on events.

Check the chapter website and upcoming newsletters for more information.

~~**September 18, 2014**
Professional Development Conference
Government Accountability
Library of Michigan
4 hours CPE~~

~~**February 18, 2015**
Webinar Conference
Fraud Prevention
Ottawa Building, Conference Room A
2 hours CPE~~

~~**October 21, 2014**
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
DNR Resource Trust Fund
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE~~

~~**February 24, 2015**
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
FOIA and Email
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE~~

~~**November 13, 2014**
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
VITA – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE~~

March 18, 2015
Webinar Conference
Internal Controls
location to be announced
2 hours CPE

March 26, 2015
Professional Development Conference
Government Accountability
Okemos Conference Center
8 hours CPE



April 22, 2015
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
topic to be announced
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE

~~**November 19, 2014**
Webinar Conference
Fraud Risk Management
Ottawa Building, Conference Room 6
2 hours CPE~~



~~**January 26, 2015**
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
Income Tax Update
Joint Meeting with SAAABA
Capitol View Building~~

May 13, 2015
Webinar Conference
Ethics
location to be announced
2 hours CPE

~~**January 28, 2015**
Webinar Conference
Strengthening Grant Management
Constitution Hall
2 hours CPE~~

May 19, 2015
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
topic to be announced
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE

ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS

Greater Lansing Chapter
Chapter Presidents

The Greater Lansing AGA Chapter received its charter from the National AGA on September 25, 1979.

1979-1980	Ron Hoffmeister
1980-1981	Joe Perrone
1981-1982	L.T. Bower
1982-1983	Jerome Herman
1983-1984	Carol Shamka
1984-1985	Jon Houseman
1985-1986	Barbara Hayes
1986-1987	John Hart
1987-1988	Richard Cummings
1988-1989	Jeff Linderman
1989-1990	Steve Hilker
1990-1991	Myron Frierson
1991-1992	Jill Murphy
1992-1993	Therese Regner
1993-1994	Larry Misiewicz
1994-1995	Christine Ullmann
1995-1996	Pratin Trivedi
1996-1997	Lisa Pratt
1997-1998	Laura Hirst
1998-1999	Cindy Osga
1999-2000	Chris Bayley
2000-2001	Jean Ramsy
2001-2002	Lisa Fath
2002-2003	Laura Mester
2003-2004	Christy Ryan
2004-2005	Howard Pizzo
2005-2006	Linda deBourbon
2006-2007	Ed Niereshner
2007-2008	Dairus Reynett
2008-2009	Tim Becker
2009-2010	Corey Sparks
2010-2011	Cynthia Johnson
2011-2012	Susan Saari
2012-2013	Deborah Christopherson
2013-2014	Amy Zimmerman
2014-2015	Chris Bayley

**GREATER LANSING
CHAPTER
35 YEARS**

OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



West Michigan AGA

To register for events, visit
www.agawestmichigan.org/home/events

March 18, 2015

Governmental Accounting Training Series Level Two
Grand Rapids, Michigan
8 hours CPE

April 3, 2015

Governmental Accounting Training Series Level Three
Grand Rapids, Michigan
8 hours CPE

April 22, 2015

New Uniform Grant Guidance (2 CFR 200)
Webinar
2 hours CPE

National AGA

To register for events, visit www.agacgfm.org



May 4-5, 2015

Government Performance Summit
Marriott Metro Center Hotel
Washington D.C.
14 hours CPE



July 12-15, 2015

Professional Development Training
Gaylord Opryland Hotel
Nashville, Tennessee
24 hours CPE



September 15-16

Internal Control and Fraud Prevention
Ronald Reagan Building
Washington, D.C.
14 hours CPE

Lansing IIA

To register for events, visit
<http://www.isaca.org/chapters2/Western-Michigan/events/Pages/Calendar.aspx>

March 5, 2015

Cybersecurity
East Lansing, Michigan
2 hours CPE

Develop a passion for learning.
If you do so, you will never cease to grow.

Anthony J. D'Angelo





MEMBER NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS! Member Anniversaries

Jerry Herman +++	35 years
Darlene Workman	23 years
Jon Wise, CGFM-Retired	20 years
Lilia Denney, CGFM-Retired	19 years
Brenda Seelma	18 years
Connie Jones	18 years
Amy Zimmerman	16 years
Jackie Lawson, CGFM	15 years
Susan Fisher	5 years
Heather Wells	5 years
Camille Wood	4 years
Robert Brackenbury, CGFM	2 years
Dan Jaroche	2 years

+++ Jerry Herman was a key player in the development of the Greater Lansing Chapter and served as the Chapter's first membership director and its fourth president. Jerry received a National AGA Member Recognition for his contributions to AGA as part of the National AGA's 50th Anniversary.



CHAPTER FINANCES

Balance Sheet at January 31, 2015

Assets	
Current Assets:	
Checking Account	\$ 7,967
Pay Pal Account	\$ 1,396
Total Assets	\$ 9,363
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Unrestricted Begin Fund Balance	\$ 8,908
Income (Loss)	\$ 455
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 9,363



The State Administrative Officers Association has provided quality training to AGA members for many years. AOA is disbanding and has donated \$4,515 to the Chapter. The CEC has earmarked these funds for training events so the chapter can provide quality education at a reasonable price.



CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2015

CEC Members Present: Christopher Bayley, Julie Chrysler, Wanda Clavon Jones, Dan Jaroche, Charlotte Roper, Susan Saari, Julie Salman, Karen Stout, Dan Wawiernia, Amy Zimmerman

CEC Members Not Present: Kenji Griffith, Cindy Osga, Cora Schimanski, Anshu Varma

Call to Order and Acceptance of Agenda: Chris called the meeting to order at 12:00pm. A motion to accept the agenda was seconded and approved.

Minutes: Minutes from the December CEC meeting was approved by email vote.

Budget and Financials: Julie C. discussed the chapter's 990 tax exempt status paperwork which must be filed in November each year. Julie will prepare the paperwork. Julie is making a checklist of what a new treasurer must do when they take over the duties. A budget amendment to reflect the IRS fee of \$400 was approved. Amended financials were approved via email. AGA Matters for Member promotion funds must be used by January 31, 2015. Charlotte will contact National to explain our plan for the funds and ask for an extension. The \$181 of membership recruitment funds may be used for luncheons, meet and greet event, or PDC event. The funds cannot be used for a current AGA member.

Chapter Recognition Program: Credits are in for the first quarter. Platinum level is 19,000 credits. Dan J. will send the CRP list of credits we can claim points to determine if any credits we could claim have been missed.

Membership: The Detroit AGA chapter membership email addresses have been added to our chapter's email list. Charlotte has deleted emails sent that have been returned because they are no longer valid. A contact email list will be maintained by Charlotte and will eventually be downloaded to the chapter website so it can be used by other board members for announcements and event notifications.

Luncheons: The next luncheon meeting is the Tax Update which is a joint meeting with SAAABA.

Education: No report

Awards: Wanda sent emails and letters for award nominations. The submission deadline is Friday, February 27, 2015 for the three major awards. We will continue with the same vendor for awards. Wanda will send an announcement to Cindy for the newsletter. Wanda will prepare a communication soliciting awards to distribute at the tax update luncheon meeting with SAAABA on January 26.

Communications/CCR: Back issues of the newsletter have been posted to the chapter website.

CGFM and CPE Events: The next webinar is Strengthening Grant Management. The webinar events have been posted to the chapter's website calendar. Dan W. contacted Stephanie at the OAG to see if they would like to coordinate a webinar with the chapter.

Webmaster: Changes have been made to the website to replace outdated information. The IT consultant has not made the changes we requested. PayPal does not identify who the payment is for.

Community Service: The VITA flyer was emailed to the distribution list. Two individuals have signed up for VITA. Julie S. would still like to do Suits for Soldier as a community service project. The MS Walk is April 25. Amy is willing to head a team for the walk.

Chapter Recognition: Chris indicated that Dan J. will be updating the CRP database after CAFR is completed.

Past President: Amy suggested posting minutes and financials to the website to improve communications to members.

New Business: Chris indicated that he will work with Cora and Charlotte to get an Excel spreadsheet for membership onto the website so the board members can send out notification emails. He also proposed forming a website committee with Anthony Edwards and Cora Schimanski serving as committee members. Motion was made, supported, and passed with all in favor.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Meeting adjourned at 1:18 pm.

Next Meeting: February 11, 2015

Host: Dan Wawiernia

Location: Cass Building, 2nd Floor

Financial Services Director Board Room





Chapter Executive Committee 2014-2015

Platinum
Chapter

President

Christopher Bayley, CPA
State Budget Office, SIGMA
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517-284-7051

President Elect

Dan Jaroche, CPA
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CGFM, Audio Conferences

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Awards

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Past President

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See the Chapter's Annual Citizen Centric Report on the website.

The Chapter's Citizen Centric Report was awarded a Certificate of Excellence by National AGA.

www.lansing-aga.org

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