Greater Lansing Chapter April 2016

Disclosures

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

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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

Awesome Spring PDC! Thank you to all the participants, presenters, and board members (especially our Education Chair Anshu Varma) that made this event a success. The day went by very fast with all the different presenters and, as a bonus, the food provided at lunch and breaks was delicious. Also, thank you to those who donated to the SIREN/Eaton Shelter. It is a great cause. We collected over $200 and had some donated goods, as well.

With the Spring PDC over, it is hard to believe the program year is coming to a close with just two months remaining. For those of you who still need CPE, don't worry, we have three webinars and two luncheons remaining for a total of 8 hours. You can register by going to the Events section on our local website (www.lansing-aga.org).

As always, we welcome any input or suggestions you may have on what programs we can offer in the next program year or any improvements we can make to our Chapter's operations. It has been a great year so far but we are always striving to do better.

Dan Jaroche

ATTENTION luncheon meeting location change

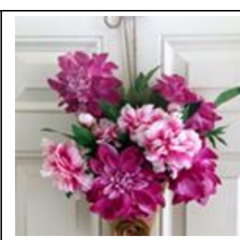
Please note that the monthly luncheon meeting location has changed from the Capitol View Building to the Victor Building. The Sigma 8 Conference Room is on the first floor, past the elevators, first door on your left.

We are seeking ideas for a location for the next program year. Ideally the location will be free, centrally located downtown, allow meals to be catered in, and have parking available nearby for those who do not work downtown.
Please contact a board member with your suggestion.

$17,000

Estimated cost of replacing a door to a California agency's file room, according to a recent audit that blasts the state's Real Estate Division for charging significantly more that private contractors. Because of the high price, the door was never replaced.

SOURCE: The Sacramento Bee I March 18, 2016



WEB CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY
April 13, 2016
2:00pm to 3:50pm
Constitution Hall
ConCon A and B
Lansing, Michigan

THE DATA ACT

REGISTRATION
Register on-line at www.aga-lansing.org.
Click on events.
Register before Monday, April 11, 2016

COST
AGA members - FREE
non-members - $20

> The Data Accountability and Transparency Act was signed into into law on May 9, 2014. The DATA Act is the nation's first legislative mandate for data transparency.

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

MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY
April 18, 2016
11:45
Victor Building, Sigma 8
201 N. Washington Sq.
Lansing, Michigan

BASIC INVESTING

Edward Carrington, Plan Consultant
Voya Financial

REGISTRATION
Register on-line at www.aga-lansing.org.
Click on events.
Register before Thursday, April 14, 2016

COST
$12 AGA members
$16 non-members

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

WEB CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY
April 27, 2016
2:00pm to 3:50pm
Capital Commons
Conference Room E
Lansing, Michigan

GRANT MANAGEMENT

REGISTRATION
Register on-line at www.aga-lansing.org. Click on events.
Register before Friday, April 22, 2016

COST
AGA members - FREE
non-members - $20

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

MONTHLY MEETING
THURSDAY
May 19, 2016
11:45
Victor Building, Sigma 8
201 N. Washington Sq.
Lansing, Michigan

STATE BUDGET

REGISTRATION
Register on-line at www.aga-lansing.org.
Click on events.
Register before Friday, May 13, 2016

COST
$12 AGA members
$16 non-members

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

MESSAGE FROM AGA's 2015-2016 NATIONAL PRESIDENT

John E. Homan, MBA, CGFM, CPA, CGMA

Friends and Colleagues:

As hopefully most of you know by now, my theme for the 2015–2016 program year is "Celebrating the Government Workforce." The impetus behind choosing this theme is the persistent and troubling vision the public often has of public-sector effectiveness, competence and innovation. As I go around the country to visit AGA chapters, read the local papers and magazines, and talk to individuals outside of Washington, I continually encounter this troubling vison. But I also hear from our members about areas in which their work is having positive impact. I seek to change the public's attitude by describing the many positive experiences I continue to have in auditing and consulting for many of the country's largest governmental institutions.

However, sharing one's perspective on, for instance, the world-class financial modeling in place at large federal departments that practice credit reform accounting, or the dedication and use of science at law enforcement agencies in the war against drug cartels and terrorists, can accomplish only so much. It begs the question, "What institutional or structural change can be implemented that would give to many individuals across the full spectrum of American life, the eye-opening perspective I receive as an auditor and consultant?" Also, as an accountant and member of the profession, I wonder if there is such a mechanism to effect change and also make financial reporting more effective. What can be done to make a difference? I have an idea that I think the federal financial community should explore: to create a financial audit and advisory committee in each of the 24 Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Act agencies, comprising individuals from both the public and private sector (including individuals from such diverse organizations as major corporations, foundations and academia). While the committees would have some private members, they would be government bodies, part of their respective departments or agencies.

There are several reasons why I think such committees would be valuable and should be explored. First, because when all the various components within the organization — from budget, finance, information systems and programs — are joined together in reporting to a strong governance group, which the financial audit and advisory committees would be, the committees can strengthen the governance structure. The committees can bring focused attention to the implementation issues of a new law, such as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the Data Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014. Second, if there is a proper, focused selection process, committee members could contribute 1) relevant and specialized knowledge, 2) objectivity and unquestioned integrity, 3) a view from outside government and 4) time to focus undivided attention on reporting and control risks and issues.

If the committee has sound procedures in place, as well as being made up of the right people, the head of a federal department or agency will receive a level of personal assurance about reporting and controls from the committee. In addition, committee members may provide advice and guidance which can resolve technical issues between the CFO, inspector general, and external auditors. Further, there could be the assurance that the Performance and Accountability Report or Annual Financial Report will receive an objective, dedicated, knowledgeable reading in draft.

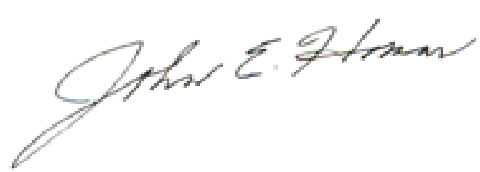
The last advantage I see is the opportunity to have the public and private sectors interact. Not every member of the private sector has the opportunity to gain intimate knowledge of the work carried out by federal agencies, and to understand how operationally, major agencies influence and improve many aspects of our lives.

I believe these committees will have the opportunity to serve as a catalyst for enhancing public confidence in the operation and effectiveness of the federal government and be a bridge between the disparate and often disconnected worlds of business and government. The committee members might gain a valuable understanding of and appreciation for government operations. And these committee members, after they see the quality, dedication and innovation in the public sector, have the potential to become advocates and allies who will have the perspective to stand up for the public sector when government is challenged.

There are, of course, implementation issues related to these committees. To obtain the representation from outside government, how will those individuals be selected? What independence and procurement restrictions need to be placed on the individual's organization while the individual is serving to avoid conflicts of interest? How will the contributions of members be recognized (e.g. compensation might be limited to a modest per-meeting fee and reimbursement of travel costs)? How long will they serve, and what basic prerequisite knowledge should be required? What number of members will be appropriate?

The successful functioning of audit and financial management advisory committees now in operation, such as the Small Business Administration's Audit and Financial Management Advisory Committee, and the Government Accountability Office's Audit Advisory Committee, may provide a model for how some of these questions have been resolved. This idea comes from my experience and perspective on both the public and private sectors, across geographies, reporting structures and sectors. I believe it is worthy of further exploration, and I hope one day it becomes the adopted structure of governance at our large CFO Act agencies.

Sincerely,



John E. Homan, MBA, CGFM, CPA, CGMA
2015-2016 AGA National President

digital communities
For City and County Leaders

HOW ONE STARTUP INTENDS TO RESHAPE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Jason Chueh | March 25, 2016

Whether it is school district budgets or city coffers, the Michigan-based financial transparency startup Munetrix is angling itself as a company of note in 2016.

Former business consultant and automotive industry executive Bob Kittle and database developer Buzz Brown joined in 2010 to form Munetrix as a solution for governments and school districts budget management. Key features of the cloud platform center on its knack to create simple interactive visuals for complex financials, while at the same time curating a portion of these revenues and expenditures for the public.

In January, *Government Technology* highlighted Munetrix as one of the top civic innovation companies in its inaugural Govtech100 list. In an interview, Kittle dives into the business' digital innards while fleshing out a few of its core benefits.

Government Technology: What led the founders to create Munetrix?

Munetrix Co-founder and CEO Bob Kittle: As co-founders, Buzz Brown and I were both involved in public service when, in the mid-2000s it became apparent that A) the economy was shifting dramatically and starting to impact the public sector, B) local governments needed a good dose of reinvention and C) the policymakers tasked with dissecting and making tough budget decisions were themselves not equipped, in many cases, to understand the complexity of the financials they were addressing. I started performing turnaround consulting work in 2006 and was vetted as a Local Unit (of government) financial adviser by the Michigan Department of Treasury in 2009, which lead to the creation of Munetrix in 2010. Munetrix is a play on the words "municipal metrics."

GT: What kind of financial insights does the app produce for governments that might not be seen otherwise?

Kittle: *Detroit News* Reporter Daniel Howes probably said it best in 2011 when he wrote an editorial on Munetrix, calling the tool "a fiscal radar." Munetrix has two sides. One is public and adds a level of accountability into any local government because its data is going to be open to the public in a standardized transparent environment — whether they want it to be or not. The other side is a business management, intelligence and analytics tool with robust algorithms and utilities that allows local government administrators the ability to benchmark themselves and customize their data or display the story it tells. Additionally, they can model future budget assumptions using the algorithms to determine if those assumptions will lead them to safe harbor, the potential for fiscal stress, or actual fiscal stress with enough time to make course corrections. As a turnaround consultant, co-founder Kittle suggests the worst line he could ever hear is, "We are going to miss payroll." Munetrix all but assures that will not happen in a local government or school district. The company's Munetrix score acts like a personal FICO score for local governments, allowing them to clearly see not only what their fiscal well-being is today, but what it will be in the future.

GT: How does the platform offer transparency to citizens within city budgets?

Kittle: While Munetrix is subscription-based, it also offers a level of no-cost access that allows engaged citizens a "street-level" view of public-sector financial and demographic data in an easy-to-understand format. Local governments that subscribe to Munetrix can determine if they want to show more data to their citizens, run benchmarks, build budgets and forecasts, or just conduct deeper analytical reviews to better understand their cost centers.

GT: In what unique ways does Munetrix support educators and educational school systems with its platform? And what financial trends has it identified?

Kittle: Munetrix provides local schools and municipalities a clear and unobstructed view of their future fiscal health. Munetrix — unlike most government transparency and data visualization tools — puts data into context rather than just showing historical trends. This is increasingly important for public schools, whose funding changes dramatically

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membership

NATIONAL ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Are you or a family member pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in disciplines such as accounting, auditing, budgeting, economics, finance, informaton technology or public administration? If so, considering applying for an AGA Academic Scholarship today!

This year AGA will award:

Rising College Freshman
One Full Time $3,000
One Part Time $1,500

Current Undergraduates
Three Full Time $3,000
Two Part Time $1,500

Graduate Students
Two Full Time $3,000
One Part Time $1500

Community Service:
AGA can award two $1500 scholarships amongst the three collegiate categories above.

The deadline for applications is Friday, April 16, 2016

In addition, other opportunities to learn include:

National Collegiate Scholarship Program:
Provides full-time college student opportunties to attend the National Leadership Training or Professional Development Training.

Young Professionals PDT Scholarship:
The Young Professionals Focus Group annually selects five young professionals to attend the Professional Development Training.

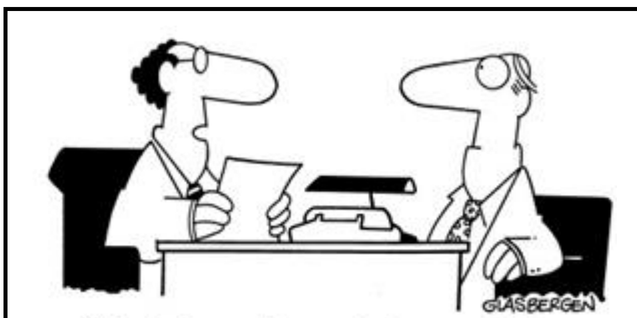
Visit agacgfm.org to learn more about the qualifications and apply on-line.

[continued from page 4]

with student population swings — positive or negative. Knowing how your expenses stack up against state and regional averages is important, but also knowing how you are performing against other districts is important as well. Is the money being spent in your organization generating results? Is it at the top or bottom of your performance group? If you gain or lose 100 students, how will this impact you? With Munetrix, this all becomes entirely clear. In Michigan, Munetrix has discovered that there are a lot of districts doing very well — yet at the same time, there are many that are in substantial fiscal stress as well.

GT: How does Munetrix employ predictive analytics to help localities avoid fiscal cliffs and other financial pitfalls?

Kittle: Munetrix's algorithms use fiscal, demographic and historical economic data with trend analysis to triage large groups of public-sector entities in an "early warning" environment. The system identifies stressed jurisdictions well in advance of any fiscal cliff — or early enough for them to be able to steer clear of danger. If they are proactive enough to believe what the signs are telling them and want to control their own destiny, they can change the direction they are on using an analytics tool like Munetrix. However, even for jurisdictions who are doing great, Munetrix offers third-party validation for the administrators to share with policymakers and citizens. In a world that often seems thankless, why not toot your own horn if things are going well? Employees appreciate it even if nobody else does.



"The bad news is, you do less work than anyone in this office. The good news is, you make the fewest mistakes."

"It's a brand new position, and we're still figuring out your duties. So I won't be able to tell you how you're doing it wrong for a few weeks."

CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORTING: INFORMING THE PUBLIC IS THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBLITY

Ann M. Eberts, AGA CEO
Eveanna B. Barry, Consultant

Get a group of people together for a discussion and eventually the subject turns to government: "What do we get for our tax dollars?" "There is so much waste, fraud and abuse in government spending."
In general, governmental entities do an abysmal job communicating to the public the business of government and leave the bulk of status reporting to media outlets, which often do not paint a positive or representative picture.

Surveys conducted by a variety of non-profit organizations, past and present, show many citizens are inclined to mistrust federal, state and local government. Citizens, in general, cannot grasp the immense volume of technical information produced and, because governments do not communicate well, this leaves the public confused and uninformed.

In the 1967 film "Cool Hand Luke," the Captain famously announces to the prisoners: "Now what we've got here, is a failure to communicate." Financial reports the size of phone books, while informative for a specific audience, are not an effective means of communicating with the public in today's data-on-demand-driven society. Effectively and efficiently communicating the business and value of government to the public is an ongoing challenge.

One solution to providing citizens something they can use and understand is to develop a report that is non-technical and succinct, and provides web links that can be checked for reliability and more detailed information. AGA created such a document—a four-page Citizen-Centric Report (CCR) that exemplifies the often repeated mantra, "less is more."

"Less" is achieved by the four-page structure of the CCR, and "more" is the broad-based information that provides easy-to-digest content about an entity's revenues, spending, achievements and challenges as well as priorities for the future.

The CCR can be an answer to the reporting dilemma because it helps the reader answer the question "are we better off today than we were last year?" in plain language. It is a snapshot—or "Reader's Digest" version—look into an entity's financial and program performance.

Page one of a CCR typically displays demographics, governance structure, mission and goals of the entity while page two presents key service and activity performance information regarding achievement of specific goals. Page three provides financial information, predominately costs and revenues, while page four identifies the organization's major challenges and provides a look to the future.

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So Why Produce a CCR?

Since 2008, a variety of governments and governmental entities have prepared a CCR for their constituents. Some communities such as Tallahassee, Florida; the Idaho State Police; the state of Idaho and the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council, have all found value in creating the report, whether online, in paper format, or both.

Brent Stockwell, the assistant city manager for Scottsdale, Arizona, states: "The city manager hands out the report at each public meeting he attends, and uses the information for his public presentations, and he has received good feedback. The report is also provided to all board and commission members and we make it available to visitors at City Hall. It has been provided to local realtors, and also to prospective businesses."

Teresa Baker, public information officer at the Idaho State Police, says: "The statistics included in the publication are those most often asked for by the media. Additionally, stories featured in the CCR each year are selected because the topics have been of interest to the media and community. Often these stories provide the ISP a medium to finish telling the story begun in the media."

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Joe Abusamra

Posted
March 3, 2016

FOUR COMPONENTS OF AN EMPOWERED, SUCCESSFUL AGENCY

Like many folks who seek enlightenment about organizations and leadership, I'll read the works of the late Stephen Covey, who is most well-known as the author of the bestseller, The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. As a popular speaker, Covey is credited with a number of insightful quotes. But this one happens to be my favorite: "An empowered organization is one in which individuals have the knowledge, skill, desire, and opportunity to personally succeed in a way that leads to collective organizational success."

That's a pretty profound statement, defining the essence of empowerment and success through four core components. It's also very applicable to today's Federal Chief Human Capital Officers (CHCOs) and their teams, who stand to strengthen agency performance by honing these components through a two-tiered approach, one that takes full advantage of "people" practices and readily available people analytics.

To further illustrate, here's how people practices and tech analytics can come together to support Covey's four components:

Knowledge. You should never stop "feeding" your workforce's appetite for knowledge. Training and development programs certainly help. But how do you figure out which programs work best? You can start by using analytics to distinguish the training sessions which score highest in employee feedback forms, and measure which ones were soon followed by notable performance improvements.

Knowledge acquired must be shared as well. You should set up portals so employees can post – and collaborate upon – updates about new, agency-relevant research, information and best practices. In addition, mentorship initiatives ensure that proven processes and institutional wisdom is passed along, in the interest of expanding staffers' capabilities and paving the way for seamless successions.

Skill.
You can't develop talent if the core skills aren't there. This is where effective recruitment comes into play. Through people analytics, you can drill down to the schools and regions where you've landed top-quality hires. You can assess which agency areas are lacking critical skills – and which ones are projected to lapse into a "talent drain" in the near or long-term future due to retirements – and customize recruitment efforts to fill in the existing and anticipated holes.

Desire. In this case, desire is all about engagement. Overall employee engagement in the government stands at 64 percent. While the percentage sounds respectable, it's only 1 percent higher than the engagement level in 2014. We can do better. Especially when people analytics helps you evaluate which particular agency units command high engagement scores, and which ones are struggling. With this, you pinpoint what works best at the successful units, so other units can adopt those practices.

Opportunity. When you combine the first three components, you create unprecedented opportunity, positioning HR for a seat at your agency's strategic table. For so long, HR professionals were somewhat tacitly dismissed as the "form folks," confined to overseeing paperwork about employee benefits, personnel policies, orientation programs, etc. But when CHCOs and their teams deploy people analytics to elevate the knowledge, skills and desire (engagement) of the workforce, they emerge as irreplaceable contributors to "big picture" organizational objectives. With endless volumes of talent data available, the potential remains limitless for human capital professionals to make "smarter, faster, cheaper" decisions in responding to business challenges.

There's so much talk about empowerment today. But, too often, senior managers draw blanks in determining how exactly to unleash a "take charge" mindset agency-wide. By focusing on Covey's four components, however, talent managers identify the key areas to build upon. Then, through people analytics, they ensure that they're investing their recruitment, training/development, onboarding and engagement dollars where they belong. From there, your people will thrive within an environment which encourages autonomy, teamwork and development. And that's when true empowerment takes hold, leading to Covey's vision of collective organizational success.

Early Career Center

Don’t Make Bad Assumptions About Your Job Interview

by Alison Green, usnews.com

It’s a bad mistake to assume your interviewers have your entire resume memorized.

Job seekers often go into interviews with a set of assumptions in their heads – for example, that the company is a great place to work, that the interviewer is likely to ask particular questions, that the company is most interested in a certain aspect of their experience and all kinds of other beliefs that may or may not be correct. Some assumptions, though, can be downright dangerous for job seekers to make. Here are five common ones that you should avoid.

1. You're highly qualified, so surely you're a top candidate. The employer is probably talking to multiple well-qualified candidates, so it's dangerous to assume anything about your standing in the candidate pool. Even if you're in an in-demand field with a shortage of strong candidates, there's no way to know who your competition is or what less obvious traits the hiring manager might be looking for. After all, hiring is about more than basic qualifications. It's also about your fit with this particular team, this particular manager and this particular workplace.

It's especially important to keep this in mind if you're applying for a new role at your current company. You might be tempted to figure that you're a known quantity and therefore have a built-in advantage over any possible candidates from the outside. But while it's true that many companies give priority to internal candidates, it's still quite possible to lose the job to someone else. That's even more likely if you approach the process as if it's a formality, since that may make you less likely to put in enough time preparing, or you may assume that the interviewer knows your strengths and accomplishments and you don't need to spell them out.

2. The interviewer knows how to interview effectively. It's easy to assume that your interviewer is skilled at asking relevant questions and giving you both the opportunity to assess your fit for the position. But in reality, many interviewers are inexperienced, unskilled or otherwise unprepared to conduct effective interviews. Many interviewers get little to no training in interviewing and are simply thrown in and expected to figure it out as they go. That means that if your interviewer is rambling or not probing into your qualifications, you should be prepared to weave examples of your professional achievements into the conversation, ask questions about the job itself and the challenges the team is facing, then talk about how you'd approach those challenges. If the interviewer is really off-track, you might even say, "Would it be OK to take a minute and lead you through my professional background? I think it will tie in well with what you were just saying about the position."

3. The interviewer has carefully reviewed your resume and cover letter and remembers the details. It's not uncommon for an interviewer to be pulled into the interview at the last minute. Or your interviewer might have read through your materials a week ago or more and not have had a chance to review them again before your interview. Even if she has a copy of your materials in front of you, don't assume the details are fresh in her mind.

4. The interviewer knows that you want the job. Job candidates tend to assume that of course the interviewer knows they want the job. After all, they applied and showed up to interview. But good hiring managers know that interviews are a two-way street and that strong candidates are using the hiring process to assess the employer just as much as the employer is assessing candidates. If you don't seem enthusiastic or make a point of explaining your interest in the job, the hiring manager may be left uncertain about whether you're seriously interested. That's one reason why sending a follow-up note after the interview is important. It allows you to show that you've gone home, digested the conversation and decided that you're still interested in pursuing the position.

Relatedly, don't make the mistake of assuming that you know that you want the job until you've had a chance to dig into the details of the position and the company during your interview, and to do your own research as well.

5. You can read the interviewer to figure out your chances of earning a job offer. Job candidates often try to read their interviewer's words and behavior for clues about their chances – speculating, for example, that if the interviewer shows them around the office, it means that their chances are strong, or that if the interviewer mentions having other interviews to conduct, it's an attempt to let them down easily. Trying to read into these actions to figure out your chances of getting a job is understandable, but it's also fruitless and often misleading.

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 23, 2015**~~
~~**Professional Development Conference**~~
~~Government Accountability~~
~~Library of Michigan~~
~~4 hours CPE~~

~~**October 21, 2015**~~
~~**Webinar Conference**~~
~~Fraud Risk Management in Gov. Programs~~
~~Constitution Hall, ConCon A and B~~
~~2 hour CPE~~

~~**October 27, 2015**~~
~~**Monthly Luncheon Meeting**~~
~~Lottery – Where Does All the Money Go?~~
~~Capitol View Building~~
~~1 hour CPE~~

~~**November 4, 2015**~~
~~**Webinar Conference**~~
~~OMB Uniform Guidance: Impact on Grants~~
~~Ottawa Building, Conference Room 6~~
~~2 hours CPE~~

~~**November 17, 2015**~~
~~**Monthly Luncheon Meeting**~~
~~Fraud or Money Laundering~~
~~Capitol View Building~~
~~1 hour CPE~~

~~**November 18, 2015**~~
~~**Webinar Conference**~~
~~One Thing a Leader Must Do~~
~~Your Computer~~
~~1 hour CPE~~

~~**December 2, 2015**~~
~~**Webinar Conference**~~
~~Ethics in the Workplace~~
~~Ottawa Building, Conference Room 6~~
~~2 hours CPE~~

~~**January 11, 2016**~~
~~**Monthly Luncheon Meeting**~~
~~Tax Update – Joint Meeting with SAAABA~~
~~Capitol View Building~~
~~1 hour CPE~~

~~**January 13, 2016**~~
~~**Webinar Conference**~~
~~Evidence Based Policy Making~~
~~Constitution Hall, ConCon A and B~~
~~2 hours CPE~~

~~**February 16, 2016**~~
~~**Monthly Luncheon Meeting**~~
~~Social Media~~
~~Capitol View Building~~
~~1 hour CPE~~

~~**March 22, 2016**~~
~~**Professional Development Training**~~
~~Government Accountability~~
~~Okemos Conference Center~~
~~8 hours CPE~~

April 13, 2016
Webinar
DATA Act
Constitution Hall, ConCon A and B
2 hours CPE

April 18, 2016
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
Basic Investing
Victor Building, Sigma 8
1 hour CPE

April 27, 2016
Webinar
Brave New World of Grants under UGG
Capital Commons, Conference Room E
2 hours CPE

May 19, 2016
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
Budget
Victor Building, Sigma 8
1 hour CPE

June 1, 2016
Webinar
Government Financial Management
Constitution Hall, ConCon A and B
2 hours CPE

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Another creative use of the CCR in Suffolk, Virginia, and Tallahassee, is utilization of the report to teach middle- and high-school students about local government.

The Territory of Guam, with the enactment of PL30-127, effective Jan. 1, 2010, requires all governmental entities to submit a CCR and post it on their website, including the Office of the Governor, Judiciary of Guam and Guam's Legislature. Several agencies have received accolades on their reports including the University of Guam, the Office of the Attorney General and the Guam Power Authority.

Several federal government agencies produce a CCR-type document, including the Architect of the Capitol, U.S. Small Business Administration, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the National Science Foundation.

Tim Gribben, deputy chief financial officer at SBA, says, "It is possible for a government agency to produce a CCR that is used and useful. Too many times, agencies feel they need to include a lot of data and verbiage to explain what they do, but I have learned by following the CCR guidelines we can say a lot more by clearly presenting the data in a condensed, easy-to-understand format. We can produce reports that satisfy the public's desire for information from their government."

Build Trust in Government

CCR is a customer-focused document designed to give the public a better sense what of their government is doing and what it spends on those services. It provides easy access to key information without having to sort through pages and pages of complicated reports. Finally, the CCR provides an opportunity to begin conversations and an avenue into discussion with citizens.

Setting the stage with early identification of challenges the jurisdiction will face helps build trust and credibility with the public by communicating to the public, informing the governing body, and educating children and young adults. Generating the conversation with a "quick-read" report that is easy to understand is an opportunity not to be wasted. There will be naysayers, but more likely there will be those citizens who say: "I didn't know that 35 percent of my tax dollars is spent on public safety."

A more knowledgeable public can lead to a more engaged public. Use the CCR as the springboard to a better-informed citizenry and to build government trust with the public.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Education is the most powerful weapon which can cause change to the world.
Nelson Mandela

West Michigan AGA

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

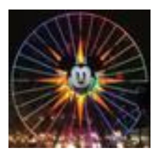
April 20, 2016
Webinar
Pension/OPEB Standards
2 hours CPE

July 26, 2016
Webinar
2016 Single Audit Update
2 hours CPE

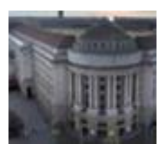
National AGA

To register for events, visit www.agacgfm.org

April 25, 2016
A-123 Forum
Washington D.C. Convention Center
Washington D.C.
6 hours CPE



July 17-20, 2015
Professional Development Training
Anaheim Convention Center
Anaheim, California
24 hours CPE



September 20-21, 2016
Internal Control and Fraud Prevention
Ronald Regan Building
Washington D.C.
14 hours CPE

SAAABA

To register for events, visit www.saaaba.org

April 27, 2016
59th Annual Business Seminar
LCC West Campus
8 hours CPE

Live as if you were to die tomorrow.
Learn as if you were to live forever.

Mahatma Gandhi


MEMBER NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS!
Member Anniversaries

Fern Wilson	11 years
Angela Richards	6 years
Anshu Varma	3 years
Julie Chrysler	2 years

WELCOME!
New Members

Roger Gargano, Natural Resources


CHAPTER FINANCES

Balance Sheet at February 29, 2016

Assets	
Current Assets:	
Checking Account	$ 21,918
Pay Pal Account	$ 6,571
Total Assets	$ 28,489
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Beginning Fund Balance	
Unrestricted	$ 20,612
Restricted	$ 4,515
Income (Loss)	$ 3,362
Ending Fund Balance	
Unrestricted	$ 23,974
Restricted	$ 4,515
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	$ 28,489

CGFM

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

CGFM is the 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.

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Robert Brackenbury, CGFM
Carol Carlson, CGFM-Retired
Deborah Christopherson, CGFM
Beth Colosimo, CGFM
Tom Colosimo, CGFM
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Eric Formberg, CGFM
Mary Elizabeth Gienapp
Kenji Griffith, CGFM
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Jackie Lawson, CGFM
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Cynthia Osga, CGFM
Jean Ramsey, CGFM
Marcellette Reynolds, CGFM
Charlotte Roper, CGFM
Linda Shepard, CGFM
Karen Spak, CGFM
Karen Stout, CGFM
Scott Strong, CGFM
Pratin Trivedi, CGFM
Jon Wise, CGFM-Retired

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2016
Romney Building

CEC Members Present: Chris Bayley, Anthony Edwards, Kenji Griffith, Shawna Hessling, Dan Jaroche, Anna Lewis, Julie Salman, Karen Stout, Anshu Varma, Dan Wawiernia

CEC Members Not Present: Julie Chrysler, Cindy Osga

Call to Order and Acceptance of Agenda: Dan J. called the meeting to order at 12:02pm. A motion to accept the agenda was made, seconded, and approved.

Minutes: The January 2016 board minutes were approved by CEC vote via email on February 9, 2016.

Budget and Financials: Anna has been picking up the mail from the PO box but is unsure what to do with some of it. The Board agreed Anna could open all mail and use her judgment to throw away junk mail and pass on other mail to appropriate individuals. There was a change in the YTD column for the November and December operating statements because of a formula error. The changes were motioned, seconded, and approved. A motion was made, seconded and approved for the January financial statements and expenditures in the amount of $752.08.

Membership: Shawna indicated were are now at 112 members. Shawna will get a list of former members and encourage them rejoin and attend chapter events. We should send a thank you after events to those who attended.

Education: The chapter's PDT is scheduled for March 22, 2016. Anna and Chris will work the registration table which will include name tags, pens, sign-in sheets, etc. Karen will help Anshu with whatever she needs at 7am. 90 people have registered to date. Chris will work on the gifts to presenters. Dan W. will manage the technology. He will bring the projector and computer so all presentations can be loaded to one projector.

Program Luncheons:
February: Nikki Sunstram
March: No program because of PDT.
April: John Roberts
May: Voya

Awards: Kenji sent a letter to department heads soliciting nominations. Few nominations received to date. Kenji will set up a nominations meeting to select the award winners.

Communications – Newsletter and CCR: No report.

CGFM and CPE Events: The next webinar will be March 9, 2016. Dan is working on the wording for the CGFM Proclamation to be sent to the Governor's Office.

Webmaster: No other report other than what is included in old business below.

Community Service: Siren Shelter will be the charity for the PDC fundraiser.

Chapter Recognition Program: No report.

Old Business: None.

New Business:
- Discussion on member recruitment scholarship inviting nonmembers to one event (luncheon or webinar). This would be a chapter funded scholarship. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to allow up to 10 nonmembers to attend a free luncheon. Nonmembers could attend one free webinar.
- The idea was brought up to restructure the Facebook page to advertise chapter events and follow-up with perhaps a summary and pictures. Chris will talk to Linda about getting the Facebook sign-on credentials.

Old Business:
- A few CEC members expressed interest in attending the National PDT. The Board approved to pay for two additional registrations not to exceed the early bird rate. Julie C. will be paid per chapter procedures.
- Student Member Discussion. It was motioned, seconded, and approved to offer a student Board Member position to an Olivet College student. Anthony will talk to an accounting instructor about making an announcement. The chapter will pay for the student's membership dues and the student would not pay to attend the monthly luncheon meetings. The same offer will be made to Davenport University. Karen will obtain a contact and make the offer.
- Website: The estimate to add a pop-up to the website is $250. Possibly use a flashing gif to draw attention to new items on the website. Change to group registration page so person doing registration is not automatically added as an attendee.

Adjournment: A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn at 1:16 pm.

Next Meeting: March 9, 2016
Location: Grand Tower, Conference Room 1D

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2015-2016

Platinum Chapter

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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

Greater Lansing AGA
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