AGA GREATER LANSING CHAPTER

Disclosures

www.lansing-aga.org   SEPTEMBER 2013

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Message from the Chapter President

Greetings!

I'm looking forward to serving as your AGA Greater Lansing Chapter President this year!

The entire board is busy planning the chapter activities for the upcoming year and we would like to hear your ideas for luncheon speakers, professional development conference topics, community service events, and social events. Please contact me or any of the Board members to share your ideas!

I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to thank our outgoing President, Deborah Christopherson, for her leadership this past year and her commitment to AGA. A hearty thanks to you Deb!!

We look forward to seeing you at the professional development conference on September 24th!

Amy Zimmerman

Eye Opener

78,000

The estimated number of vacant buildings in Detroit. City officials say no more than ten percent of them will ever be reused.

SOURCE: GOVERNING | DETROIT | JUNE 25, 2013

Where's that lighthouse?

see page 8 for the answer

B

2013 Fall Professional Development Conference

Government Accountability

Tuesday, September 24, 2013
8:00am – Noon
Library of Michigan
702 W. Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, Michigan

You can register online at http://www.lansing-aga.org. Click on Events.
Registration Ends Friday, September 20, 2013

7:30 – 8:00	Registration. Coffee, juice, continental breakfast.
8:00 – 8:05	Welcome and Opening Remarks
8:05 – 9:45	**OMB Circular A-87 Federal Cost Allocation Overview, Implications for State and Local Governments, Impact of Health Care Reform on Cost Allocation** **Amy Ferraro, Manager (Boston) and Jerry Wolf, Manager (Chicago) Public Consulting Group (PCG), Inc.** 2.0 hour CPE Accounting
9:45 – 10:00	Break Generously sponsored by PCG, Inc., Grand Traverse Pie Company, and Biggby
10:00 – 10:50	**Preparing for an Audit** **Stephen Blann, CPA, CGFM, CGMA, Director of Governmental Quality, Rehmann** 1.0 hour CPE Auditing
11:00 – 11:50	**Cybersecurity Awareness** **Sgt. Jay Poupard, Michigan State Police** 1.0 hour CPE Other
11:50 - noon	Closing Remarks

$40 for AGA members
$60 for non-members

MAIN ID 2521858718-005

qualifies for 4 hours of CPE

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 can be accepted at registration

Questions?
contact
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517-241-2002

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

Book Drive for Capital Area District Library
Chapter Community Service Project

Have any books at home collecting dust and taking up space?
Clean off your shelves and support the community. Donate your books for a good cause.
A collection box will be at the conference for your convenience.

MONTHLY MEETING
Monday, October 28, 2013 11:45

Capitol View Building
201 Townsend Street,
Lansing, Michigan

Topic To be Announced

REGISTRATION
Register on-line at www.aga-lansing.org, click on events. Register before Friday, October 25.

COST
$12 AGA members
$20 non-members
Registrants are responsible for payment unless cancellation is received by the registration deadline.

About the Speaker

Paul Artale is a professional keynote speaker, trainer, and facilitator.

A veteran of the education sector, Paul is no stranger to having a lack of resources (human, financial, and technological).   Despite these shortcomings Paul has been able to maximize his organizational effectiveness and output. Overcoming adversity is something that Paul knows well as he has overcome physical disability in his life.   Paul's attitude comes from his background as a former college football coach and player and is instrumental in the "you can do it" attitude.

Why Do So Many Governments Resist Benchmarking

Beyond the fear of disclosure, there are a number of reasons states and localities may not want to engage in benchmarking.

Katherine Barrett and Richard Green

We've always thought of ourselves as good parents. You'd have to ask our children to see if that's a fair statement. But here's one thing we wish we had not done. When our daughter would come home from a soccer practice or play in the rare game that we missed, we would ask her, "How'd you do?" She would give us a mealy-mouthed answer that didn't satisfy our curiosity. So, our next question—the one we probably should not have asked—was, "Were you one of the best?"

Why do we bring this up in a column about government management? The truth is that we were trying to get to a performance indicator by asking that she benchmark herself against her peer group. Just like many cities, counties and states do.

"It's one of the ways you can tell how well you're doing," says Harry Hatry, distinguished fellow and director of the Public Management Program for the Urban Institute. "If all you have is your own number and you don't have a comparison, you can't know if you are doing well.

Despite the idea that benchmarking can be a valuable tool, it's not universally beloved. For one thing, when a bunch of cities are benchmarked against one another, at least a few are inevitably at the bottom of the list. This is a powerful reason to stay the heck away from a benchmarking effort in the first place.

Beyond fear of disclosure, there are a number of reasons states and localities may not want to engage in—or use—benchmarking. For one, it can be very difficult making sure there's consistency in the data and definitions. This doesn't even have to be a matter of apples and oranges. It's obstacle enough to try to compare a McIntosh to a Golden Delicious.

A June article in *Governing* focused on a study funded by the Greater Boston Real Estate Board and the Building Owners and Managers Association on the economic impacts of mandatory building energy labeling. Both groups opposed the benchmark ordinance that Boston passed to support such labeling. One problem with benchmarking, they say, is that there are too many differences in buildings and too little control over occupant energy use to make fair comparisons.

Supporters, naturally, disagree and see the benchmarking effort as a way to reduce energy consumption. In any case, it's clear that controversies like this thwart benchmarking efforts.

Another obstacle is that benchmarking can be expensive and time-consuming, particularly when it involves establishing generally agreed-upon performance measures with common definitions. The International City/County Management Association's multiyear effort to provide cities and counties with a set of consistent performance measures for comparison has seen participation ebb and flow with the economy. In the first recession of the 21st century, the number of cities and counties participating dropped by 25 percent, and it fell by more than 30 percent during and after the Great Recession. In both cases, the numbers escalated as the economy improved.

AGA's 2013-2014 NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Mary Peterman, CGFM, CPA

AGA's 2013-2014 National President, Mary E. Peterman, CGFM, CPA has covered most of AGA's membership demographics during her 20 plus year career supporting local governments, as well as state and federal agencies. She started her career in "The Big 8" and progressed to financial management leadership positions in Chesterfield County, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Northampton County, Virginia. From there, Mary's experience expanded to include federal agencies - the Transportation Security Administration and United States Coast Guard. She continues to support state and federal agencies today as a Vice President for Savantage Solutions.

"CONNECTING" within AGA has facilitated Mary's proudest accomplishments - her contributions to AGA's membership and accountability efforts. She has been an active cheerleader for AGA's Citizen-Centric Reporting (CCR) efforts since the beginning, having the opportunity to develop the first CCR for a locality, published in the Winter 2006 issue of the AGA Journal of Government Financial Management.

In addition to speaking at many chapter, regional and audio conference events about CCR, she also actively participated in the development of the first CCR for the United States Coast Guard. Mary participated in the development of guidelines for the AGA's Citizen-Centric Reporting certificate program, currently serves on AGA's Accountability Focus Group, and participates as a reviewer for both the Citizen-Centric and SEA Reports. She actively participated this year in the development of the AGA Virginia Peninsula Chapter's first Member-Centric Report.

Mary's past AGA leadership positions include Virginia Peninsula Chapter President, Mid-Atlantic Regional Vice President, Finance and Budget Committee, PDC Technical Committee, National Treasurer, National Executive Committee, and the national Nominating Committee. She was responsible for obtaining the first ever CGFM declaration by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mary has received a National President's Award, Platinum Chapter Award and multiple national chapter recognition awards following her term as chapter president. In addition to the Journal article, Mary has co-authored articles on economic development, published in Government Finance Review and American City and County.

She received her Bachelors of Science degree in Accounting from Virginia Commonwealth University and is pursuing her Masters of Public Administration at University of North Carolina - Pembroke.

Government Benchmarking
continued from page3

Similarly, a voluntary effort to provide a common set of performance measures for local governments in Minnesota has had some trouble getting participants. The legislature provided an incentive of 14 cents per capita for participation, but that amount hasn't been enough to convince many cities to sign up. Of 854 cities and 87 counties in the state, 13 percent of the cities and 38 percent of the counties applied to the auditor and were approved to participate in 2011. In 2012, that dropped to 7 percent and 29 percent respectively.

Still, Rebecca Otto, the state auditor who oversees the effort, believes this has been an important initiative for the entities that use it well. "The entities that have implemented this realize how powerful a tool it is. There are very positive benefits and it's very much worth doing even if the financial incentives are small," she says. "It allows for an informed conversation with your taxpayers."

We have a lot of personal experience with comparing entities through the Government Performance Project, a rating effort that *Governing* used to do in conjunction with the Pew Center on the States. Since our use of data was accompanied by thousands of interviews to provide context and additional information, we had faith in the results. We were

always intrigued by how different governments reacted to a low rating. Some just hated the exercise and attacked it. Others, like Alabama, which rose from a C- in 2005 to a C+ in 2008, were inquisitive and intent on learning from the results.

Along those lines, we were recently impressed to see a report from Louisiana, which focused on the state's bottom-of-the-pack performance on the United Health Foundation's annual ranking of health indicators. The report from the state's Department of Health and Hospitals provided the legislature with recommendations on how to improve the state health ranking with the goal of moving from the current position of number 49 to 35 in the next 10 years.

Conversations with governments and associations that have recently been involved in benchmarking efforts yielded the following guidelines for success with this tool:
- Focus on government improvement rather than a politically charged drive to reduce government's size.
- Regard the actual data comparison as the first step of a multistep process, not the whole journey.
- Emphasize that the goal is providing areas for improvement, not targeting weak performers.
- Engage employees and labor in the effort.
- Show buy-in from top leadership.

http://www.governing.com/columns/smart-mgmt/col-governments-resist-benchmarking.html

10 Most Entertaining Government Mobile Apps

I may have to retract my statement yesterday that webcams are my favorite public good. I have been doing some research on government mobile apps that has changed my opinion. In the past, I only utilized government apps for reference or career information. These apps were usually visually boring and not very much fun to use. However, I found a whole new genre of government apps that are both educational and entertaining. The best part - they are all free! Below, I list my favorite mobile apps meant for entertainment created by the government.*

1. **Solve the Outbreak:** The Centers For Disease Control and Prevention created an interactive and engaging app that places you on the front lines in working to solve an outbreak and save lives. Quickly, you learn how difficult it is to control the outbreak of a disease. It is compatible with iPad.

2. **NASA App:** NASA's official app enables you to discover the galaxies from the palm of your hand. It provides live videos, launch schedules, beautiful pictures, and the latest news from NASA missions. It is compatible with iPhone, iPad, and Android.

3. **Comet Quest:** Another fantastic NASA creation. This game makes you the mission controller of the Rosetta spacecraft. While dodging ice chunks, you carefully observe and record information from comets. Not only is it a fun game, but you also learn a lot about comets in the process. It is compatible with iPhone and iPad.

4. **Leafsnap:** The Smithsonian Institution, in coordination with Columbia University and the University of Maryland, created this fun and educational app that utilizes visual recognition software to identity tree species from photographs of their leaves. It also contains a ton of beautiful high-resolution images of leaves, flowers, fruit, petiole, seeds, and bark. It is compatible with iPhone and iPad.

5. **Pointe du Hoc:** The American Battle Monuments Commission created this app to give you a chance to visit the World War II D-Day landing site in France. Through the app, you are able to walk the site, explore key positions, hear stories from soldiers, and view historic photos. It is compatible with iPhone and Android.

6. **mPING:** Ever wanted to be a meteorologist? This app, created by the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) and the Precipitation Identification Near the Ground project (W-PING), turns you into an amateur meteorologist. It's really quite simply, you collect information about precipitation in your area and send it to NSSL through the app. They compare this data with their data to develop and validate new and better algorithms for predicting weather. It is compatible with iPhone and Android.

7. **Satellite Insight:** Another NASA gem. This game is similar to Comet Quest, but instead you are collecting data from the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite, R series (GOES-R). During the game, you must continue to collect the steam of data from GOES-R's six main instruments to both save lives and protect expensive instruments. You learn a lot about satellites and their importance as a technical resource. It is compatible with iPhone.

8. **Your Art:** The National Gallery of Art constructed this app for both visitors and art lovers across the globe. It provides access to the Gallery's expansive collection of art, including works from Leonardo da Vinci and Rembrandt van Rijn. You not only get to view the art, but also learn a great deal about its history. The app is compatible with iPhone.

9. **Aesop for Children:** The Library of Congress adapted the book "The Aesop for Children" to create this interactive app. It contains over 140 classic fables, complemented with creative illustrations and animations. It is compatible with iPhone, iPad, and Android.

10. **Docs Teach:** The National Archives and Records Administration constructed this app to enable you to learn more about our nation's history and interact with primary source documents. You can choose different topics and challenge yourself, or your classroom, with an activity. This is a great tool for teachers eager to find a new way to engage their students. It is compatible with iPad.

Honorable Mention: Charge! The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness created this spy game to help you learn and apply correct acquisition and contracting rules as defined in the Federal Acquisition Regulation. During the game, you help secret agents fight evil henchmen and become an expert in acquiring high tech gadgetry. It sounds pretty awesome, but it is only for Android, so I was unable to test it out!

*WARNING: I am an apple user, so I can't speak to how these work on Android devices.

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 14, 213

CEC Members Present: Christopher Bayley, Linda deBourbon, Heather Hammond, Cindy Osga, Charlotte Roper, Corey Sparks, Susan Saari, Anshu Varma, Dan Wawiernia, Amy Zimmerman

CEC Members Not Present: Deb Christopherson, Kenji Griffith, Dan Jaroche, Wanda Jones, Karen Stout

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm

Acceptance of Agenda: A motion to accept the agenda was seconded and approved.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the July CEC meeting were approved by email on July 15, 2013.

Treasurer's Report: Dan distributed financial statements for July 2013. He reported the chapter received $270 in dues and 35 cents in interest. A motion to approve the July financials and July disbursements of $790.85 was seconded and approved. A motion to increase the sponsorship budget to $700 was seconded and approved. The 2012-2013 financial statements are being audited by Phil Perkins.

President's Update: Amy reported she and Deb attended the national PDC in Dallas. She said the programs were very good but attend was lower because of federal sequestration. The first regional conference call meeting was held. The region is looking to work with the West Michigan Chapter on expanding the use of webinars.

Chapter Recognition Program: Chris has reviewed the reporting on the national website. He requested that CEC members let him know when point related events occur. He will send email reminders.

Membership: Amy reviewed the list of suspended members. Anshu, Dan W., and Dan J. will contact them. A response about the recruitment program is due September 15 to the national office. Amy will let national know we will use the recruitment funds. One idea is to have each CEC member invite a non-member to a luncheon.

Education: Heather and Anshu distributed a draft agenda for the September 24, 2013 Fall PDC. Cost will remain at $40 for members and $60 for nonmembers. PCG, Inc. is sponsoring the break. The community service project will be a book drive for the Capital Area District Library.

Program Luncheons: October, November, January, and February luncheon topics have been finalized.

CGFM and CPE Events: Susan distributed the current schedule of audio conferences. Topics have not been finalized for all dates. The chapter has budgeted for six audio conferences. The first one will be October 23 with a topic of Grants Management Reform Updates and Agency Insights. We may be able to work with the OAG to go together on some audio conferences.

Community Service: Charlotte spent time in jail to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Over $350 was raised for MDA. The chapter will have a book drive at the fall PDC.

Communications/CCR: Cindy will put together a schedule of newsletter deadlines and distribute to CEC members. She is working on the Citizen Centric Report which is due to national by September 30.

Website: Linda, Chris, Anshu, and Corey will be on a committee to implement a new website. Corey volunteered to put together some requirements for a new website.

Awards: No report.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 12:54pm.

Next Meeting: September 11, 2013. Hosted by Chris Bayley. Mason Building.

CHAPTER FINANCES

Balance Sheet at July 31, 2013

Assets	
Cash	$ 4,005.08
Total Assets	$ 4,005.08
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Beginning Fund Balance	$ 4,535.58
Income (Loss)	$ (530.50)
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	$ 4,005.08

Chapter Educational Events

The chapter's educational events are still being planned. Monthly chapter meetings have been scheduled for:

- Monday, October 28, 2013
- Monday, November 18, 2013
- Wednesday, January 22, 2014
- Wednesday, February, 19, 2014
- Tuesday, April 22, 2014
- Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Webinar/Audio Conferences will be scheduled soon.

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

You may pay by credit card when you register on-line.

Check the chapter website and newsletter for updated educational opportunities.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Lansing Chapter IIA
https://chapters.theiia.org/lansing/Pages/default.aspx
To register email Bill.Pananikolas@sparrow.org

September 10, 2013
Fraud
Coral Gables, East Lansing, Michigan
2 hours CPE

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

September 17, 2013
Chapter Breakfast Meeting
MSFCU, East Lansing

National AGA
To register for events, visit www.agacgfm.org
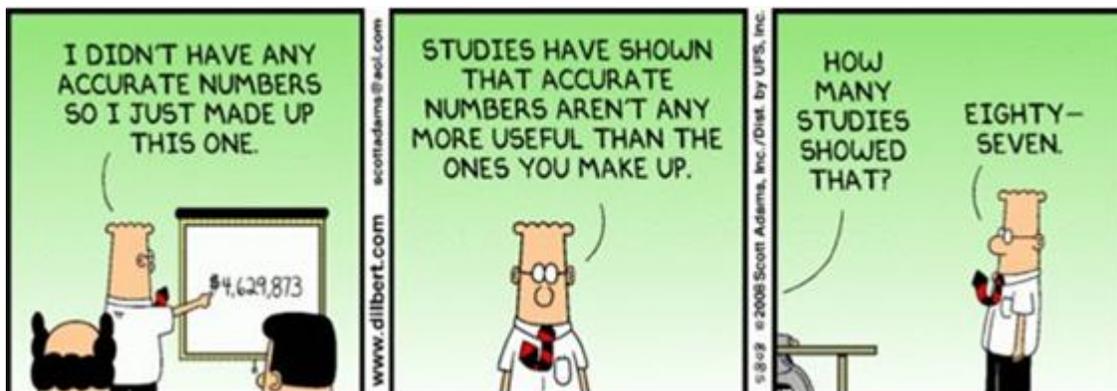
September 24-25, 2012
Ronald Regan Building and Internal National Trade Center
Washington, D.C.
14 hours CPE

SAAABA
To register for events, visit www.saaaba.com

September 12, 2013
MSP Tobacco Tax Enforcement
1 hour CPE

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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

Answers: Where's that lighthouse?

A. Eagle Harbor
The Eagle Harbor Lighthouse sits on a rocky outcropping from the Keweenaw Peninsula. Congress passed an appropriation of $4,000 for the construction of a light to guide mariners into Eagle Harbor in March 1849. Records indicate the light may have been first exhibited in the spring of 1851.

B. Grand Island East Channel
Grand Island stands at entrance to Munising Bay. In order to minimize the cost of the building it was a timber frame construction with wood siding as opposed to the more common brick and stone structures. The East Channel Light was first exhibited on August 15, 1868.