

San Antonio Chapter "NEWS"

Association of Government Accountants

April 2008



2007-2008 Board Members are listed by position presented in this Newsletter. Secretary Angela Brown (assetcountonme@aol.com).

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In the News: Future AGA National Conferences, Training Opportunities
Your Board Members: Are listed in each article with contact emails in this Newsletter

President Message - *Ernest Dabon*
Ernest.Dabon@us.army.mil

I would like to introduce our New Chapter Officers for 2008-2009 elected at the general session at the last audio conference and the upcoming attendees at the SLM in New Orleans:

President - Darrell Wagner-President
President-Elect - Gwendolyn Sewell
Secretary - Position Open
Treasurer - Richard Middleton
Community Events - Joan Navarro
Education Programs - Cheryl Garcia
Membership - Virgil Sergio
Website - Floyd Daigle (non-member volunteer)
CGFM/Newsletter Articles - Jana Dudding

The Sectional Leadership Meeting will be May 2-3 in New Orleans and the following board members will be attending:

Pres-Elect - Gwendolyn Sewell
Pres-Elect-Designate - Darrell Wagner
Education - Joan Navarro
Membership - Virgil Sergio
Regional VP-Elect - Helene Baker

Update on chapter points for the fourth quarter comes to 27,842. The **Platinum Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 19,501 and 22,000. Points come from categories: Chapter Leadership, Planning and Participation, Education and Professional Development, Certification, Communication, Membership, Early Career and Student Members, Community Service, Awards.

President-Elect Message by Gwendolyn Sewell , CGFM

Gwendolyn.Sewell@brooks.af.mil

Our March 26, 2008, Audio Conference on “Emerging Issues at FASAB and GASB: The Landscape is Changing” providing the audience with an understanding of the conceptual frameworks being developed at FASAB and GASB. We were provided with the new standards on the horizon and their impact on preparers, auditors, and users, as well as the progress already made and the future goals in financial and performance auditing. Thanks to all who participated in another successful Audio Conference.

Our chapter is always on the look out for additional professionals who will join our board members in continuing the legacy of a vibrant and instrumental organization in our community. If you know of colleague interested in participating on a committee, contact one of our board members for additional information or to nominate a fellow AGA member.

TX OK Regional VP-Elect Message by Helene A. Baker, CGFM, CFE

HeleneBaker@satx.rr.com

Spring is here and National is kicking off the series of SLM (Sectional Leadership Meetings). Our San Antonio Chapter is in Section II that includes Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and New Orleans and will kick off our section event in New Orleans on May 2-3. Several chapter members from this section will be sharing best practices and have opportunities to share with National Leaders first hand. All SLM details can be found here: http://www.agacgfm.org/about/governance/slm/section_II.aspx

New chapter executive board members by invite are attending the SLM and will be able to hear first hand the expectations of our national, regional and chapter leaders and give feedback as to ways to improve services to current members and recruit new members and leaders and how to access information to be a more effective leader. Those invited are RVP-Elects, RVP-Elect Designates, Regional Coordinators for Chapter Development and Assistance, Membership, CGFM, Education and Early Careers, Chapter President-Elects, Chapter President-Elect Designates, Incoming Chapter Membership or Early Career Chairs, Incoming Chapter CGFM Chairs and Incoming Chapter Education Chairs. Funding for this event is made by National.

Should any chapter members have any questions that they would like their representative address to national please email one of the executive board members shown in this newsletter by position articles.

Your chapter has elected new executive board members for 2008-2009 at the audio conference on March 26, 2008 and they are pulling together a great program year for 2008-2009. Do support your chapter community events and activities. The program is put together for the benefit of each member and participant and functions accordingly to make available these opportunities. Your chapter has done a tremendous job during 2007-2008 in providing these activities and is a viable chapter and will continue to see success in this upcoming year.

Treasurer Update by Richard Middleton, CGFM

rlmcollector@aim.com

Finance Report - San Antonio Chapter Balance Sheet and Income Statement

Balance Sheet

Through February 29,
2008

Income Statement

For the period April 1, 2007
through February 29, 2008

	Debit	Credit		Debit	Credit
<u>Assets</u>			<u>Income</u>		
Cash-Unrestricted	1,708.02		Luncheon Income		1,342.00
Cash-Restricted for scholarships	0.00		Dues		207.80
Accounts Receivable	0.00		Misc. Income		158.00
Total assets	1,708.02		Total Income		1,707.80
<u>Liabilities</u>			<u>Expenses</u>		
			Misc. Expense	977.95	
			UTSA – Scholarship	500.00	
Total liabilities		0.00	Luncheon Expenses	1,114.18	
			Total Expenses	2,592.13	
<u>Retained Earnings</u>			Net Income	-884.33	
Retained from prior chapter & Start-up		2,179.90			
Retained Earnings - Prior Years		412.45			
Retained Earnings - Current Year		-884.33			
Total Liabilities and Retained Earnings		1,708.02			

**Programs/Communications Update by Jesse Barrios & Programs/Communications
and Cheryl Garcia – Programs Elect 2008-2009**

jbarrios@sbcglobal.net
Cheryl.garcia@usbank.com

We held the audio conference on March 26, 2008. The AGA Chapter presented P&S with an updated second year Plaque. P&S has sponsored our Chapter with their conference room and luncheon.

AGA San Antonio Chapter 2007 – 2008

Month	Meeting Function	Community Event	Other	CPE
April 22, 2008	Chapter Meeting/Luncheon/ At Joe's Crab Shack 255 E. Basse Rd. SA TX 78209 210-930-1736 Activity: Vote Exec Board/Scholarship Awards Speaker: Jake W. Yetterberg , President of Yetterberg Retirement Solutions Subject: "The Market, Today and Tomorrow."	Hotel Sundry Items – for SA Battered Women and Children Shelter	50/50 Raffle	1 hour
May 28, 2008	Chapter Meeting/Luncheon at Joe's Crab Shack 255 E. Basse Rd. SA TX 78209 210-930-1736 Activity: Awards/Change Exec Board Speaker : Pete Gonzales , Former San Antonio City Auditor Subject: Auditor's Independence (AICPA)	Mother's Day Basket – Teddy Bear, Activity Book and Crayons – for SA Battered Women and Children Shelter	50/50 Raffle	1 hour

Web Master Editor Update by Floyd Daigle

The new website added feature of a 2007-2008 Calendar to the drop down menu in the blue bar. This month the website will feature a 'Registration Form' for both luncheons and audio conferences and will be published as a link in the event flyer. Visit the chapter website for updates on chapter activities at <http://sanantonioaga.org>. In addition, for a fast reference to our home page and the National web page click on links in blue bar located in the header of this Newsletter.

CGFM/Early Careers Chair/Education Director/University Contact Update
by Jana Dudding
jdudding@satx.rr.com

E + E + E =  Education + Experience + Examination

A New CGFM Exam

In 2007, AGA undertook a psychometric review and update of the three CGFM Examinations. To ensure the examinations' content reflects the current industry practices, AGA conducted a full-scale Job Analysis Study of the role of the Certified Government Financial Manager. While the core of the examination content remained the same, the three examination content outlines were updated, refreshed and streamlined. The weighting among the sub-content areas within each examination was adjusted, and the language of the content outlines was revised to provide additional depth and detail to support candidates preparing for the examinations.

The revised examination content outlines may be found on <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/downloads/CGFMExamContentOutlines08.pdf>

The Job Analysis process is described on <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/jobevalstudy.aspx>.

The updated CGFM Examinations will be offered for the first time at the Intensive Review Course/CGFM Examinations event to take place before the Professional Development Conference in Atlanta on July 24-27, 2008. The updated examinations will be available in Prometric testing centers beginning on August 15, 2008. CGFM Examinations taken prior to that date will follow the existing examinations content outline (see <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/exams/>).

AGA is in the process of revising the three CGFM Study Guides to reflect the updated examinations content outline. The updated study guides will be available in March. More information regarding the study guides update will be posted on the CGFM Examinations update page (<http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/examupdate.aspx>).

If you have any questions about the examinations update, please visit the CGFM Examinations Update: Frequently Asked Questions page (http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/update_faq.aspx) or contact the Office of Professional Certification at 800.AGA.7211, ext. 305.

Please consider obtaining the CGFM Certification. Never stop learning, never stop growing, never stop.....

Membership Director Update by Sergio Vigil

Monyeman2000@yahoo.com

I am thinking about new ideas in how to recruit new members instead of the tradition methods. One idea is to go to other organization meetings like the Noon Lions, Kwiawas, etc another idea would be to go Local Community College and talk to students, Accounting Club.

Community Events Director: (Charitable Drives) by Joan Navarro, CGFM

Joan.Navarro@brooks.af.mil

Ongoing Blood Drive - In coordination with the San Antonio Blood Bank, the Chapter has extended the, Blood Drive" project from a one month event through the remainder of the year! Our sponsor number is SPON051653. So please pass the word along and support this worthy project. Your gift of life is greatly appreciated.

Training Opportunities

Future Conferences:	
	<p>AGA Regional Conference. "A Dynamic Government: Key Issues for Success" April 24-25, Dallas, TX. Registration for this event ends on April 18 (COB this Friday). Please RSVP as soon as possible. Online registration for this event is available at www.regonline.com/aga (you may also fax in your registration form).</p>
	<p>Professional Development Conference July 27-30, 2008 <i>Building on the Dream: Shaping a Culture of Accountability</i> Marriott Atlanta Marquis, Atlanta, GA</p>
	<p>June 21-24, 2009 New Orleans Marriott, New Orleans, LA</p>
	<p>July 11-14, 2010 Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, FL</p> <p>National Executive Committee (NEC) Meetings Feb. 20, 2008 - Washington, D.C. July 25, 2008 - Atlanta, GA</p>

Help Them Say Yes In Your Next Interview

By Barry Zweibel (Reprint from *Ladders.com*)

It's one thing to be able to answer interview questions well. It's something else entirely to be able to get an offer. One way to 'sweeten the pot' is by offering something that most applicants do not – a written summary of the steps you'd take during the first ninety days of employment. In doing so, you show that you're:

- seriously considering what it would mean to work there
- completely understanding what the job entails
- taking the initiative to further differentiate yourself from the other applicants
- able to communicate through the *written* word
- willing to share your insights and observations, without cost or obligation

Focus on the Foci

While creating a 90-Day Plan may seem onerous, it doesn't have to be. It doesn't even have to provide a calendar of events. All it needs to do is provide some additional insights into how you'd approach the job if it was yours. Think of it as providing a few missing pieces to the puzzle they're trying to solve about which applicant would be best-suited for the position.

The key is to focus their attention on your understanding of – and ability to address – four major aspects of the work at hand: **problems, processes, projects, and people.**

Remember, you don't have to *completely* address each of these foci to maximize the impact of your 90-Day Plan. You just need show that you (a) understand the issues involved, and (b) have a plan for working them. Let's take a closer look at doing exactly that:

- **Problems** – Pick a problem, any problem. Chances are good you'll have several to choose from. Most employers bring on new hires to help deal with immediately pressing and/or urgent issues. Show that you know what the big ones are and offer your thoughts as to how you will quickly come up to speed and start handling them satisfactorily.
- **Processes** – Sometimes the problems that organizations face are more chronic in nature. Bottlenecks, inefficiencies, conflicting priorities, etc. all slow down an organization's ability to be crisp, agile, and progressive. You probably noticed several such process breakdowns during your interviews. State what you found and frame your approach to turning them around.
- **Projects** – Surely there are also some major projects and key deliverables that you will be responsible for if hired. List them out and highlight what you see as potential trouble points, along with some solutions for mitigating those risks. If you're thinking about some new initiatives, this would be a good time to include them and their underlying rationale, as well.
- **People** – While executives are typically hired because of their functional expertise, their success is usually more a function of their leadership acumen. Frame your plans for creating and sustaining support, respect, and regard from your staff, peers, boss, and other key stakeholders. Use this as an opportunity to articulate your Leadership Message and how you will assess if the right people are in the right roles. Indicate, too, how you will learn who needs what from your organization, and what your organization needs from whom. Focus on leadership, communications, camaraderie, and collaboration.

Based on the specifics of the particular opportunity you're pursuing, you might prefer to address a

different combination of foci and approaches. If that's the case, then good for you! The more situational...specific you can make your Plan, the more relevant and better–received it will be. So feel free to use this format as is, tweak it, or completely rework it, based on what makes most sense to you.

Begin with the End in Mind

Are you still thinking that this is waaaay too much work – especially for an employer that hasn't even hired you yet?! It doesn't have to be. In fact, just spending 30–60 minutes per focus point might be all you need to create a fact–based, hit–the–ground–running summary document. And, if you “begin with the end in mind”, as Stephen Covey suggests in *The “7 Habits of Highly Effective People,”* the task will be far less burdensome because you'll probably start asking far more focused questions during the interview process than you might have otherwise considered.

By the way, take note if you really don't want to develop a 90–Day Plan as it might indicate that the job isn't one you'd really like to have. Better to realize that *before* you accept the offer, yes?!

But assuming you follow–through, a 90–Day Plan gives a prospective employer deep insight into who you are and how you work. And, by providing it *voluntarily*, you create a far more compelling justification for hiring YOU, rather than someone else who merely answered the questions they were asked.

All things being equal, who would *you* hire?

[Barry Zweibel](#), CEC, PCC, is a Certified Executive Coach, a Professional Certified Life Coach, and President of [GottaGettaCoach!, Incorporated](#). He specializes in providing 1-on-1 executive coaching and leadership consulting to seasoned and newly promoted leaders.