



The Leader



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Points of Interest:

- Hear from the new RVP
Lori Mikesell
- Be on the lookout: An AGA member survey is coming soon to your email.
- Learn more about other chapters in the region by checking out the various chapter information.

Inside this issue:

Meet the 2008-2009 AGA President	2
Chapter presidents and news	3
Government Finance Case Challenge	6
Regional Team	7
Calendar of Events	7

Message from the RVP

My name is Lori Mikesell from the Greater Columbus chapter, and I am very excited to be serving as your Regional Vice President this year. Along with the regional coordinators and RVP-elect, we have been planning for an outstanding program year.

I want to thank all the chapter representatives along with regional coordinators for joining in on a conference call to gather the data for the quarterly report that was due September 30. I consider myself your advocate for the region and I didn't want to complete the report without input from each chapter. Additionally, the conference call was a catalyst to get the chapters talking while sharing ideas and information. The feedback has been positive so we will continue the quarterly conference calls to prepare the reports.

I am thrilled to share with you that myself along with Jason Denmeade, RVP-elect, Donna Wolfe, Education; Ed Nierescher, CGFM; Bethany Haupt, newsletter; and JoAnne Walsh, webmaster, met on Saturday, September 27 to prepare a two-year planning document. We looked at the region as a whole and then each program area and developed an outline to move the region forward. It was an exciting and dynamic meeting, and the results will be forthcoming soon as we begin to implement the actions. The goal of the meeting was to increase participation of the chapters while devising a roadmap for each chair to guide them through the next two years. I am very fortunate to have such a wonderful regional team. Each brings their expertise, experience, and enthusiasm for AGA and the region. I also am beyond words as I thank JoAnne Walsh for serving as our regional webmaster. JoAnne has dedicated countless hours in developing and designing our website. The website is amazing and is user friendly while containing all the pertinent information for the region and chapters. I encourage you to check it often. You can also send me a message from the website if there is something you want to ask or know. I would be remiss without properly thanking our newsletter editors, Bethany Haupt and Lyndsey Foell. Without these ladies' dedication, we would not have a regional newsletter. They have been busy putting together the format and gathering information. If you have information you want published in the regional newsletter, please contact them.

I am extending a challenge to the chapters in the way of a food drive during the month of November. Being from Columbus, we have an unusual obsession with college football and there is no greater rivalry than Ohio State and Michigan. During the month of November, Ohio will be challenging Michigan to see who, as a collective state, can collect the most pounds of food in support of local food pantries. Your community service chairs will be receiving more information. The last day of the food drive will be November 21, the day before the Ohio State versus Michigan game. One of the states will earn bragging rights, but the ultimate winners are the people of our great states who will benefit from the food donations.

Finally I want to thank Todd Daughenbaugh for his service as the previous regional vice president. I am quickly learning that while the position is rewarding, it can be time consuming as well. We owe Todd our thanks for his year of service to us!



Lori Mikesell,
Ohio-Michigan Regional Vice
President

Lori



**AGA's Third Annual National
Internal Control & Fraud Conference**
September 22-23, 2008 | Wyndham Phoenix | Phoenix, AZ

Be on the Lookout: Member Survey will be coming

In order to serve all of the local chapters, we are doing a survey to find member's expectations of their local chapter and if members are aware of the services offered. Within the next week or so you will be receiving an email from info@agaohiomichigan.org directing you to the survey. The survey will remain open for two weeks and results will be posted at the regional website, www.agaohiomichigan.org.



Samuel T. Mok, CGFM,
CIA, CICA
AGA National President

Meet Samuel T. Mok-AGA National President

Samuel Tinsing Mok is the Managing Member of Condor International Advisors, LLC, a Washington DC based management consulting firm providing innovative business relationship management and business advisory services.

He served as the Chief Financial Officer of the U.S. Department of Labor from January 2001 to May 2007. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in January 2002 after being appointed to the position by President George W. Bush. Previously he served as Managing Member of Condor Consulting LLC, Comptroller and the first career CFO of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, U.S. Foreign Service Officer, and Captain in the U.S. Army. Additionally, he was the Director of Accounting for Time-Life Books and Treasurer of *U.S. News and World Report*.

In 2006, Mr. Mok received the Prestigious Donald L. Scantlebury Memorial Award for Distinguished Leadership in Financial Management Improvement. He was named as the "Fed 100" by Federal Computer Week and the recipient of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) Washington, DC, Chapter Einhorn/Gary Award. In 2005, he received the AGA Distinguished National Leadership Award. Mr. Mok served on the Republic of the Marshall Islands Trust Fund Committee and the General Administration Board of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School. He was elected as a Fellow of National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) in 2005 and serves on the Government Accountability Office Advisory Council on Government Audit Standards. He is the Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Academy for Government Accountability and is a 2006 Distinguished Practitioner in Residence at the University of Kentucky Martin School of Public Policy and Administration. Mr. Mok is also the recent Recipient of the 2007 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. In 2007, Mr. Mok became the National President Elect of the Association of Government Accountants and the Board Member of Monte Jade Science and Technology Association of Greater Washington, D. C. Area.

Mr. Mok received his B.S. in Accounting from Fordham University and a M.A. in Accounting from The Catholic University of America. He is a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM), and a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), and a Certified Internal Control Auditor (CICA).

Mr. Mok and his wife, Nancy, reside in Maryland. They are the proud parents of two grown children, both attorneys, and five grandchildren.

Local Chapter Presidents



Central Ohio
Patricia Wooldridge

<http://coaga.org>



Cleveland
Carolyn Svetz

<http://agacleveland.org>



Detroit
Soumaya Habhab

www.geocities.com/agadetroit



Greater Columbus
Jim Gillenwater

[www.greatercolumbus](http://www.greatercolumbus.org)



Greater Lansing
Tim Becker

www.lansing-aga.org

Greater Columbus News

Jim Gillenwater, Greater Columbus Chapter President

The Federal Focus

Visit the chapter website at <http://www.greatercolumbusaga.org/>

Ten chapter members from Columbus recently returned from AGA’s National Professional Development Conference (PDC) that was held July 27-30 in Atlanta, GA; where this year’s conference theme was “Building on the Dream: Creating a Culture of Accountability.” Offering 24 CPE hours, timely topics, and an impressive lineup of speakers, the PDC consisted of three and half days of knowledge building opportunities for conference attendees. The PDC was also about networking. There were various receptions and social events that provided attendees with opportunities to make new connections and increase their AGA and professional network.



AGA past president Richard L. Fair passing the gavel to president Samuel T. Mok



DFAS Columbus Director, Nancy Zmyslinski with husband Tom



Former Comptroller General of the United States, David M. Walker

Cleveland News

Visit the chapter website at <http://agacleveland.org/>

Cleveland Chapter participated on May 31st in “The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” walk to support the American Cancer Society’s unique mission to fight breast cancer.

Approximately 17 people walked with Team AGA to raise \$1,040 with AGA National matching the Cleveland donation for a grand total of \$2,080.



Cleveland Chapter’s Team AGA Walk for Breast Cancer

Cleveland AGA Chapter at the PDC won many awards including the following:

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Best Newsletter: | Dorothy Mosley and Linda Woodford |
| Best Website: | Joanne Kmets Walsh |
| Recruiter of the Year: | Stephanie Paschel |
| Chapter Platinum Status: | Jason Denmeade |

Upcoming Luncheons 9/24/08 and 10/29/08 at Pimento’s Restaurant, Crowne Plaza Hotel

Detroit News

Visit the chapter website at: [http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/localchapters/
www.geocities.com/agadetroit](http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/localchapters/www.geocities.com/agadetroit)

KPMG Sponsored Seminar on GASB 45 and 49 will be held in October 2008. Topics will include Single Audit Overview, COSO Overview and Internal Controls related to Compliance and Single Audits, Single Audit Findings Evaluation and Reporting, CAFR Preparation and Evaluation Technical Update.

Central Ohio News

Visit the chapter website at <http://coaga.org/>

The Greater Columbus and Central Ohio AGA PDC will be here sooner than you think! Our 24th annual professional development conference, a landmark of training and networking for government financial management and accountability professionals in both the public and private sectors since 1988, is scheduled for October 20 –22 at the Columbus Athenaeum.



Central Ohio Chapter's Executive Committee

The PDC will continue to offer an excellent conference schedule with outstanding keynote speakers, a wide range of break-out sessions and high quality training classes for you and your organization. The PDC is a joint effort of the Central Ohio and Greater Columbus Chapters of AGA. Our two chapters serve federal, state, local, and special district governments, as well as their private sector partners, in the central Ohio area.

Greater Lansing News

Visit the chapter website at <http://www.lansing-aga.org/>

AGA Greater Lansing Chapter received Platinum Level Award based upon its performance in the Chapter Recognition Program (CRP). The CRP was developed to recognize a chapter's performance in relation to benchmarks linked to AGA's mission. The objective of the CRP is to support, encourage, and promote the accomplishment of AGA's mission, and to provide guidelines for a well-rounded chapter. The CRP also serves as a planning guide to be used through out the program year. All chapters are encouraged to participate in the program. The President-elect has the responsibility of tracking and recording the credits for the various categories. This allows the chapter president-elect to become familiar with chapter activities prior to assuming the President's position.

AGA Greater Lansing was scheduled to participate in the Adopt-a-highway clean up event at the end of July. It is a great way to give something back to our community, to get some exercise, and to socialize with other AGA members all at the same time!

AGA Greater Lansing Chapter Awards:

- Government Financial Manager of the Year-** David Angileri
- Professional Development Award-** Stephen W. Blann, CPA, CGFM
- Community Service Award-** Linda deBourbon
- Membership Participation-** Lilia Denney
- Chapter Ambassador Award-** Cindy Johnson
- Rookie of the Year-** Corey Sparks
- Leadership Award-** Dairus Reynnet, CGFM
- President's Award-** Susan Saari
- Honorable Mention-** Edward Nierescher

Government Finance Case Challenge

The best undergraduate accounting/financial management/business students in the country are invited to compete in the second annual Government Finance Case Challenge, sponsored by the Association of Government Accountants (AGA).

Student teams will collaboratively analyze and offer a written response to a case centered on how a U.S. city government implements a performance management system. The registration deadline is Friday, Oct. 3, 2008. All members of the two highest-scoring teams will receive a scholarship to attend AGA's National Leadership Conference, set for Feb. 19-20, 2009 in Washington, D.C.

Teams will present their finalized solutions before a panel of federal/state/local government leaders, corporate partners and CFOs on Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009. The winning teams will be announced at the awards luncheon on Friday, Feb. 20. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winning team. Each student participant will receive a free one-year membership to AGA.

Students will compete with teams from various colleges around the country. The experience promises to challenge students' moral reasoning, raise their awareness of the importance of government accountability and open doors to a future career in government.

Please visit <http://www.agacgfm.org/challenge2008/> for more information regarding the Government Finance Case Challenge.

100,000 Supporters Sign On to “Wake Up America,” Fight for Fiscal Responsibility

By Elizabeth Wilner

<http://www.pgpf.org/newsroom/press/100000/>

NEW YORK— More than 100,000 Americans have joined the Peter G. Peterson Foundation's effort to wake up the country to the need for greater fiscal responsibility—a milestone the Foundation is marking just eight weeks after its official launch in July.

“In two short months, we couldn't be happier with the reaction to the Foundation and this support we are getting,” said David M. Walker, the Foundation's president and CEO. “We've reached out aggressively to Americans, and they've responded in a big way.”

The Foundation's success comes after an innovative marketing effort leveraging new media and popular media, including extensive outreach to the blogosphere and through social networks and text-messaging, and the launch of “I.O.U.S.A.”, the critically acclaimed feature documentary highlighting America's \$53 trillion fiscal burden. That is the sum of all the government's current financial obligations including unfunded promises for Social Security and Medicare—a \$455,000 bill for every American household.

In August, “I.O.U.S.A.” held a record-setting premiere followed by an unprecedented, nationally broadcast town hall on economic issues featuring Warren Buffett, Foundation Chairman Pete Peterson, and Walker. The live event was beamed via satellite to more than 350 movie theaters around the country and included questions for the panelists that were submitted through the movie's website.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Regional Vice President, [Lori Mikesell](#), Greater Columbus Chapter
Regional Vice President Elect, [Jason Denmeade](#), Cleveland Chapter

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Central Ohio, [Patricia Wooldridge](#)
Cleveland, [Carolyn Svetz](#)
Cincinnati, [Unknown President](#)
Dayton, [Unknown President](#)
Detroit, [Soumaya A. Habhab, CFE, CIA, CICA](#)
Greater Columbus, [Jim Gillenwater](#)
Greater Lansing, [Tim Becker, CPA](#)

BOARD

Regional Coordinator for Chapter Development/Assistance, [Heather Drake](#), Greater Columbus Chapter
Regional Coordinator for Membership, [Stephanie Paschel](#), Cleveland Chapter
Regional Coordinator for Early Careers, [Yulonte Merrell](#), Greater Columbus Chapter
Regional Coordinator for Education, [Donna Wolfe](#), Cleveland Chapter
Regional Coordinator for CGFM, [Ed Nierescher](#), Greater Lansing Chapter
Regional Newsletter Editor, [Lyndsey Foell](#), Greater Columbus Chapter
Regional Newsletter Editor, [Bethany Haupt](#), Cleveland Chapter
Regional Webmaster, [Joanne Kmets Walsh, CGFM](#), Cleveland Chapter

Mark your calendars!

Upcoming AGA National Events Calendar:

October:

- 3rd: Government Finance Case Challenge-Registration Deadline
- 15th: AGA's Research on Performance Based Management Reporting Audio Conference
- 20-22nd: AGA Regional PDC at the Columbus Athenaeum
- 24: Call for National Awards Nominations due
- 27-28th: Performance Management Conference-Seattle, WA
- 29th: Auditor Roles in Government Performance Management-Seattle, WA