



The Leader



OHIO-MICHIGAN REGION



Volume III

May, 2010

Points of Interest:

- Check out what is going on with regional chapters!
- Find out about the AGA's Professional Development Conference in Orlando

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Message from the Regional Vice President

Hello Ohio-Michigan AGA Chapter Leaders,

I am here to serve as the Regional Vice President for the Ohio-Michigan Region and have enjoyed working with each of you in this program year thus far. I would like to thank you for your time, dedication, and effort in serving your local chapter and for what you have done with AGA. Not only are you serving your membership but your entire local government financial community. It is us who help and promote AGA the premier leader in government financial community. I am proud of your efforts and dedication to promote accountability and transparency for a stronger government.



Jason Denmeade
Ohio-Michigan RVP

I recently attended the AGA Section 1 and 4 SLM on Apr 22-24 and we discussed AGA's national direction and initiatives; expectations of our national, regional and national leaders; ways to improve services to current members and recruit new members and leaders; and how to access information to be a more effective leader. Attached are two PowerPoint presentations by the Senior Vice President for Regional Services and more information can be found on the SLM via:

<http://www.agacgfm.org/about/governance/slm/default.aspx>.

Please check back for updates as AGA National will be posting more information.

I encourage your chapter to participate in the Chapter Recognition Program (CRP). Having a professional development meeting, offering training or seminar, recruiting new members and retaining membership, issuing newsletter, chapter board meeting, and many more are all activities that earned you credit points for the CRP Program. For all you know you already earned the credits you're requested to report in the CRP Program, but remember to submit your report by the due date.

Remember, we, the Ohio-Michigan Regional Team, are here to assist you in executing AGA's goals, programs and mission in your chapter. Feel free to contact me or any of our Regional Team Member. You can find our contact information via <http://www.agaohiomichigan.org>

Jason
Jason K. Denmeade

Local Chapter Presidents



Central Ohio
Caren Murdock
<http://coaga.org>



Cleveland
Leah Huth
<http://agacleland.org>



Greater Columbus
Nancy Zymslinski
[www.greatercolumbus](http://www.greatercolumbus.org)



Western Michigan
Stephen Blann

Not pictured: Dayton: Pete Campisi; Detroit: Mark Lockridge; Cincinnati: Martin O'Neill; Greater Lansing: Cory Sparks

Greater Lansing News

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

AGA/IIA Spring Development Conference

The Greater Lansing AGA Chapter and the Lansing Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors had over 200 attendees at the Spring Professional Development Seminar held on March 30, 2010, at the Lansing Community College West Campus. Thank you to all attendees and guest speakers for making this seminar a success.

Topics included the Ethics 101 and Think Big! Act Courageously! Make a Difference! presented by AGA National President Billy Morehead, Auditing 101 presented by Doug Ringler and Bryan Weiler, The Facts about Medicaid Fraud presented by Wallace Hart, Public Education in Governance presented by Jill Roof, ARRA Compliance and Controls presented by Susan Ragland, Bev Stafford and April Karns, and Innovative Service Delivery presented by Lynn Draschil. Special thanks to Plante & Moran for their sponsorship of the conference.

Chapter Awards Presented at the Spring PDC Professional Development Award

Charlotte Roper was nominated by Cindy Johnson for the Professional Development Award. Charlotte has been involved in presenting the AGA Greater Lansing Chapter's audio conference program for two years. This requires a special dedication to provide this valuable educational service month after month to our members. The chapter depends on this program to provide many hours of low cost continuing education. Charlotte earned her CGFM and is committed to continuing to grow in her profession, setting an example for others.

Community Service Award

Jane R. Wallin is the recipient for this year's Community Service Award. Jane is a charter member of the AGA Greater Lansing chapter. She works and volunteers at the following: Elected Park Commissioner in Delhi Township since 1988, an occasional election worker and on the Board of Review for Delhi Township. This past year Jane organized the Sam Corey Senior Center Club and was elected Treasurer. She is on the Board of Directors for the Holt Kiwanis Club. Jane was Chairperson of the Finance Committee of the Lansing Chapter of the State Employee Retirees Association for many years until 12/31/09, and a past Treasurer. She currently serves as the Chair of the Finance Committee of the Michigan SERA Council. The Michigan SERA Council is made up of all the SERA chapters in Michigan. Jane also serves as Chairperson of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee of the Michigan Association of Governmental Employees, OPEIU Local 2002, and was Treasurer for 20 years.

Cleveland News

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

Professionals “Rock Out” For a Day of Fun and Learning at the 2010 AGA/ASMC Spring Seminar

Written by Bonnie DeJonge, Michael Hoffman and Leah Huth

On April 14, the AGA Cleveland chapter co-hosted the 2010 AGA/ASMC Spring Seminar. This year’s theme, “ROCK OUT: Redefining Our Common Knowledge, Objectives, Utilizations, and Tactics,” outlined the conference goal of shaping individuals into accountable leaders. With topics such as U.S. financial reform, ethical responsibilities of accountants, fraud detection, stress management and the characteristics of a really great boss; it was difficult to leave the conference without a sense of enlightenment and enthusiasm towards how one person can have such an impact on many. Listed below is a brief synopsis of the workshops presented at this year’s conference:

Defining a Really Great Boss

Our opening keynotes speaker was Dr. Andrew R. Thomas. He described the characteristics of a great boss, and how agents of change can become leaders. Dr. Thomas also explained what managing by accountability means, and that great bosses possess a set of core competencies that set them apart from mere managers.

NASA’s Financial Challenges and Initiatives

Today’s CFO must tackle complex financial issues including implementing effective federal financial management systems, achieving a clean audit opinion and ensuring effective and efficient financial operations while dealing with the problem of reduced resources. At this workshop, a panel of top financial leaders from the NASA Glenn Research Center discussed these issues along with the financial challenges and initiatives at NASA, and some excellent lessons learned that can be used in other government agencies.

Pension Maximization Plans

The importance of preparing your estate plan as you reach retirement is critical. At this workshop, Scott Tucheck and Bill Schultz discussed its importance and described ways to maximize retirement and pension benefits through the use of insurance.

A Tale of Two Thieves

Randall J. Meyer from the Ohio Auditor of State office told a story of two simultaneous thefts that occurred in one small village, how the funds were diverted, and examples of evidence used to detect the fraud.

Shared Services

Bob Bilbrey and Lee Krushinski from Booz Allen Hamilton spoke to our group about shared services, such as new organizations, new Centers of Excellence and consolidated operations, and the top mistakes to avoid when implementing this type of business model. This workshop displayed the importance of shared services and the fact that the preparation and planning for this type of business model is the key to achieving desired results of high-quality services and cost-effective processing.

It’s About Time! Strategies for a Stress-Free Day

The conference lunch speaker, Traci Miller, the Growth Coach, helped increase participants’ knowledge on how to create effective To-Do lists and increase their willingness to start creating new effective habits in both their work and home lives.

The “Dirty Dozen” Tax Scams

Gary L. Gruver, IRS Special Agent, covered various different tax scams, how they were detected, and what could have been done to prevent them.

U.S. Financial Reform: A Former Regulator’s View

Dr. Kevin Jacques from Baldwin-Wallace College offered his perspective on the financial crisis we are facing today, its causes and effects, and our government’s response.

When is a Partnership Not a Partnership?

Ben Feuts, from the Small Business/Small Enterprise Division of the IRS spoke to the group about the advantages and disadvantages of various small business designations.

Ethical Responsibilities for Accountants

The conference’s closing keynote speaker, Attorney Steve A. Martin, CPA from MDS CPA Review, covered what it takes to be an ethical accountant in today’s accounting field.

(Continued on Page 4)

Cleveland News (cont'd)

The Spring Seminar is the highlight of our chapter's program year as it offers networking opportunities and continuing education to both members and nonmembers. This year's conference was the largest ever for the Cleveland chapters of AGA and ASMC with 167 registered participants from federal, state, local and private industries! This success is attributable to those on the planning committee whose time and effort was dedicated to arranging for the conference speakers and planning the logistics necessary to make this event run smoothly. The conference volunteers also helped in executing the plan for a successful delivery:

Chapter Presidents:

Leah Huth, President, AGA Cleveland Chapter
Jeffrey Hayden, President, ASMC Cleveland Chapter

Planning Committee:

Bonnie DeJonge	Joshua Miller
Kim Gallatin	Joanne Kmets Walsh
Bethany Haupt	Bill Walsh
Michael Hoffman	

Volunteers:

Michelle Bloom	Cameo Futrell
Grace Chan	Janice Keith
David Curry	Thelma Robinson
Elizabeth Felts	Jacqueline Pfadt
Cathy Furr	Linnea Woolley

A special thank you is extended to our corporate sponsors who provided additional support in funding or materials for this event. We truly appreciate the assistance of: Deloitte, The Becker CPA Review, Booz Allen Hamilton, MDS CPA Review, and CSC.

The goal of every professional organization is to provide continuing education for their members. We, the local chapters of AGA and ASMC were proud to provide this year's spring seminar, and we look forward to seeing you again next year!

Greater Columbus News

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

The Greater Columbus AGA Chapter, The United Way of Central Ohio, and Columbus Public Schools (along with many others) once again teamed up to offer free tax return preparation services to low income and elderly taxpayers. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provides preparation and electronic filing of tax returns for those who cannot afford a paid preparer. The Greater Columbus AGA Chapter had 17 volunteers and 3 intake assistants who staffed the Northland High School VITA site for 5 Saturday mornings from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. beginning with the last Saturday in January, 2009. We also sent many volunteers to four secondary locations throughout the city when needed.

The Greater Columbus AGA and the ASMC Buckeye Chapter held their annual Professional Development Opportunity (PDO) on March 18th themed "Leading at the Speed of Change" DFAS Columbus. The over 100 conference attendees were able to hear variety of keynote speakers, and also participated in "breakout sessions" covering professional topics correlating with the conference theme.

The keynote speakers included Nancy Zmyslinski, Carl Francis, Sandra Moody, Thomas Hach, Tom Winters, Renae Walters, and Dr. Robert Boggs.

AGA's 59th Annual National Professional Development Conference

Mark your calendar for **July 11–14, 2010** and make plans to join us in sunny Orlando for AGA's 59th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC)—*the* premier education and networking event for government financial managers and accountability professionals.

Worth 24 CPE hours, the conference covers the latest research and information about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the constantly changing rules and standards, new management techniques, technological advances and practical tips for bringing greater efficiency to government operations. The PDC offers a comprehensive program, captivating speakers, lively discussions, top-quality education sessions, and equips you with knowledge and skills you need to be a more effective leader.

While the PDC has long been respected for offering the best training in the profession, it also offers a number of networking events to help you make new contacts, exchange ideas and collaboratively work on solutions to common problems. Exhibitors are also available to demonstrate the newest products, tools and cutting-edge technology available to help your agency achieve its mission.

Advance registration fees are \$800 for AGA members and \$1,000 for nonmembers until June 11. Register online and save \$25! Early registration also increases your chances of obtaining accommodations at the conference hotel.

We encourage you to bring your families to enjoy everything the Orlando World Center Marriott has to offer. A championship golf course, a full-service spa, a network of six pools, waterfalls, waterslides and whirlpools, delectable dishes at world-class restaurants, and fun and games at the upscale sports bar make this hotel a one-stop-shop for relaxation and fun. Discover the magic of Orlando with its theme parks, water attractions and many other family destinations, along with the best golfing, night clubs and restaurants in the country.

We expect PDC 2010 to be bigger and better than ever. Information about the agenda, speakers and technical education sessions is coming soon. Watch the website for more information... See you in Orlando!



Fitness as a Lifestyle: Eating Out while on a Diet Plan

By: Life Mojo

Most people think that dieting is almost like a prison sentence. You can't eat whatever you want and dining out is not an option because of all the temptation. Well, they're wrong. You definitely can still dine out while you're on a diet. And that's without cheating on your diet too! Lunch, dinner, whatever it is that you're dining out for, just make sure to make smart choices. That's the secret! Don't even start thinking that you can binge on not-so-good-for-you foods just because you're dining out. If you truly, seriously and genuinely want to lose weight and keep it off, make sure to stick to your healthy eating habits and make smart choices when you're out at restaurants. You don't have to avoid going out for food at all! Instead, enjoy restaurants while you're working to lose weight and here are some rules that will help you to stick to your weight loss program while dining out:

Lunch invitations:

Lunch invitations are great as this is the best time to eat without damaging the diet or the metabolism

Rule 1: Choose foods from the menu which you truly enjoy and avoid filling your plate with unnecessary side helpings.

Rule 2: Eat slowly and enjoy the food flavors, texture and taste.

Rule 3: Avoid food that looks unhealthy like maida (white flour) products (nan, white bread), deep fried foods and very oily vegetables.

Dinners with family/friends at restaurants:

Rule 1: Begin with a clear soup with vegetables or a combination of chicken and vegetables. Ask the Chef to sauté some vegetables like some exotic Chinese greens, flavored with herbs and spices, in olive oil and accompany this with a salad. You can also have a combination of chicken with marinated vegetables. Vegetarians can ask for cottage cheese in small quantities with marinated greens and a tangy dressing.

Rule 2: Avoid cereals/pulses late night.

Rule 3: Eat slowly enjoying the flavors as it prevents overeating.

Rule 4: Do not wistfully eye other foods on the table as it will invoke sympathy towards you and even family will be forced to offer the heavy foods to you.

Rule 5: Enjoy the ambience, conversation and the moments with the family/friends instead of feeling sorry for yourself!

Late night social occasions:

Rule 1: Only tell your close friends/well wishers that you are on a diet while dining out or it becomes a great ego war, where the host will insist on serving you every conceivable item on the menu till you finally give up!

Rule 2: Eat a snack at 6 pm before you leave because no dinner is served till 11 pm and by that time most people are starving to death. As a result, they end up eating large quantities.

Rule 3: Choose vegetables. Combine it with some raita (not sweet) and salad. For non-vegetarians choose grilled chicken with some sauté Chinese vegetable and salads.

Rule 4: Do not drink soups made in huge caterings/weddings as they contain corn-flour which is no-good for weight loss.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Regional Vice President, Jason Denmeade, Cleveland Chapter
Regional Vice President Elect, Cindy Osga, Greater Lansing Chapter

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Central Ohio, Caren Murdock
Cleveland, Leah Huth
Cincinnati, Martin W. O'Neill
Dayton, Pete Campisi
Detroit, Mark Lockridge
Greater Columbus, Justin Sponseller
Greater Lansing, Corey Sparks
West Michigan, Jessica Jones

BOARD

Regional Coordinator for Chapter Development/Assistance, Heather Drake, Greater Columbus Chapter
Regional Coordinator for Chapter Development/Assistance, Cindy Osga, West Michigan Chapter
Regional Coordinator for Membership, Stephanie Paschel, Cleveland Chapter
Regional Coordinator for Early Careers, La'Varis Woods, Greater Columbus Chapter
Regional Coordinator for Education, Donna Wolfe, Cleveland Chapter
Regional Coordinator for CGFM, Ed Nierescher, Greater Lansing Chapter
Regional Coordinator for CGFM, Ron Gideon, Cleveland Chapter
Regional Communication Coordinator, Lyndsey Foell, Greater Columbus Chapter
Regional Communication Coordinator, Bethany Haupt, Cleveland Chapter
Regional Webmaster, Joanne Kmets Walsh, CGFM, Cleveland Chapter

Mark your calendars!

May 14-15: Sectional Leadership Meeting for Sections 2 and 3-Kansas City, MO

July 11-14th, 2010: 69th Annual Professional Development Conference

Audio Conference Schedule:

April 21st: The Latest Tools and Techniques for Auditors

May 19th: Ethics

Check us out on the web! <http://www.agaohiomichigan.org/>