



# Observations



*A monthly publication of the Chicago Chapter, Association of Government Accountants*

*AGA – Dedicated to serving the community and promoting government accountability*

*April 2009*

*Issue 5*

## Upcoming Events

**Friday,  
April 17, 2009**

*AGA Chicago Chapter  
Professional  
Development  
Conference*

**Location:**  
Metcalfe Building  
77 W. Jackson  
Chicago

**Price:**  
\$65 members  
\$95 non-members

Up to 8 CPE Credits

**RSVP by April 6<sup>th</sup>**

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### **Please RSVP to:**

Raul Nieto  
(312)730-1634  
[Raul.Nieto@ed.gov](mailto:Raul.Nieto@ed.gov)

## **Update your member information!**

Please review and update your personal information at National's website, [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org). You can update your information in the 'Member's Only' page. This allows us to keep you better informed throughout the year!

## **Sponsors**

Do you know a company looking to sponsor one of our events? It is a great way for them to get their name out to a large distribution list as well as get recognition at our Chapter meetings! For more information, please contact any of the Executive Officers for your Chicago Chapter.

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*Advancing  
Government  
Accountability*

Association  
of Government  
Accountants

Chicago Chapter  
P. O. Box 81015  
Chicago, IL 60681-0015

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

March 30, 2009

**Dear AGA Chicago Members,**

Our last meeting was early and enjoyable. We had a great speaker in Sheila A. Weinberg who provided us with information on how our Federal and State government is spending our funds and issuing reports that don't really disclose reliable information. If you are one of those that didn't attend the meeting, you can review some of the information about her topic on her web site at [www.truthinaccounting.org](http://www.truthinaccounting.org). Her presentation was based on his experience and in depth review of public records.

Our next meeting is the meeting you have been waiting for to receive more than one CPE hour. Our annual Chicago Chapter PDC will be held on April 17, 2009 at the Metcalf Building, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL. At this meeting, you will receive a continental breakfast and lunch meeting starting at 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. There will be several different speakers at this meeting that will provide talks in the following subjects: Current US Economic Situation; GASB 53, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Derivative Instruments; Grant Fraud; Measuring Success Through Performance Measures; and Interviewing Techniques to name a few. The PDC meeting will provide 8 hours of CPE for those who attend. At this meeting you can get a discount if you register early by following the information later in this newsletter. Early discount reservations will have to be made by March 27, 2009. If you are not interested in the early discount but plan to attend, please send me an e-mail at [raul.nieto@ed.gov](mailto:raul.nieto@ed.gov) before close of business April 6, 2009.

Although this year is almost over you can still serve as a board member and continue into the next year. There are still five vacant Director Positions open. The position of "Meetings Director" is still open and critical. The volunteer for that position will be reimbursed 100% of their AGA dues. The four other open positions are Community Service Director, Job Referral Director, Chapter Recognition Director, and Awards Director. Volunteers for each of those positions will be reimbursed 50% of their AGA dues.

I will see you at the PDC meeting. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 312-730-1634 or [raul.nieto@ed.gov](mailto:raul.nieto@ed.gov).

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raul Nieto".

Raul Nieto, CGFM  
President





# Professional Development Conference

April 17, 2009  
8 CPEs

8:00 AM Check-In  
4:30 PM Dismissal

**Location:** Metcalfe Federal Building, Room 2205

Registration deadline is April 6, 2009

*Early registration is closed, however you can still RSVP!*

*Members - \$65 per attendee*

*Non-members - \$95 per attendee*

*\*Payments must be received by April 6, 2009 \**

Please RSVP to:

Raul Nieto – Phone: (312) 730-1634

E-mail: [raul.nieto@ed.gov](mailto:raul.nieto@ed.gov)

Payments can be sent to our AGA Treasurer:

Tom Dilisio

8716 N. Karlov

Skokie, IL 60076

*Please make checks payable to: AGA*

**AGA Chicago Chapter  
Professional Development Conference  
AGENDA  
April 17, 2009  
(Tentative)**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Topic</b>
8:30 AM - 9:20 AM	Emlyn Neuman-Javornik	CroweHorwath LLP	Grant Fraud
9:20 AM - 10:10 AM	Bert Nuehring	CroweHorwath LLP	Measuring Success Through Performance Measures
10:10 AM - 10:25 AM	BREAK		
10:25 AM - 11:15 AM	Belverd Needles, Jr	DePaul University	International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)
11:15 AM - 12:05 PM	Dave Zulawski	Wicklander-Zulawski & Associates, Inc.	Interview and Interrogation Techniques
12:05 PM - 12:50 PM	LUNCH		
12:50 PM - 1:40 PM	Dave Zulawski	Wicklander-Zulawski & Associates, Inc. Chicago Federal Reserve Bank	Interview and Interrogation Techniques
1:40 PM - 2:30 PM	William Strauss		Outlook of the US economy
2:30 PM - 2:45 PM	BREAK		
2:45 PM - 3:35 PM	Lawrence Metzger	Loyola University - Chicago	GASB 53 - Accounting and Financial Reporting for Derivative Instruments
3:35 PM – 4:25 PM	TBD		

### **AGA 2009 Survey**

AGA is sponsoring an online survey to learn members' thoughts about current and future government financial management issues. AGA Corporate Partner Grant Thornton LLP is administering the survey. All responses are anonymous, and the results will be presented at the 2009 PDC in New Orleans.

To encourage responses, AGA will give the chapter with the highest response rate a cash award of \$300; second highest will receive \$200 and third will receive \$100. The award will be based on the number of responses received per chapter divided by the total registered membership of a chapter. Please be sure to enter your chapter's name when you [fill out the survey](#).

Thanks for your help in promoting the survey. If you have any questions about AGA's research initiatives, please contact AGA's Director of Research [Anna Miller](#).

### **AGA's Blog**

Visit the AGA Blog at <http://aga.typepad.com/aga/>.

If you have questions about how to post a comment or subscribe to the feed that sends blog entries straight to your e-mail address, you can [find out more](#). Want to spend a day as our guest on the blog? Contact [Marie Force](#), communications director.



[Looking for a Job?](#)

## CGFM Corner



**The Mark of Excellence in Government Financial Management**

### **Take the CGFM Examinations Before the PDC**

Don't miss the opportunity to take the CGFM Examinations and earn your CGFM before the 58th Annual Professional Development & Exposition (PDC) in New Orleans. AGA is offering a two-day Intensive Review Course on **Thursday, June 18** and **Friday, June 19** and an opportunity to take CGFM Examinations on **June 20-21**. The cost of the course is only \$249 for qualified participants, and it offers 18 CPE hours. Special Bonus: The CGFM Examinations are offered at no cost to course attendees.

This course is designed as a supplement to previous preparation for the CGFM Examinations, so this is a perfect opportunity for those individuals who have already attended GFM training courses or have been preparing by using the CGFM Study Guides. Enrollment is limited and participants must first apply and be accepted into the CGFM Program, so don't delay.

More information and a registration form for this event are available on [AGA's website](#).

### **March is CGFM Month**



Since its inception in 1994, the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) designation has become the standard by which government financial management professionals are measured. Its education, experience and ethics requirement have served to elevate the most seasoned financial professionals.

The CGFM is the first certification broad enough to cover the whole field of government financial management--federal, state and local. It measures a wide range of knowledge and skills that a professional needs to succeed in the federal government financial environment, or to meet the unique challenges faced by state and local government financial managers.

To recognize the CGFM Program and its accomplishments, AGA has declared the month of March of each year as "CGFM Month." [Read the official AGA Proclamation](#). Thanks to the initiative and dedication of AGA regional and chapter leaders, many states, cities and towns have declared March 2009 a CGFM month. [See the list of proclamations](#).

## From the National Office

### **Dodaro to Speak at AGA Leadership Breakfast April 8--Reserve Your FREE\* Spot Today!**

Have your morning coffee and eggs on us! Reserve your free spot today. Network with your peers at the Meet the Financial Management Policy-Makers breakfast, set for 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. **April 8** at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C. AGA's leadership breakfasts bring private sector and government executives together to exchange information, solve issues and build partnership and trust. After all, we need each other. We share common goals, and we can learn from each other's mistakes and successes.

AGA Executive Director **Relmond Van Daniker, DBA, CPA**, will moderate a discussion with **Gene L. Dodaro, CGFM**, Acting Comptroller General, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), on GAO's plans to carry out its oversight role related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). The Recovery Act assigns GAO a range of responsibilities to help promote accountability and transparency.

Questions will be taken from the audience after the discussion. Federal, state and local leaders will participate along with AGA Corporate Partners. We expect to have close to 125 participants.

Registration, including a delicious breakfast is free for government executives\* but space is limited, so register today! AGA Corporate Partners, register via the Corporate Partner Registration Form below.

For more information, please contact [Susan Fritzen](#).

[Government Executive Registration Form](#)  
[AGA Corporate Partner Registration Form](#)

### **AGA is Keeping Track of the Recovery Act**

AGA is working to keep its members apprised of developments in implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). Log on to AGA's home page and click on "[Keeping Track of the Recovery Act](#)" button to access the following information:

- **A recording of AGA's March 20, 2009 Intergovernmental Dialogue--** Sponsored by AGA's Partnership for Intergovernmental Management and Accountability (Partnership), the two-hour talk involved officials from federal, state and local governments, as well as representatives from non-profits and AGA's corporate partners. The session featured an update on the Recovery Act's implementation and a panel of representatives from the federal agencies that are likely to have the most applicants for Recovery Act funds. The session was moderated by Partnership Co-Chair **Tom Cooley**, CFO of the National Science

Foundation. Speakers included: **Danny Werfel**, Deputy Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, U.S. Office of Management and Budget; **Sheila Conley, CGFM, CPA**, Deputy CFO, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; **Owen Barwell**, Deputy CFO, U.S. Department of Energy; **Kristine Leiphart**, Deputy CFO, Federal Transit Administration; **Melinda Morgan**, Director, Finance Staff, U.S. Department of Justice.

- **Links to Key Recovery Act**--AGA's page will take users to key Recovery Act sites, including [Recovery.gov](http://Recovery.gov), state sites and those of individual federal agencies.
- **Links to Implementation and Monitoring Tools**--Included on this site are two monitoring tools recently released by AGA's Intergovernmental Partnership. One deals with risk management; the other relates to administrative and financial monitoring.
- **Information about Future AGA Recovery Act Initiatives**--As AGA refines its education and information exchange activities, they will be posted on the site.

AGA is also exploring ways to connect employers with professionals looking for new career opportunities. AGA wants to make the "Tracking the Recovery Act" site as useful as possible and encourages its members to [send in suggestions, tools and additional resources](#) that may assist with the Recovery Act's implementation. Check back soon.

### **Openness in Tracking Stimulus Funds Up to Local Governments**

President Barack Obama says unprecedented transparency will be a hallmark of his presidency. But following the money in the stimulus package might not be as easy as he suggests. Almost daily, state and federal officials proclaim their commitment to openness. In conjunction with a day-long White House conference that dealt largely with that subject March 12, Gov. Martin O'Malley expressed his determination to help Maryland citizens track federal stimulus dollars with "accountability, transparency and efficiency." Many of the most important spending decisions aren't being made in Washington. They're getting thrashed out at state and local levels, where accountability is a wild card and there's no guarantee that taxpayers will get the dollar-by-dollar information that Obama is promising. ---Paul West, *The Baltimore Sun*. [Read more.](#)

### **Dates Set for Fifth Annual PMC**

Mark your calendar for the Fifth Annual Performance Management Conference on **Nov. 5-6, 2009** in Seattle. Do you have something to share about your entity's experience in performance management? Contact [Evie Barry](#) to see if you can participate in the program.

### **March is Winding Down and So is Your Time to Renew**

With just a couple days left the **March 31, 2009** membership renewal deadline, save the stamp and time by renewing online. It's quick, easy and even better--you will ensure that all of your AGA member benefits go uninterrupted.

Go to [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org) and login to the "Members Only" section of the website. Once you're logged in, click on the gray 'billing' icon in the top right corner of the screen. Your dues renewal fees will automatically appear (this will include your CGFM renewal if

applicable). All you have to do is input your credit card information and hit 'submit.' The transaction will process via our secure server and the updated renewal information will be updated in AGA's in-house membership system.

As always, you may submit payment by mail or by calling the National Office. If you have any questions, please contact the AGA Customer Satisfaction Center at 800.AGA.7211. We will be happy to help. Thank you for your continued support of AGA and we look forward to serving you in the year to come.

### **More Young People Lining Up for Government Jobs**

The lines for the CIA were out the door at the spring career fair two weeks ago at George Mason University in Fairfax, and the Environmental Protection Agency and various Defense Department booths were doing booming business as well. Two months after President Obama took office vowing to make federal service cool again, career services specialists report an increase among college students who want to work for the government. "Lots and lots of students lined up for the federal government," said Alan C. More, employer in residence for U.S. government programs at GMU "What we've seen across the board is an increased interest in government," said Tim McManus, vice president for education and outreach at the nonprofit Partnership for Public Service. "We're hearing from schools that they see government as an employer of choice. Government has been the afterthought option. It's no longer a second choice." --Steve Vogel, *The Washington Post*. [Read more.](#)

### **A Help-Wanted Sign for Fraud Investigators**

As the financial crisis has continued to unfold, new suspicions of fraud have been emerging -- and with them a need to find whether there is evidence of wrongdoing. That's why the demand for fraud investigators is rising. Recently, the Federal Bureau of Investigation announced that the number of open mortgage-fraud investigations was more than 1,600 at the end of fiscal 2008, which ended Sept. 30, compared with 881 two years earlier. In addition, 530 corporate-fraud investigations were open, it said. The bureau is recruiting people to help with these investigations, including those with experience in computer science and accounting. People who speak a foreign language and those who are certified fraud examiners also have an advantage. --Amy Zipkin, *The New York Times*. [Read more.](#)

### **Volcker to Lead Tax Reform Effort**

The Obama administration will ask the Economic Recovery Advisory Board, led by former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, to form a task force to recommend an overhaul of the tax code. The task force will report back by Dec. 4, 2009, with recommendations on tax simplification, reducing tax evasion, and reducing "corporate welfare." It will also look at options for streamlining tax credits and reducing the tax gap. The task force will have two restrictions: There will be no increase in taxes on families earning less than \$250,000 per year, and no tax increases in 2009 or 2010. --WebCPA. [Read more.](#)

## Internal Auditors Weigh In on Financial Crisis

More than 40 percent of internal auditors within the financial services sector felt that better risk management practices could have helped prevent their organization's current financial situation, according to a just-released study from the Institute of Internal Auditors. The study, the results of which were revealed at the recent IIA's General Audit Management Conference, polled more than 1,000 internal auditors in the United States. Of the 364 who responded, 117 work in the financial services sector, and 34 work for Fortune 100 companies. "These survey responses are from some of those executives who were right there in the middle of what was happening -- those who were closest to the situation," said IIA president Richard Chambers. "This gives us a peek at why things might have happened the way they did, how things are now being done differently, and areas for more in-depth analysis." --*WebCPA*. [Read more.](#)

## GASB Posts New Information on Fund Balance Reporting



The GASB has issued two new documents on its [website](#) that provide non-technical, constituent-friendly information on Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*. Statement 54, which was released earlier this month, provides clearer, more structured fund balance classifications and clarifies the definitions of existing governmental fund types. Read the new [plain-language article](#) and [fact sheet](#).

Note that NASACT is sponsoring an [April 29 audio conference](#) on this subject.



## AGA PDC 2009 Hotel Update

PDC 2009  
New Orleans, LA

June 21-24

Have you registered for the AGA PDC and reserved your room in New Orleans? If not, there's still time! We encourage you to make your hotel reservations early, for the best price and availability.

**Marriott Adds More Rooms:** The New Orleans Marriott has agreed to offer a few additional rooms to accommodate PDC attendees. The room rate is \$120 (plus tax) per night for single or double occupancy, until **May 29, 2009**, or until the block sells out. To make a reservation, please call 800.654.3990 and mention you are attending the "AGA PDC" to receive the discounted rate.

You can also make reservations at the **Sheraton New Orleans Hotel** to ensure you'll be in the center of conference activity. Staying at one of the two official headquarters hotels means you'll be able to network easily with other attendees. As cancellations are made and duplicate reservations are released, more rooms at the Sheraton may become available. To make a reservation at the Sheraton, please call 888.627.7033 and mention you are attending the "AGA PDC" to receive the discounted \$120 rate.

If you've made a reservation and now find that you cannot attend the PDC or don't need a room, please be sure to cancel as soon as possible so it can be made available to another attendee.

*Hotel rooms are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis until the hotels are sold out. Make your reservations early. We look forward to seeing you in The Big Easy.*

- [Register Online and Save](#)
- [Download Registration Form](#)
- [Visit the Website](#)

### **AGA PDC 2009 Marketing Opportunities Available; Sign Up for Your Ad, Booth and Sponsorship Today**



Increase your visibility, make new connections, solidify relationships with current customers and reach your target audience, by showcasing your newest products, services and solutions at AGA's Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC).

The PDC takes place **June 21-24, 2009**, in New Orleans, and features top-quality educational sessions, captivating speakers, networking events, and the opportunity to learn about new products and services available to the financial management community. The conference features numerous opportunities for advertisers, exhibitors and sponsors.

**Exhibit** for invaluable opportunities to network, cultivate leads, and gain face-to-face interaction with more than 1,900 hard-to-reach government financial management and accountability leaders. They want to know how your product or service will help them do business better. Be sure you're there to tell them! We combine all the right elements to attract attendees to the Exhibit Hall and move them toward your booth. *More than half of the Exhibit Hall has already been sold--reserve your booth early to guarantee your spot.*

**Advertise** or **sponsor** to enhance your company's visibility beyond the show floor. Advertising and sponsorships are the perfect way to increase your company's name recognition, maximize exposure and showcase your commitment to the financial management profession. We offer a wide range of opportunities to help you stand out and gain a competitive edge.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to put your products and services in front of the people who need them most. Join us in The Big Easy and secure your place at this important event!

- [Booth prices and information](#)
- [Floor plan](#)
- [Advertising opportunities](#)
- [Sponsorship opportunities](#)
- [Application/contract](#)

### **Additional Governments Produce Citizen-Centric Reports**

The states of Washington, Texas and Maryland, Guilford County (NC), the U.S. Agency for International Development, National Science Foundation, Idaho State Police and the City of Las Vegas are the latest governments to join a [growing list of state and local governments and federal agencies](#) who are producing four-page Citizen-Centric Reports.

AGA members believe that government accountability and transparency are essential to a healthy democracy and are committed to fulfilling our obligation to advance government accountability. As you know, this initiative is focused on compelling governments at all levels to improve how they present financial information to taxpayers, so that it is clear, accurate, up-to-date and easily accessible to all. In these tough economic times, it will take all our know-how, resources and courage to steer our way through to the sustainable fiscal accountability taxpayers expect and deserve.

AGA now offers a **Certificate of Excellence in Citizen-Centric Reporting** for governmental entities that prepare and distribute four-page reports that provide citizens with clear information on a government's financial condition, its performance in providing services, and challenges it faces in the future. To be eligible for the **Certificate of Excellence**, governments must incorporate into their report [the program's high standards of content, visual appeal, readability, distribution and timeliness in reporting](#). Questions? Contact [Susan Fritzlen](#).

### **Recovery Act Audio Conference Set for April 22**

AGA, in conjunction with the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers, the Association of Local Government Auditors and the Government Accountability Office (GAO), is pleased to announce a new audio conference -- "The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009," set for 2 - 3:50 p.m., EDT, **April 22**.

Due to the important nature of this program, the cost per site has been reduced to \$125, half the regular early registration rate. This audio conference will be an opportunity for public and private sector financial management professionals to hear from high-level GAO executives about the recently enacted American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009. The GAO executives will discuss the Act's requirements for their agency and the need to coordinate with state and local financial managers. They will also discuss GAO's

proposals for fulfilling its review and audit requirements and will solicit the views and perspectives of audio conference participants. [Read more and register.](#)

### **AGA's Next Radio Show Offers Financial Management Suggestions to the Obama Administration**

AGA's radio show, "Your Money, Your Government," will feature a discussion on federal financial management issues for the first 100 days of the Obama administration. Guests are former Comptroller General of the United States **David M. Walker**, CEO, Peter G. Peterson Foundation, and **Richard Keevey**, director, the National Academy of Public Administration's Performance Consortium and professor at Princeton University. [Listen to the shows online](#) and check out the upcoming show and speaker schedule. Tune in to the broadcast at WFED AM 1500 at noon **March 31**.

### **Looking For Training? Check out the New AGA Education and Training Brochure**



The brochure includes onsite, audio, conferences and online offerings to help you and your staff's education and training needs. Check out one of the courses currently being offered:

**Grants Management:** This course provides a general overview of grants management, including preparation, review and submittal of proposals; negotiation and acceptance of grants; post-award financial and administrative management; closeout and audit; and relevant compliance issues. [Click here to learn more and get detailed information.](#)

The 18 other onsite courses include lectures, group discussion and exercises and class problem-solving. They can be customized to meet your needs and participants are awarded CPEs based on the length of each course.

*For course pricing and additional information about course content, please contact [Bekka Gehrman](#), education manager, 800.AGA.7211, at ext. 309.*

### **Get LinkedIn to the Network**

AGA prides itself on its well-developed network of government financial managers. LinkedIn, a social networking tool, can help AGA members achieve the full potential of the Association's network of professionals. Unlike other opportunities, LinkedIn extends and strengthens your network of trusted contacts. The benefit of registering on LinkedIn and connecting with AGA is to maintain contact with people you know and trust within the field. This technology can also be very useful for chapters. Government agencies, companies and organizations including the Red Cross, AT&T and the U.S. Senate are actively using LinkedIn.

Members can access individuals in the field who are not a part of AGA through LinkedIn's network of 30 million professionals. AGA views the site as a potential way for the Association to bring new members into the fold, including students and new professionals. AGA's Group Page has a discussion tool that we encourage each of you to

participate in. Discussions held on the group site serve as a quick and easy way to communicate ideas and gain broader perspectives on topics that interest you.

### **How to Get Started:**

Visit [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com) and create a profile. After your profile is created, conduct a group search for “AGA.” Click on the AGA logo and you will be directed to our invitation site. Start off your group connections and supercharge your networking efforts by going to the [AGA LinkedIn Group Page](#).

### **Wanted: SEA Reviewers**

Are you interested in learning more about how to prepare a Service Efforts and Accomplishments (Performance) Report for your local or state government entity? Join our group of SEA reviewers by [completing the application](#). The guidelines for reviewing are easy to understand and you'll learn by reviewing an actual government report. More reports are being produced and we need your help. Contact [Evie Barry](#).

### **2009 Call for Scholarships**

Please help us spread the word about AGA's 2009 scholarship program. Are you or a family member pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in disciplines such as accounting, auditing, budgeting, economics, finance, information technology, public administration, etc.? Consider applying for an AGA national scholarship. Each year, AGA awards:

- Up to four \$3,000 academic scholarships for full-time study to AGA members and their family members.
- One \$1,000 academic scholarship for part-time study to AGA members and their family members.
- One \$3,000 scholarship for community service accomplishments to AGA members and nonmembers.

The deadline for receipt of AGA National scholarship nominations is **March 31, 2009**. [Visit the website](#) for more details and to download an application.

<p><b>Executive Committee</b></p> <p><b>President</b> Raul Nieto ED/OIG 312/ 730-1634 <a href="mailto:raul.nieto@ed.gov">raul.nieto@ed.gov</a></p> <p><b>President – Elect</b> Heath Wolfe HUD/OIG 312/353-6236 ext. 2674 <a href="mailto:wwolfe@hudoig.gov">wwolfe@hudoig.gov</a></p> <p><b>Past President</b> Clemente Torres HHS/OIG 312/ 353-1656 <a href="mailto:clemente.torres@oig.hhs.gov">clemente.torres@oig.hhs.gov</a></p> <p><b>Secretary</b> Sandy Lawera HHS/OIG 312/ 353-3144 <a href="mailto:Sandy.Lawera@oig.hhs.gov">Sandy.Lawera@oig.hhs.gov</a></p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> Thomas DiLisio DOL 312/ 596-5454 <a href="mailto:Dilisio.thomas@dol.gov">Dilisio.thomas@dol.gov</a></p>	<p><b>Program Director</b> Steve Whitecotton HHS/ OIG 312/353-7886 <a href="mailto:steve.whitecotton@oig.hhs.gov">steve.whitecotton@oig.hhs.gov</a></p> <p><b>Meetings Director</b> Vacant</p> <p><b>Membership Director</b> Janet Knauff RRB/OIG 312/ 751-4683 <a href="mailto:Janet.Knauff@rb.gov">Janet.Knauff@rb.gov</a></p> <p><b>Newsletter Editor</b> Alexandria Hayden HHS/OIG 312/ 353-3033 <a href="mailto:Alexandria.Hayden@oig.hhs.gov">Alexandria.Hayden@oig.hhs.gov</a></p> <p><b>Historian</b> Aníbal Marrero HHS/OIG 312/ 353-3029 <a href="mailto:Anibal.marrero@oig.hhs.gov">Anibal.marrero@oig.hhs.gov</a></p> <p><b>Education Director</b> Frank Moy GSA/OIG 312/ 353-7781, Ext. 112 <a href="mailto:franklin.moy@gsa.gov">franklin.moy@gsa.gov</a></p>	<p><b>Webmaster</b> Mark Knudson RRB/ OIG 312/751-4764 <a href="mailto:mark.knudson@rb.gov">mark.knudson@rb.gov</a></p> <p><b>Community Service Director</b> Vacant</p> <p><b>CGFM</b> Raul Nieto ED/OIG 312/ 730-1634 <a href="mailto:raul.nieto@ed.gov">raul.nieto@ed.gov</a></p> <p><b>Early Careers Coordinator</b> Jolanta Biskup ED/OIG 312/ 730-1619 <a href="mailto:Jolanta.biskup@ed.gov">Jolanta.biskup@ed.gov</a></p> <p><b>Job Referral</b> Vacant</p> <p><b>Publicity Director</b> Olga Gesell HHS/OIG 312/ 353-7907 <a href="mailto:Olga.Gesell@oig.hhs.gov">Olga.Gesell@oig.hhs.gov</a></p>
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**Newsletter Information**

Observations is the monthly newsletter of the Chicago Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA). Observations is published six times each year. Subscriptions to Observations may only be obtained by joining AGA. This is the fifth edition of Observations for the **2008-2009** chapter year. To submit material for upcoming issues, contact Alexandria Hayden at 312/353-3033 (phone) or 312/353-3814 (FAX). **The deadline for submissions to upcoming issues is the second Friday of each month. To update delivery information, contact Alexandria Hayden at 312/353-3033.** If you are not receiving the Chicago Chapter Newsletter electronically, please send your current e-mail address to: [Alexandria.Hayden@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:Alexandria.Hayden@oig.hhs.gov)