



# Observations



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

AGA – Dedicated to serving the community and promoting government accountability

October 2011

Issue 2

## Upcoming Events

### Speaker:

Michael Hood,  
Deputy Attorney  
General

### Location:

GSA Conference Room  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.,  
Room 328

### Price:

\$6 members  
\$11 non-members

### 1 CPE

Please RSVP\* to:

**Matthew Matczynski**  
[MMatczynski@hudoig.gov](mailto:MMatczynski@hudoig.gov)  
by **12:00 PM on**  
**November 10, 2011**



## 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!

## \*\*\*\*\*Member Appreciation Event\*\*\*\*\*

Our holiday event/ Member Appreciation reception is scheduled for December 15, 2011 from 5:30- 7:30 PM Please join us! We ask all members to please bring a non-member who is interested in joining AGA.

*\*Advance notification for Member Appreciation reception is needed; we will **NOT** be accepting walk-ins for this event. Space is limited to the first 60 people to RSVP.*

*See newsletter for more information.*

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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)

October 26, 2011

Dear AGA Chicago Chapter Members,

Thank you to all the participants who attended our September luncheon and to Pamela Dill McCoy from CCH Teammate. Ms. McCoy's presentation on the new Teammate platform was excellent and very useful to everyone transitioning to the new system. Please feel free to view the presentation slides posted on our website at <http://www.agachicago.org/Events.htm>.

Our next monthly luncheon will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at the GSA Conference Room at 77 W. Jackson Boulevard, Room 328 from 11:30 am to 12:35 pm. The speaker will be **Michael Hood, Deputy Attorney General**, Criminal Justice who will be discussing **white collar crime investigations and the Illinois forgery statue. - 1 CPE** As a Deputy Attorney General, Mr. Hood leads the Attorney General's Criminal Enforcement, Crime Victims Services and Investigations Divisions. He coordinates the Office's crime-fighting activities with state, county and local authorities. Hopefully you can join us in November.

As you know, our chapter obtained all three Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) study guides. Please contact our CGFM chair Raul Nieto if you are interested in checking them out. His contact information, along with the contact information of the entire executive committee, is included on the last page of this newsletter.

We still have open positions on our executive committee and are looking for members who want to get more involved. Please contact me at [tmcmanigal@hudoig.gov](mailto:tmcmanigal@hudoig.gov) if you are interested in volunteering (The Chicago chapter pays board members' annual membership fees and provides exclusive training opportunities).

Sincerely,

*Thomas McManigal*

Tom McManigal  
President

# AGA Chicago Chapter

## 2011-2012 Training Schedule\*

*Meeting time is 11:30AM – 12:30 PM*

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER	LOCATION
November 15, 2011	white collar crime investigations and the Illinois forgery statute	Michael Hood, Deputy Attorney General for Criminal Justice	GSA Conference Room 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Room 328
February 7, 2012	TBD	TBD	DHHS Conference Room at 233 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1329
April 18-19, 2012	Annual Chapter Conference	TBD	GSA Conference Room 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Room 328
May 15, 2012	TBD	TBD	GSA Conference Room 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Room 328

\*Dates subject to change

**1 CPEs available**

Please RSVP to **Matthew Matczynski** at [MMatczynski@hudoig.gov](mailto:MMatczynski@hudoig.gov) by **November 10, 2011**

**Please join us on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**  
***GSA Conference Room***  
***77 W. Jackson Blvd., Room 328***  
**from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM!!!**

**Price:**  
\$6 members  
\$11 non-members

## ***AGA Luncheon Speaker: Michael J. Hood***

Mr. Hood currently serves as the Deputy Attorney General for Criminal Justice in the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. As Deputy Attorney General he leads the Attorney General's Criminal Enforcement, Crime Victims Services and Investigations Divisions in the coordination of the Office's crime-fighting activities with state, county and local authorities.

Previously Mr. Hood served as an Assistant State's Attorney for the Cook County State's Attorney's office in Chicago, Illinois. He served as the Supervisor of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Municipal District, the Deputy Supervisor of the Traffic Division, as an Assistant in the Cold Case Homicide Unit and in the Felony Trial Division. Mr. Hood's previous teaching and lecture experience include the National District Attorneys Association, The Chicago Bar Association, The Illinois State Bar Association and the Defense Institute of International Legal Studies.

Mr. Hood served through the rank of Major in the United States Marine Corps. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois and the DePaul College of Law.



# CGFM Certification

## **Earn Your CGFM in February; Examinations Are Free**

Don't miss the opportunity to take the CGFM Examinations and earn your CGFM at the next Intensive Review Course event in February. AGA is offering a two-day Intensive Review Course on **Monday, Feb. 27, 2012** and **Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012** and an opportunity to take CGFM Examinations on **Feb. 29-March 2, 2012**. The cost of the course is only \$279 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.](#)

## **CGFM Frequently Asked Question**

**What is the CGFM's responsibility for maintaining documentation of completed Continuing Professional Education (CPE) hours?**

CGFMs are required to maintain supporting documentation on CPE hours earned for a minimum of three years and provide it to AGA upon request. The CGFM's records must include the following information for each CPE program or activity attended or completed: the sponsoring organization (for example, AGA National Office, a local AGA chapter); the title of the program, including subject matter, field of study or a brief description of its contents; the dates attended for group programs or dates completed for individual study programs; the number of CPE hours earned; and evidence of attendance or completion.

Evidence of completion may include the following:

- a certificate of attendance, a CPE form or other evidence of completion of CPE from the CPE provider for group and individual-study programs.
- a grade report received for a university or college credit course.
- a letter from the program sponsor, documenting the CPE courses presented and/or developed.
- a copy of the published book, article, or materials that names the writer as author or contributor, a written statement from the writer supporting the number of CPE hours claimed, and the name and contact information of the publisher, if applicable.

an official report from the employer that has the employer's name and lists all of the required information (employee's name, sponsoring organization, title of the program, completion date and number of CPE hours earned).



**Current list of active CGFMs!**

**[Apply for the CGFM designation today!](#)**

**[AGA Training Opportunities](#)**  
Click to find events near your area!

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***Current Job Opportunities***

<b>Position Title</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Series &amp; Grade</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Closing Date</b>	<b>Announcement Number</b>
Program Analyst	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services	GS-0343-13	Chicago, IL	10/26/11	HHS-CMS-MP-11-541462
Financial Management Analyst	Social Security Administration	GS-0501-13	Chicago, IL	10/28/11	SI-541458-12-IVOL-MH-003
Auditor	Defense Contract Audit Agency	GS-0511-07	Multiple (including Chicago)	10/31/11	PH-RS-397891

# Board Meeting Minutes

Association of Government Accountant's Chicago Chapter – September 20, 2011

## Present

Tom McManigal, President  
Mathew Matczynski, Program Director  
Alexandria Hayden, Newsletter Editor  
Anibal Marrero, Historian  
Sandy Lawera, Secretary  
Steve Whitecotton, Job Referral  
Janet Knauff, Membership Director

## Absent

Heath Wolfe, Past President  
Thomas DiLisio, Treasurer  
Frank Moy, Education Director  
Olga Gesell, Publicity Director  
Mark Knudson, Webmaster  
Raul Nieto, CGFM  
Jolanta Biskup, Early Careers Coordinator  
Rick Urbanowski, Chapter Recognition  
Herbert Kwan, TBD

## Summary of Discussion

### Financial Reports & CPE Documentation

- ❖ Budget has been completed for submission to the RVP
- ❖ Discussed the review of financial reports
- ❖ CPE documentation will be collected by the Education Director and provided to the Secretary & Historian as backup

### Educational Events

- ❖ Discussed specifics relating to the following upcoming events
  - November 15<sup>th</sup> – GSA, Office of Illinois Attorney General will discuss audit work used for investigations, 1 CPE
  - December 15<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Party - TBD, holiday party can be used as a recruitment event, members will be encouraged to bring non-members, suggested holding it during happy hour, holiday party committee was formed to organize the event
  - February 7<sup>th</sup> – HHS, TSP will be contacted as a possible speaker to discuss upcoming changes
  - April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> – HUD, emails have been sent to several government agencies soliciting interest in speaking at this event

### Accountability Position

- ❖ Discussed interest in creating an accountability position (other than obtaining platinum designation) when other positions are currently vacant, will be voted on by members
- ❖ Discussed some of the responsibilities of the position that includes improving performance and accountability of federal, state and local governments for the benefit of the American people. The RVP will be contacted for additional information.
- ❖ The following goals have been established to earn credits:
  - Make Accountability Outreach a priority for both your chapter & chapter members
  - Establish a Chapter Accountability Outreach Plan
  - Promote Accountability in chapter events
  - Participation in AGA's Performance Accountability programs

# Board Meeting Minutes

Association of Government Accountant's Chicago Chapter – October 18, 2011

## Present

Tom McManigal, President  
Mathew Matczynski, Program Director  
Alexandria Hayden, Newsletter Editor  
Anibal Marrero, Historian  
Sandy Lawera, Secretary  
Steve Whitecotton, Job Referral  
Janet Knauff, Membership Director  
Thomas DiLisio, Treasurer  
Frank Moy, Education Director  
Thomas DiLisio, Treasurer  
Frank Moy, Education Director  
Jolanta Biskup, Early Careers Coordinator

## Absent

Heath Wolfe, Past President  
Olga Gesell, Publicity Director  
Mark Knudson, Webmaster  
Herbert Kwan, TBD

## Summary of Discussion

### Educational Events

Discussed specifics relating to the Holiday Party/Recruitment Event on December 15th

- The committee selected the Exchequer Restaurant & Pub
- Chapter received scholarships from the National office for recruitment and early career/student members
- Alcohol will be served, voted on by CEC members, two nays (Raul & Janet)
- Food costs will be approximately \$25 per person
- Invites will be extended to accounting clubs-U.I.C.(Anibal), DePaul (Steve), and Loyola (Alex) and MIAF attendees
- Draft flyer will be designed to advertise the event (Alex)
- Will subsidize membership fee for newly recruited member if they serve on the CEC
- Will hold a raffle for one year of training with Becker
- Will color code name tags to identify CEC member and new recruits

Discussed specifics on the Sectional Leadership Meeting (SLM)

- SLM will be held in Indianapolis on April 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>
- Raul, Janet, and Tom M. (maybe) are interested in attending

Discussed our Annual Conference

- Event scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at the GSA meeting rooms at 77 West Jackson Boulevard
- Discussed using some of the MIAF speakers and the City of Chicago Inspector General for the upcoming PDC

### CEC Positions

- The accountability position will be created, voted on by CEC members, unanimous
- Looking to fill RVP and President Elect positions that are presently vacant

# AGA Holiday Reception

**Thursday, December 15, 2011**  
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

**Free Food and Drinks!\***

**Exchequer Restaurant & Pub**  
226 S. Wabash Ave.  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

\*Please help us with our National *AGA Member-Get-A-Member Campaign!* Members are encouraged to bring at least one non-member. Non-members who are interested in enrolling with AGA are welcome to come!

Please RSVP by December 2, 2011

Matt Matczynski

**[MMatczynski@hudoig.gov](mailto:MMatczynski@hudoig.gov)**

*(Limited to the first 60 people to respond)*



***Your commitment to enroll new members will keep advancing  
government accountability!***

# *Upcoming Audio Conferences*

[2011 – 2012 Audio Conference Schedule](#)

## **Major Challenges to the Public Sector Auditing Profession**

**Nov. 2, 2011**

**2 CPE Hours Available!**

AGA is pleased to announce its latest new audio conference on the need for auditors to re-examine how they historically do their work.

The auditing profession is under siege today. Auditors need to re-examine the approach they have historically taken to their work. Auditors have to get back to basics and assure they produce quality work that meets the needs of the users of the audit. The presenters will define the major challenges impacting both auditors and program managers and their causes. They will also propose a focus that will enable auditors and managers to meet the public's expectations for auditors and the work they do.

The challenges include:

- Reduced tax revenues leaving less money to fund public services.
- Evaporating federal assistance to state and local governments.
- Moving from “doing more with less” to “doing less with less.”
- Shrinking budgets for personnel, training and travel.
- Increased expectations from taxpayers for quality services and more accountability.

These challenges mean increased importance on:

- Proper risk assessment.
- Properly assessing internal controls.
- Obtaining sufficient, competent evidence.
- Obtaining sufficient knowledge about the area being audited—(inherent risk).
- Developing an appropriate level of professional skepticism.
- Using due professional care.

While the focus of this audio conference is on auditing, financial and program managers can gain valuable insight into these issues, as they affect them, too. The work auditors do, in many cases, is no different than what a good manager ought to be doing to properly manage a government activity.

To share their knowledge and expertise in auditing and government operations are **David R. Hancox, CGFM, CIA**, consultant, trainer and author, former director of state audits, New York State Comptroller's Office; and AGA Past National President **Jeffrey S. Hart, CGFM, CFE**, trainer and consultant, former comptroller and director of fiscal

management and planning, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Mountain and Plains Region.

Please join us for two hours of lively discussion about this important and timely topic. In addition to the speakers' commentary, about 20 minutes is set aside for questions and comments.

**Date:** Wednesday, November 2, 2011

**Time:** 2 – 3:50 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time

**Learning Objectives:** *To understand the major challenges facing program managers and the audit community*

**Prerequisite:** None

**Advance Prep:** None required

**CPE:** Two credit hours

**Field of Study:** Auditing

**Cost:** \$249 per site (UNLIMITED ATTENDANCE) if you register on or before Friday, October 28, 2011 and \$299 thereafter. **SPECIAL PROMOTION:** Government agencies and AGA Corporate Partner members who register five or more offices will receive a 20 percent discount (\$200 per site). **INDIVIDUAL OPTION:** Two, three or four individuals can register at \$50 per person. Contact Maria Oquendo at 800.AGA.7211, ext. 308, for registration details.

[Register online](#)

[Print the registration form](#) or the [Special Promotion Registration](#) and fax it to 703.684.6933

This audio conference offers important information to almost everyone in the accountability profession. Please share this program announcement with others in your government, chapters, educational institutions and private firms. Remember, there is no limit to attendance per phone site. If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact Maria Lucas at 800.AGA.7211, ext. 308, or [mlucas@agacgfm.org](mailto:mlucas@agacgfm.org).

## From the National Office

### **From the National President, Richard O. Bunce Jr., CGFM, CPA**

The 2011-2012 national conference year got off to a great start with the Sixth Annual Internal Control and Fraud Conference, held September 19 and 20 at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C. Keynote speakers Patrick Kuhse and Pamela Meyer set the tone for an outstanding educational program. The conference also featured the first public presentation of the report on lessons learned in the 20 years since the CFO Act was enacted, prepared by the CFO Council and the Council of Inspectors General. Such cutting-edge sessions are regular features of AGA's national conferences. You can view a summary of the Internal Control and Fraud Conference sessions at [www.agacgfm.org/fraud\\_2011/coverage.htm](http://www.agacgfm.org/fraud_2011/coverage.htm).

Following the Internal Control and Fraud Conference, your National Executive Committee met on September 21. This year the NEC is laser focused on the Strategic Plan that was approved by the National Board of Directors in July, and the plan's goals and objectives form the core agenda for each NEC meeting. In particular, we are committed to improving our membership numbers and to clearly demonstrating the value of AGA membership to our current and potential members.

We are also doing more to promote the CGFM designation. For example, the federal Office of Personnel Management (OPM) recently released Draft Qualification Standards for Four Occupations in the Accounting and Budget Occupational Group, revising the required competencies and related proficiencies for certain federal positions and grade levels. The draft qualifications did not include the CGFM as a preferred certification. AGA's Professional Certification Board responded to the Draft in a letter to OPM strongly recommending that the CGFM be included in the final criteria. We will continue similar efforts throughout the year, including meetings with appropriate federal, state and local officials. [Read more.](#)

### **AGA's Seventh Annual Performance Management Conference to be Held in Seattle Nov. 3-4**

Now more than ever, governments need to use thoughtful assessments when reviewing government programs for efficiency and effectiveness. [AGA's Seventh Annual Performance Management Conference](#), Nov. 3-4, at the W Hotel in Seattle, brings together representatives from each level of government to share their experiences, lessons learned and proven practices that have helped shape their management skills.

Earn up to 19 CPE hours by attending the FREE workshop on Wednesday, Nov. 2 on performance management along with the outstanding sessions on Nov. 3-4.

Keynote speakers include:

**Dow Constantine**, County Executive, King County, WA

**W. Todd Grams**, Executive in Charge, Office of Management and Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

**Michael J. Jordan**, Chief Operating Officer and Director of Administrative Services, State of Oregon

**Brian Sonntag**, Washington State Auditor

[Learn more about the topics and speakers.](#)

Experience fall in Seattle. Be amazed by the vibrant and natural beauty of this Northwest metropolitan city while learning new initiatives in performance management. For additional information about the conference contact [Evie Barry](#).

### **Register Today for 10th Annual National Leadership Conference**

[Registration is now open](#) for AGA's 10th Annual National Leadership Conference being held **February 16-17, 2012** at the Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center in Washington D.C.

In today's challenging economic times, now more than ever, government financial managers and accountability professionals must stay abreast of the latest developments, policies and issues affecting our citizens, and continually enhance their skills. Staying up to date on new regulations, while maintaining a clear vision of government transformation, can be accomplished through the best training.

The NLC offers a cost-effective way of doing just that. Earn 14 CPE hours, learn from top-notch speakers, discuss the latest research, discover innovative management techniques, and see technological tools that can help your agency achieve its mission.

**For Attendees--**[Register today!](#)

**For Exhibitors & Sponsors--**The NLC is the perfect place to reach your target audience. Space is limited...[Reserve your booth space and sponsorship today!](#)

## **61st Annual PDC Scheduled for Sunny San Diego; Hotel Rooms Available**

Registration and hotel information for AGA's [61st Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition](#) is now available online. Plan now to attend the PDC in San Diego, **July 29-Aug. 1, 2012**. You can [reserve a room at one of five hotels](#) near the conference site, the San Diego Convention Center. The room rate is \$133 (plus tax) for single and double occupancy. Rates are guaranteed until **July 6**, or until the block is sold out.

To make a reservation, please call the conference hotels directly and mention you are attending the AGA PDC to ensure you receive the discounted rate. All hotel rooms are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis until the hotel is sold out. Make your reservations early!

## **AGA Needs Volunteer Leaders for National, Regional Positions; Nomination Deadline Nears**

**Nomination Deadline is Monday, Nov. 18, 2011**

AGA's National Nominating Committee is currently seeking members for volunteer leadership positions as:

- National President-Elect
- National Treasurer-Elect
- Senior Vice President for Regional Services - Section I\*
- Senior Vice President for Regional Services - Section IV\*
- Fourteen Regional Vice Presidents (RVP)-Elect\*

\*Please note that the 2012-2015 terms are based on the updated chapter and regional governance alignment. Please pay close attention to the [nominations brochure](#), and contact [Louise Kapelewski](#) if you have any questions.

**Term--**The three-year terms begin July 1, 2012.

**Qualifications and Eligibility--**To serve in any of these positions, candidates must be AGA members in good standing and have professional backgrounds for each position. Persons serving as National President, National President-Elect, National Treasurer, National Treasurer-Elect, Senior Vice President, and Regional Vice President may not serve concurrently in any other elective office of the Association, except the National Executive Committee. Other qualifications apply.

**Submissions--**All submissions are sent to the National Nominating Committee, which will choose the slate of candidates. Please note that since the committee often receives more than one nomination per position, not every nominee will be selected. Candidates for elective office are reminded that the National Bylaws do not permit campaigning for elective office. Additionally, only ONE nomination per candidate is necessary and

candidates should not solicit additional nominations. Also, the process will not recognize endorsements of candidates.

**For More Information--**If you are interested in serving or know of potential leaders, view the [nominations brochure](#) that contains information about position terms, qualifications and eligibility, a list of Sections/Regions/Chapters, and National Officer Nomination Form. Or, contact [Louise Kapelewski](#) at 703.684.6931, ext. 321.

### **Old-Fashioned Career Advice from the 1940s Still Works Today**

I was lucky to grow up with parents who attended The Dale Carnegie Course in Effective Speaking and Human Relations. In case you missed Dale Carnegie or didn't grow up with such parents, Carnegie was famous for his courses on self-improvement and interpersonal skills, a best-selling author and the man whose dictums ruled our household. "Act enthusiastic and you'll be enthusiastic" is the one that still sticks. Carnegie's ideas, published in his books in the 1930s and 1940s —How to Win Friends and Influence People and How to Stop Worrying and Start Living— may seem quaint today. But I can't think of better words of wisdom to help you through these difficult days in 2011. When you're trying to get hired, what are you doing? Influencing.

When you're trying to get the employer to see that your lack of experience in an area is not an issue, what do you need to do? Influence. —Andrea Kay, *USA Today*. [Read more.](#)

### **Accounting Community Calls for Independent Standards Board for Private Companies**

CPA firms, private companies, lenders, and nonprofit entities have joined in a massive letter-writing campaign to the Financial Accounting Foundation (FAF) to express their views on the need for separate standards and an independent standards-setting board for private companies. The new board would be empowered to make modifications to GAAP not subject to veto power by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). According to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), 99 percent of comment letters from the privately held company constituency demanded that the FAF create different standards for privately held companies. The AICPA has taken a leading role in the campaign, by urging members to participate and by providing a form letter that members can use to write to the FAF. The letter can be customized to the interests and needs of individual letter writers. The letter supports the Blue Ribbon Panel on Private Company Financial Reporting that recommended a separate board and separate standards in its final report to the FAF in January 2011. —Anne Rosivach, *AccountingWEB*. [Read more.](#)



*For additional information regarding Chapter/ National news and events, please click on the links below:*

<b>Helpful Links</b>
<a href="#">Our Website</a>
<a href="#">Our Events Calendar</a>
<a href="#">Our Newsletters</a>
<a href="#">AGA National Website</a>

## **Executive Committee**

### **President**

Tom McManigal  
HUD/OIG  
312/ 913-8035  
[tmcmanigal@hudoig.gov](mailto:tmcmanigal@hudoig.gov)

### **President – Elect**

Vacant

### **Past President**

Heath Wolfe  
HUD/OIG

### **Secretary**

Sandy Lawera  
HHS/OIG  
312/ 353-3144  
[Sandy.Lawera@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:Sandy.Lawera@oig.hhs.gov)

### **Treasurer**

Thomas DiLisio  
DOL  
312/ 596-5454  
[Dilisio.thomas@dol.gov](mailto:Dilisio.thomas@dol.gov)

### **Program Director**

Matthew Matczynski  
HUD/OIG  
312/ 913-8644  
[MMatczynski@hudoig.gov](mailto:MMatczynski@hudoig.gov)

### **Meetings Director**

Vacant

### **Membership Director**

Janet Knauff  
RRB/OIG  
312/ 751-4683  
[Janet.Knauff@rrb.gov](mailto:Janet.Knauff@rrb.gov)

### **Newsletter Editor**

Alexandria Hayden  
HHS/OIG  
312/ 353-3033  
[Alexandria.Hayden@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:Alexandria.Hayden@oig.hhs.gov)

### **Historian**

Aníbal Marrero  
HHS/OIG  
312/ 353-3029  
[Anibal.marrero@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:Anibal.marrero@oig.hhs.gov)

### **Education Director**

Frank Moy  
GSA/OIG  
312/ 353-7781, Ext. 112  
[franklin.moy@gsaig.gov](mailto:franklin.moy@gsaig.gov)

### **Website Director**

Mark Knudson  
RRB/ OIG  
312/ 751-4764  
[mark.knudson@rrb.gov](mailto:mark.knudson@rrb.gov)

### **Community Service Director**

Matthew Matczynski  
HUD/OIG  
312/ 913-8644  
[MMatczynski@hudoig.gov](mailto:MMatczynski@hudoig.gov)

### **CGFM**

Raul Nieto  
ED/OIG  
312/ 730-1634  
[raul.nieto@ed.gov](mailto:raul.nieto@ed.gov)

### **Early Careers Coordinator**

Jolanta Biskup  
ED/OIG  
312/ 730-1619  
[Jolanta.biskup@ed.gov](mailto:Jolanta.biskup@ed.gov)

### **Job Referral**

Steve Whitecotton  
HHS/OIG  
312/ 353-7886  
[Steve.Whitecotton@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:Steve.Whitecotton@oig.hhs.gov)

### **Publicity Director**

Olga Gesell  
HHS/OIG  
312/ 353-7907  
[Olga.Gesell@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:Olga.Gesell@oig.hhs.gov)

### **Awards Director**

Vacant

### **Chapter Recognition**

Rick Urbanowski  
HUD/OIG  
312/ 913-8492  
[rurbanowski@hudoig.gov](mailto:rurbanowski@hudoig.gov)

### **Accountability Director**

Herbert Kwan  
RRB/ Fiscal Operations  
312/ 751-7134  
[herbert.kwan@rrb.gov](mailto:herbert.kwan@rrb.gov)

## **Newsletter Information**

Observations is the monthly newsletter of the Chicago Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA). Subscriptions to Observations may only be obtained by joining AGA. This is the second edition of Observations for the **2011-2012** chapter year. To submit material for upcoming issues, 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)