

AGA Phoenix Chapter (www.agaphoenix.org)

PY 2007/2008, Issue I

December 2007



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Message From the President

From all of us on the AGA Phoenix Chapter Board, we wish to invite you to actively participate in our chapter activities for 2007-2008.

We are back into the swing of our normal monthly luncheon/CPE meetings. I am very happy to inform you, that our chapter education committee has put together an excellent CPE calendar of events for 2007-2008 that is being offered to you at unbeatable rates. I encourage all of you to join the Recruitment Challenge Special Membership drive by sponsoring two new members to our chapter. Please note that you will receive a \$25 gift certificate for sponsoring every two new members without any numerical limit.

Congratulations to Lee Pettit and Michele Wrapp, our first two Recruitment Challenge winners!

It is our sincere hope to provide you with a host of programs and events that are not only timely but also interesting and meaningful. We are very pleased to bring you the Professional Ethics Update for Arizona CPAs – Including Case Studies, a 4hr CPE class between 8-12 at the Maricopa Community Colleges, Tempe, AZ on January 18, 2008. Stay tuned for registration information!

Many of our board members have expressed a renewed interest to be more actively involved in the networking and educational as-

pects of our chapter. If you are interested in learning more about us, have an idea about a topic or program that would benefit you, or would like to get involved in a program or activity, please feel free to contact any board member. (see our Contact Us/Board Member Info page)

Hope to see you at our Chapter Programs and CPE sessions.

If you are not already a member of the AGA, I urge you to join today.

Warm Regards and Happy Holidays,

Gayathri D (Devi) Bala,
CGFM, CPA

12/12 Holiday Social & Audio Conference

This program year, in addition to our Holiday Social we are also having an audio conference. The topic is "Anatomy of Fraud: Case Examples of Greed, Collusion & Override of Controls" for two CPEs.

NEW Location: Rio

Salado College Conference Center, 2323 W. 14th Street, Tempe, AZ 85281

Cost: \$20 members / \$25 non-members

Time: 11am-12pm Social
Time: 12pm—1:50pm Audio Conference

Menu: Chicken piccata, tortellini alfredo, green beans, salad, rolls, drinks, dessert

Stay tuned for our Jan. 10th chapter meeting and Jan. 18th Ethics Conference. See the **Calendar of Events** page on our website for details.



AGA Phoenix Chapter Executive Board Program Year 2007-2008

PURPOSE: Consists of chapter officers, past president, committee chairs, and other members appointed by the chapter president. Responsible for all chapter business and planning.

OFFICERS:

President (and Past)	Gayathri (Devi) Bala, CGFM, CPA
President Elect	Lynne Davis, CPA
Secretary	Kathleen Rogers, CGFM, CPA
Treasurer	John Schutter

ADDRESS: AGA Phoenix Chapter, PO Box 64911
Phoenix, AZ 85082-4911

PHONE: (480) 731-8582 **FAX:** (480) 731-8560

EMAIL: AGA@agaphoenix.org

We'd Love Your Input!

Please remember to send in any articles of interest, including any that you may have written on the subjects of management, accounting, or auditing. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

In addition, please send us any special announcements in relation to promotions, marriages, births, anniversaries, certifications achieved, or any other significant event for any of our chapter members. Any article submitted by the second week of the month will be included in the next month's newsletter.

Please email your news for forthcoming newsletters to:

newsletter@agaphoenix.org and

webmaster@agaphoenix.org

Our Purpose

Mission Statement

AGA Phoenix Chapter serves Arizona professionals in the government financial management community by providing quality, low-cost continuing education, promoting professional development and interaction among members, and fostering a commitment to community involvement as well as a sense of responsibility for advancing government accountability.

Vision

AGA Phoenix Chapter actively creates an avenue for membership to share ideas with each other, to share knowledge and time with the community, and to promote the advancement of government standards and accountability within the profession.



Goals for 2007-2008 and Beyond

- Provide high quality, low-cost continuing professional education to the membership and the government accounting community.
- Promote the value of AGA membership in order to retain and expand membership.
- Promote the value of the Certified Government Financial Management (CGFM) program.
- Promote government financial management to schools and colleges and become spokespersons for the advancement of government accountability through quality course offerings to students.
- Seek National AGA support for a consistent local web site format and the technical support necessary to provide a web base venue that the membership can use to research current information relating to the Phoenix chapter.
- Promote networking among membership at chapter events.
- Promote Executive Board membership in order to diversify our ideas and strengthen our focus.
- Expand AGA membership throughout the state.

Announcements - Job Postings

To view the full job postings below, please go to the “Job Postings” page on our website.

Accountant Senior, ASU W.P. Carey School of Business, Dean’s Office, Rate of Pay: DOE, Job Opening ID 13036, Close Date: 12/21/07 11:59pm AZ Time; DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: The W. P. Carey School of Business Dean's Office has two openings for a professional accountant to perform a variety of complex accounting activities and assignments requiring the application of advanced knowledge in accounting principles and practices. These individuals will provide sound technical advice and services based upon policies, established procedures, integrity and common sense to ensure accuracy, proper documentation and compliance. Reviews and adjusts funds or accounts such as cash or Federal funds. Prepares complex journal entries and records composite entries. Balances complex federal, foundation, local or state reports; reconciling the state, local, and foundation accounts. Researches, analyzes and uses independent judgment in a variety of daily and non-routine decisions affecting assigned function. Researches and evaluates new or changed accounting principles and practices. Establishes or revises procedures or operating policies of assigned function; participates in development and implementation of new or revised accounting systems and processes accounting documents. Maintains various accounting and personnel databases. Reviews accounting and reporting systems, procedures and completed assignments of other staff to ensure compliance with university or outside agency regulations. May supervise or lead lower level professional accountants and other staff in performing duties. **FOR MINIMUM/DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND DETAILS** go to asu.edu/asujobs/ and click “Search Staff Postings” on the left sidebar. Click “Advanced Search” and search by the “Job Opening ID”.

Financial Analyst Level V, Omega Systems, Incorporated, \$85,000 - \$100,000, Job Code FINANL5; GENERAL PURPOSE OF THE JOB: Manage accounting department providing timely and accurate information, primarily financial in nature, about all company activities to assist management, its shareholders and other users in making well-informed economic decisions about the Company’s current status and future potential. Provide general supervision of the Accounting Department; Direct Supervision of Payroll, Purchasing/Inventory/Fixed Assets, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable and the General Ledger. **FOR ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, OTHER SKILLS AND ABILITIES NEEDED, AND OTHER DETAILS** please go to the full job posting on our website.

Accounting Manager, Pinal County Government, \$65,811.20-\$72,716.80, Open Until Filled; The Pinal County Government is seeking an Accounting Manager for its Finance Staff located in historic Florence, Arizona. The successful candidate will plan, direct, and is responsible for the coordination, compilation and filing of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for Pinal County. Requirements for this position are Bachelors in Accounting, Finance or a related field. Five years of experience in accounting or closely related field. Prior governmental experience in preparing or auditing CAFR’s is preferred. Consideration will be given for Certified Public Accountant Certificate (CPA) and/or Certified Governmental Financial Manager (CGFM). For complete information and to apply for this challenging position please visit our website at www.pinaljobs.com EOE

Would you like to post your organization’s job postings on our website?

Please email AGA Phoenix Webmaster, Karie Tepper, at webmaster@agaphoenix.org.



Treasurer's Report November 2007

Book Balance 10/31/07	\$ 14,989.00
Receipts	\$ 1,673.35
Disbursements	<u>\$ 929.32</u>
Book Balance 11/30/07	<u>\$ 15,733.03</u>
Outstanding FY08 Checks	\$ 70.25
Outstanding FY08 Deposits	\$ -
Adjusted Book Balance	<u>\$ 15,803.28</u>
<u>Account Balance</u>	
Cash on Hand	\$ 30.00
Checking Balance	\$ 4,270.72
Savings Balance	\$ 2,159.20
Scholarship Fund	\$ 4,190.46
Share Certificate	<u>\$ 5,152.90</u>
Total	<u>\$ 15,803.28</u>

Membership News!

To date we have 237 members in our chapter. This includes 17 NEW members this year. If you have renewed your membership, or are a new member, we welcome you to the Phoenix chapter of AGA.

This year the programs are full of information relevant to the accounting professional. We are offering, for the first time, an opportunity to purchase a "block" of CPE sessions at a reduced member rate. What better way to fulfill some of the requirements for your CPA license or your CGFM certificate. Not only will you receive CPE credits for attending the sessions, you will also have a nice luncheon and the opportunity to network with other members of the Phoenix chapter. In addition there are numerous out of state workshops available to you.

Please try to encourage some of your peers to become a member of AGA. When you "sponsor" two members, who join our chapter, you will receive a gift card valued at \$25.00.



For more information on the benefits of membership please go to the AGA (Association of Government Accountants) website or contact Judy McMullen at 480-965-6496 or judith.mcmullen@asu.edu.

Membership Profile

This newsletter presents a member profile on our Chapter President:

Gayathri Devi Bala, CGFM, CPA

- **Current Job Title and Employer:** Manager (Accounting), Business Services/Rio Salado College
- **Professional Experience:** 18 years in accounting, finance and higher education (including seven years in Tokyo, Japan)
- **College Degrees and Certifications:** Masters degree in Business/Commerce from India, Post Baccalaurate in Accountancy from ASU, CPA, CGFM certifications.
- **Years with AGA:** Five years
- **What words or motto do you live by?** "You must do the thing you think you cannot do" – Eleanor Roosevelt
- **What do you like about your current job?** Leading my team towards a shared vision
- **If you could have any other job other than your current career what would it be?** Teaching/Research
- **What do you do in your free time or when you're not working?** Hiking, travel to different countries, watching Bollywood (Indian) movies and amazing Arizona skies
- **What career advice would you give others?** Work hard, embrace change, look ahead and have fun

Contact the Membership Committee!

If you would like to see your (or a co-worker's) promotion, retirement, special recognition or award included in the membership section of the newsletter, or you have questions, comments or ideas regarding membership and recruitment, contact the Membership Committee at:

Membership Committee

Email to Judith.mcmullen@asu.edu

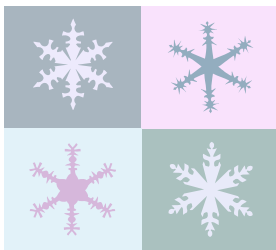
Fax to (480) 965-2455

Community Service News!

Happy Holidays to everyone.

Big thanks for the help with the Christmas Angels from the

Salvation Army. We asked for and were given 15 individuals and everyone gotten taken without too



much arm twisting from me.

Now if we can have as much participation in the VITA program I would be thrilled. Make sure you register and do the classes either on line or at a site. The attached link will get you to registration. Remember there is CPE for the classes and it's free. One can commit for as many Saturday mornings as they want and do simple or complex returns depending on

the level one is comfortable with. There is a quality control and a tax person on site to help and make sure returns are done properly. You will also learn the nuances for this year's return and enhance your knowledge so your own returns will be easier to do.

<http://www.tempe.gov/tcc/taxhelp/>

Betsy Thompson, CPA
Community Service Chair

Communications

Happy December everyone! We hope you have found this newsletter interesting and beneficial. It is our goal to include as much information as possible. However, you should always check our website for other news from the Phoenix Chapter as well as the National Office.

You can find us on the web at www.agaphoenix.org.

We urge you to see what we have to offer for news and other information on our site. Our **Home** page will always give you important news and upcoming events. For a full event list, please see our **Calendar of Events** page.

All of our Newsletters & Minutes for the 2007/2008 and 2006/2007 program years are on our website. The Treasury Reports for 2007/2008 are also out there.

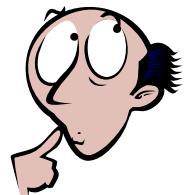
Are you interested in contacting and/or knowing who makes up the Phoenix Chapter Officers, Education Committee, and other Committees? Check out our **Contact Us** page where you can find Board member names and email addresses.

We are always looking for input regarding our website

and newsletter. Please feel free to send us an email to tell us what you think.

Have you ever thought about becoming a Board member?

We would be happy to talk to you about the benefits of being a Board member. Just contact one of us—see the Contact Us page on our website or email me at the address below.



Karie Tepper
AGA Webmaster
webmaster@agaphoenix.org

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2007-2008 Education and Meeting Plan

Date	Time	Event & Topic	CPE Credit	Presenter
05/23/07	11:30am -1:00pm	Chapter Meeting Lunch (PY End 2006/2007) Topic: Awards and Recognition	N/A	Devi Bala
09/20/07	10:30am-11:00am	Chapter Meeting Lunch	N/A	Devi Bala
09/20/07	11:00am-12:50pm	Audio Conference Topic: Making the Transition to Management: What it takes to Succeed	2	AGA National
10/24/07	11:30am -1:40pm	Chapter Meeting Lunch & Educational Seminar Topic: A Million Dollar Breach of Trust	2	George Graham & Holly Graham, AG Office
10/24/07	2:00pm - 2:50pm	Educational Seminar Topic: Risk and Risk Assessment Tools	1	David DeStefano, ASU
11/14/07	11:30am-12:00pm	Chapter Meeting Lunch	N/A	Devi Bala
11/14/07	12:00pm-1:50pm	Audio Conference Topic: Tools for Performance Audit Efficiency	2	AGA National
12/12/07	11:00am-12:00pm	Chapter Meeting Lunch/Holiday Social	N/A	Devi Bala
12/12/07	12:00pm-1:50pm	Audio Conference Topic: Anatomy of Fraud: Case Examples of Greed, Collusion & Override of Controls	2	AGA National
01/10/08	11:30am -1:00pm	Chapter Meeting Lunch Topic: Retirement Planning and Deferred Com- pensation	1	Matt Gayman, Nationwide Retirement Solutions
01/10/08	1:00pm - 2:00pm	Educational Seminar Topic: AZ State Tax Update	1	Audrey McGhee, ADOR
01/10/08	2:00pm - 3:00pm	Educational Seminar Topic: Federal Tax Update	1	George Lopez, IRS
01/18/08	8:30am-12:00pm	Ethics Conference (w/MCCD) Breakfast Served 8:00-8:30am	4	Blumenthal, ASCPA
02/06/08	11:30am -12:00pm	Chapter Meeting Lunch	N/A	Devi Bala
02/06/08	12:00pm-1:50pm	Audio Conference Topic: Internal Controls	2	AGA National
03/05/08	11:30am-12:00pm	Chapter Meeting Lunch	N/A	Devi Bala
03/05/08	12:00pm-1:50 pm	Audio Conference Topic: Environmental Fraud	2	AGA National
03/26/08	11:00am-12:50pm	Audio Conference Topic: GASB Update	2	AGA National
04/10/08	11:30am -1:00pm	Chapter Meeting Lunch Topic: AZ Lottery	1	TBD
04/10/08	1:00pm-2:00pm	Educational Seminar Topic: 529 College Savings	1	Susan Robinson, Post Sec- ondary Education
04/25/08	8:00am-4:00pm	Professional Development Conference		
		Topic: 21st Century Auditing(?)	1.5	Lee Miller, SVP-AGA
		Topic: Budget/Performance Measurements	2	TBD
		Topic: Investments	1	Honorable Dean Martin, State Treas
		Topic: Policies/Initiatives-AZ	2	Morrison Institute
		Topic: GASB Update	1.5	Randy Roberts

EDUCATION COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

December Holiday Social and Audio Conference

This Wednesday, December 12, 2007, we have a wonderful program set up for you. In addition to our normal Holiday Social we are also bringing you an audio conference from AGA National on the "Anatomy of Fraud: Case Examples of Greed, Collusion & Override of Controls". Two CPEs will be awarded for the audio conference for those CPAs and CGFMs in need of CPE credits. We hope you enjoy this event. Below are the biographies on our speakers for this audio conference.

DAVID L. COTTON, CPA, CFE, CGFM COTTON & COMPANY LLP CHAIRMAN

Dave Cotton is chairman of Cotton & Company LLP, Certified Public Accountants. Cotton & Company is headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia. Cotton & Company's Federal agency audit clients have included the U.S. Government Accountability Office, the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Small Business Administration, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, and the U.S. Marshals Service. Cotton & Company also assists numerous Federal agencies in preparing financial statements and improving financial management and accounting systems.

Mr. Cotton received his BS in mechanical engineering (1971) and an MBA in management science and labor relations (1972) from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. He also pursued graduate studies in accounting and auditing at the University of Chicago, Graduate School of Business (1977 to 1978).

Mr. Cotton is presently serving on the Advisory Council on Government Auditing Standards. He is a member of the advisory board of the Institute for Truth in Accounting. He is serving on the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) Anti-Fraud Programs and Controls Task Force, and is a former member of the AICPA "Group of 100." He is the past chairman of the AICPA Federal Accounting and Auditing Subcommittee and has served on the AICPA Governmental Accounting and Auditing Committee and the Government Technical Standards Subcommittee of the AICPA Professional Ethics Executive Committee.

He is member of the Greater Washington Society of CPAs (GWSCPA) and is serving on the GWSCPA Professional Ethics Committee. He is a member of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) and is past-advisory board chairman and past-president of the AGA Northern Virginia Chapter. He is also a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

Mr. Cotton is the author of the AICPA continuing education courses ***Fraud in Governmental and Not-for-Profit Audits—the Auditor's Responsibilities Under SAS 82*** and ***Joint and Indirect Cost Allocations: How to Prepare and Audit Them***. He also has been an adjunct instructor at the Inspectors General Auditor Training Institute (***Auditing the Federal Contracting Process*** and ***Contract and Procurement Fraud***) and currently teaches at the George Mason University Small Business Development Center (***Fundamentals of Accounting for Government Contracts***).

DAVID R. HANCOX, CGFM, CIA

Mr. Hancox is a Director in the Division of State Government Accountability in the NYS Comptroller's Office. He currently leads an effort to measure the performance of state agencies' financial management practices to guide future audit efforts and to increase the effectiveness of agency operations. He has transformed this unit from a la-

EDUCATION COMMITTEE (CONCLUDED)

Mr. Hancox is a Director in the Division of State Government Accountability in the NYS Comptroller's Office. He currently leads an effort to measure the performance of state agencies' financial management practices to guide future audit efforts and to increase the effectiveness of agency operations. He has transformed this unit from a labor-intensive, clerical audit operation to a modern, risk-based professional audit unit, using the latest audit techniques to find fraud, waste, and improper transactions. He revamped the approach to auditing Medicaid payments. In 2005 and 2006, the audit unit identified more than \$250 million in savings.

He is co-author of two books: *Government Performance Audit in Action* and *State and Local Government, Program Control and Audit: Handbook for Managers and Auditors*. He is on the faculty of Siena College and the Government Audit Training Institute - Graduate School, USDA.

He is an international speaker and in frequent demand in the government audit and financial management community on audit and management-related topics. He is past regional vice president of the Association of Government Accountants and a past president of the New York Capital Chapter of that organization. He is currently on the National Emerging Issues Committee. He is also past president of the Albany Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors and a past member of the International Government Relations Committee and current member of the Emerging Issues Committee and the Financial Management Standards Board Committee.

Mr. Hancox contributes articles to various professional journals that challenge the traditional audit approaches that have failed to find the frauds in major organizations. He's listed in Marquis's Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in America and Who's Who in the East. He is a Certified Internal Auditor and a Certified Government Financial Manager.

In 2005, he was selected as the Educator of the Year and in 2007 he received the National President's Award from the Association of Government Accountants.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

AGA - Phoenix Chapter

November Board Retreat Meeting

Monday, November 6, 2007

11:30 to 1:30

ASU USB BUILDING

Minutes

Attendees:	Devi Bala, CGFM, CPA Lynne Davis, CPA John Schutter Kathleen Rogers, CGFM, CPA	Betsy Thompson, CPA Mary Adelman, CGFM, CPA Judy McMullen Jerry Snyder, CGFM, CPA	Keith Orr, CGFM, CPA Justin Pool Karie Tepper
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At 11:55 Chapter President Devi Bala, CGFM, CPA called the Board meeting to order.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (CONCLUDED)

The first piece of business was a discussion of the monthly education/CPE sessions. The good news is attendance has been great – the not so good news is the bundling offer of 3 classes for \$50 has created some record keeping challenges. After much discussion it was decided to enhance the e-mail instructions, revamp the sign in sheet, and reconcile prepayments, current payments and registrations at each session.

Next, 2007-08 Chapter Goals and Objectives were discussed, particularly the determination to take the Chapter Recognition Program from Gold to Platinum and reminder of the 11/13 update deadline. The Phoenix Chapter is ranked 18th out of 91 chapters. To help with Membership Growth points, we agreed to continue the \$25 incentive for sponsoring 2 new members. Karie Tepper also agreed to pull the first program year's newsletter together to post on the website.

Committee Status Reports included an Education report from Devi (CGFM, CPA) that the ASCPA Ethics class is set for January 18 at MCCC. Keith (CGFM, CPA) reported one minor change of Speaker for January 10, that most of the PDC speakers are confirmed and we are on track to reach the 4000 chapter recognition point goal for Education.

Awards/Scholarships Committee update by Justin included news that the scholarship applications were sent out to 16 local institutions of higher education and that the flyer was available on the website. He will pull together a committee to review and announce in the Spring.

Judy McMullen provided the update on Membership, reviewing the GAR reports and letting us know she contacted the 26 people on the suspended list. Current membership is 237 with 17 new members.

Betsy Thompson (CPA) of Community Service made an enthusiastic plea for membership participation in the VITA program this year and handed out a flyer announcing the Tempe based program. She also noted Christmas Angels would be handed out at the next Chapter meeting for collection on December 12.

Finally, the Board discussed what would be an appropriate recognition award to Dario Chiyoda, one of the Chapters founding members. John Shutter made a motion that Dario be granted a lifetime chapter membership with all meeting fees waived and a standing invitation to attend the PDC. Karie Tepper seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

National and regional PDC and SLM travel was on the agenda but time did not permit an extensive discussion, so the topic will be revisited next Board meeting. The meeting was adjourned at about 1:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Rogers, CGFM, CPA
AGA Phoenix Chapter Secretary

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS (AGA)

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Phoenix, AZ 85082-4911

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Website: www.agaphoenix.org



We Are Always Looking For People Interested In Joining Our Organization

NOTE: Excerpts and links below are from AGA's national website at www.agacgfm.org.

What is AGA?

Briefly, AGA has been serving the government financial management profession for over 50 years. As a not-for-profit educational organization, AGA serves the professional interests of financial managers from the local, state and the federal governments, as well as public accounting firms, responsible for effectively using billions of dollars and other monetary resources everyday. Members are accountants, auditors, contract, financial and performance, budget analysts, chief financial officers, information systems managers, finance directors, inspectors general, professors, stu-

dents. Membership in AGA is like tapping into a reservoir of actual real-world knowledge and experience of government financial management experts.

Benefits of Joining

If you asked a member which of the benefits they value the most, they probably would say education and networking, which often occur at the same time and place. Here are some of our members' favorites:

- Continuing Professional Education and Networking Opportunities
- Keep Up-to-Date on Current Issues
- Keep Abreast of the Latest Technologies and Financial Systems
- Professional Guidance and Certification
- Committee Involvement and Awards/Scholarships

How Can You Join?

Click the links below to access a Membership Application and to find out membership types and dues.



To view the AGA Membership Types, Criteria, & Dues go to <https://www.agacgfm.org/membership/join/categories.aspx>.

For a Membership Application (PDF Fillable) go to https://www.agacgfm.org/membership/downloads/membershipapplication_interactive.pdf.