

# AGA Phoenix Chapter (www.agaphoenix.org)

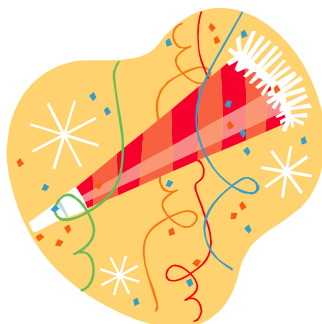
PY 2007/2008, Issue 2

January 2008



## Inside this issue:

<i>Professional Ethics Conference Details and Registration Form</i>	2-3
<i>Community Service News, AGA's Purpose, Send Us Your Articles</i>	4
<i>Announcements/Job Postings, Membership News</i>	5
<i>Scholarship News, Treasury Report, Communications</i>	6
<i>"National" News— Selected AGA National President-elect, Call for Nominations</i>	7
<i>CGFM Corner</i>	8
<i>Education Committee</i>	9
<i>Our Board, How to Join AGA, Phoenix Chapter Contact</i>	10



## 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. My goal this year is to try and make our Chapter Bigger and Better.

I encourage all of you to join the Recruitment Challenge Special Mem-

bership 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. Let's have fun going down this road to success together.

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.

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

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,

Gayathri D (Devi) Bala,  
CGFM, CPA

## 01/10/08 Monthly Chapter Meeting

Please join us for our January Chapter Meeting. The topics are "Retirement Planning & Deferred Compensation", "Arizona State Tax Update" and "Federal Tax Update" for three CPEs.

**Location:** Maricopa Community College Dis-

trict Office, 2411 W. 14th Street, Tempe, AZ 85281

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

**Time:** 11:30am-2:50pm  
**Lunch Served:** 11:30am—12pm

**Menu:** Assortment of

salad plates, dessert, and drinks

For information on the January 18th Ethics Conference please see the next page. You can also check the **Home** page or **Calendar of Events** page of our website for details.

# Professional Ethics for Arizona CPAs

## January 18, 2008



### PROFESSIONAL ETHICS FOR ARIZONA CPAs - INCLUDING CASE STUDIES

*(Complimentary breakfast sponsored by the AGA, Phoenix Chapter)*

January 18, 2008

**Location: MCCC D Governing Board Room**

2411 W 14th St, 2nd floor

Tempe, AZ - 85281

**Schedule:**

**Sign-in begins: 8:00am**

**Program: 8:30am —12 noon**

**FEE: \$85**

**Recommended CPE credit: 4 hours**

**Discussion Leader:** Gilbert B. Blumenthal, CPA

This course is designed to meet the Arizona four-hour ethics CPE requirement for Arizona CPAs renewing their licenses that began January 2005. In addition to meeting Arizona State Board of Accountancy requirements, the course includes materials designed to reinforce the CPA's practical understanding of professional ethics standards and to enhance sensitivity to accounting and business ethical issues and dilemmas.

**Objectives:** To reinforce skills to allow a CPA to: Identify standards and other factors involved in making ethical accounting and business decisions; Recognize the technical considerations in analysis and resolution of ethical dilemmas; Apply professional ethics standards to public accounting and business situations; Fulfill responsibilities as required by the Arizona State Board of Accountancy.

**Course Highlights:** Review of ethics standards related to the practice of accounting including the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct, Arizona Accountancy statutes and administrative rules. Update to include latest rules and ethics interpretations. Discussion of "hot topics" in professional ethics. Presentation of case studies to illustrate application of ethics rules.

**Who should attend:** CPAs seeking ethics training or fulfilling ethics requirement.

**Gilbert B. Blumenthal, CPA** has been active in the Arizona CPA community for over 25 years. After a long career

in public accounting, Gil has focused his professional efforts in the areas of dispute resolution, business consulting and teaching. He is a former shareholder and Managing Partner of a large local firm (now Clifton Gunderson, LLP) in Phoenix. Prior to that, he received his training while with two of the former "Big 8" CPA firms. Working as a neutral for the past twelve years, Gil has been appointed Special Master and Settlement Master in both Civil and Domestic Relations cases. He has testified numerous times as an expert witness in the Superior Court of Arizona. He also uses his extensive public accounting background to provide mediation and arbitration services in cases involving complex business or financial disputes. Gil has been a frequent instructor of professional education programs for Attorneys and CPAs.

In 2004, he wrote and has been the primary instructor for the Professional Ethics course for Arizona CPAs. He has also served on the faculty of the Judicial College of Arizona for the New Judge Orientation Program. He has published numerous articles for accounting and business publications and has been a frequent speaker for local and regional professional organizations. Gil received the 1994-95 Excellence in Writing Award from the Arizona Society of CPAs for his article entitled Alternative Dispute Resolution for CPA's - Beyond the Liability Issues. He has also served on the Arizona Society of Certified Public Accountants' Board of Directors.

*(Please note that registration must be completed prior to the event date)*

**Registration Deadline date: January 14, 2008**

## REGISTRATION FORM - (One form per person)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:  ASCPA Member  CPA Non-Member  AGA Member  Not a CPA

Method of Payment:  Check payable to 'AGA Phoenix Chapter' **OR**  cash/check to be paid at the venue on the event day.

Please FORWARD this form along with your registration information to: [eventreg@agaphoenix.org](mailto:eventreg@agaphoenix.org)

**The check can either be handed in person on the event day or mailed along with the completed form to the following address:**

**AGA Phoenix Chapter**

**PO Box: 64911**

**Phoenix, AZ 85082-4911**

Enter Check#: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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/>).

Contact community service chair, Betsy Thompson, CPA with questions.

## Send Us Your Articles!

Do you have any special announcements (promotions, marriages, births, anniversaries, certifications achieved) that you would like to tell us about?

Are there any other significant events, for you or another chapter member, that you would like us to include in the newsletter?



Please don't hesitate 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.

Any article submitted by the second week of the month may be included in the next month's newsletter.

Please email your news for forthcoming newsletters to:

**[newsletter@agaphoenix.org](mailto:newsletter@agaphoenix.org) and  
[webmaster@agaphoenix.org](mailto: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.**

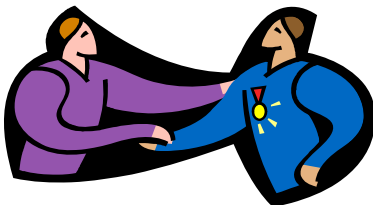
**Financial Analyst Level V, Omega Systems, Incorporated, \$85,000 - \$100,000, Job Code FINANL5; GENERAL PURPOSE OF THE JOB:** Manage accounting department providing timely and accurate information, primarily financial in nature, about all company activities to assist management, its shareholders and 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](http://www.pinaljobs.com) EOE



Don't see your organization's job postings on our website?

Email AGA Phoenix Webmaster, Karie Tepper, at [webmaster@agaphoenix.org](mailto:webmaster@agaphoenix.org).



## Membership News!

Our December meeting had over 50 members in attendance.

We enjoyed a great lunch, time for visiting, many door prizes, and an informative audio conference. Members also returned their Christmas Angel along with many wonderful gifts for the children.

Kyle Cowden was the recipient of his long awaited Target gift card for his success in the Membership Recruitment Challenge. Kyle recruited members Hal Haanes and Rema Sivakumar. Both members are from ASU.

Please keep checking our education page for upcoming events and locations. There are many CPE opportunities available to you this Spring.

I hope each and every one of you had memorable holidays and are ready to meet the challenges 2008 holds in store for you. Keep in mind 2008 is a leap year so we have one extra day to reach our goals!

## Scholarship Committee News - Need Volunteers This Month!

For the past few months, the Phoenix AGA Chapter has been accepting applications from eligible undergraduate and graduate students. The submission deadline was November 30, 2007. Approximately 20 applications were received.

The Phoenix Chapter will award three (3) college scholarships of \$500 each, which can be used for student educational expenses. Scholarship recipients will also be awarded a one year Special Student Membership in the Phoenix Chapter AGA.

**In January, we need volunteers** to form a committee to review the applications and select the three winners. Justin Poll, chair of scholarships, is soliciting members to be on this special committee.

If you would like to help and are interested in volunteering, contact Justin Poll at [justin.poll@asu.edu](mailto:justin.poll@asu.edu).



## Treasurer's Report December 2007

<b>Book Balance 11/30/07</b>	<b>\$ 15,733.03</b>
Receipts	\$ 759.33
Disbursements	<u>\$ 1,118.86</u>
<b>Book Balance 12/31/07</b>	<b><u>\$ 15,373.50</u></b>
Outstanding FY08 Checks	\$ -
Outstanding FY08 Deposits	\$ -
<b>Adjusted Book Balance</b>	<b><u>\$ 15,373.50</u></b>
<b>Account Balance</b>	
Cash on Hand	\$ 30.00
Checking Balance	\$ 3,812.47
Savings Balance	\$ 2,160.58
Scholarship Fund	\$ 4,196.99
Share Certificate	<u>\$ 5,173.46</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 15,373.50</u></b>

## COMMUNICATIONS

### I Hope Everyone Had a Safe and Happy New Year

**Don't forget!** You can help us give the newsletter a personal touch by sending us any articles or announcements you feel would be beneficial to our chapter members. We are always looking for input from our chapter members.

I am doing my best to keep the website as up-to-date as possible. Check our **Home** page for important news and upcoming events. If you would like to see our full program year schedule, please see the **Calendar of Events** page.

Contact me with questions regarding the content of our website. Thanks!

Karie Tepper  
AGA Webmaster  
[webmaster@agaphoenix.org](mailto:webmaster@agaphoenix.org)  
480-965-1424



## William A. Morehead, Ph.D., CGFM, CPA, CPM Selected AGA National President-Elect

The AGA national nominating committee has completed its slate of candidates for fiscal year 2008-2009. I am proud to announce their selection of William A. (Billy) Morehead, Ph.D., CGFM, CPA, CPM for national president-elect. Billy's theme for his year as president is "Think Big. Act Courageously. Make a difference." Morehead believes that we must think big regarding what AGA can accomplish; we must act courageously to champion the cause of accountability, integrity, and trustworthiness; and, we must guide our efforts to make a difference in government financial management of behalf of the citizens and our respective governments.

Having known Billy for over 10 years, he is passionate about the development of leadership within our AGA chapters as well as regionally, with an emphasis on how we do things, how best to grow and develop our chapter and regional leaders, and how we can change our organization to sustain an environment of continuous improvement.

On the personal side, Billy is from the State of Mississippi and is very active in community service activities such as the Habitat for Humanity. Billy and his wife Janice even took a year-long leave of absence from work to serve in the missions program of their church. Billy's sense of humor is contagious and above all, he is an outstanding human being. We are most fortunate to have someone of Billy's qualities and qualifications leading our great organization.

Doug Haywood, CGFM, VPA  
Education Committee



Check out our Home page for the  
**NEWS FLASH—Nominating Committee Announces Slate of National Officers**

## Call for Nominations Join AGA's National and Regional Leadership Team!

AGA National and Regional Leaders AGA's National Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for leaders to serve on the National Board of Directors for 2008 – 2011. This is an opportunity to shape Association programs, advance your career and represent members' interests in the government accountability community.

Although nominations were due Friday, October 26, the National office did not get any nominations from the Southwestern Region. Therefore, they are searching for a candidate that will take office as Regional Vice Presidents-Elect on July 1, 2008.

Please read the nominations brochure at <http://www.agacgfm.org/about/downloads/NominationsBrochure.pdf> for more details. Contact Michiyo Wheeler if you have questions.

Michiyo Wheeler  
mwheeler@agacgfm.org  
703-548-9367  
2208 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301-1314  
800-AGA-7211, ext. 321

# CGFM Corner

The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) designation is the recognized professional credential for accountants working in the governmental sector. If you are interested in pursuing CGFM, here is a step-by-step guide on how you too can earn the CGFM designation:

**Step 1 - Apply for the CGFM Program.** Submit an application form for the CGFM Program via internet, fax or mail, including the application fee of \$85. Fax or mail a copy of your transcript from an accredited college or university.

**Step 2 - Eligibility Letter.** Once your application, payment and degree documentation are received and processed, the Office of Professional Certification will mail you an Eligibility Letter with instructions on how to purchase your CGFM Examinations.

**Step 3 - Work Verification.** Submit a Verification of Government Financial Management Work Experience form as soon as you have at least two years of professional-level experience in the government financial management field.

**Step 4 - Studying for Examinations.** You have several options, including classroom courses, study guides and a reading resources list.

**Step 5 - Examination Purchase.** Following the instructions on your Eligibility Letter, purchase CGFM Examination(s) through the AGA website and print the Test Authorization Letter. Examination fees are \$109 for each of the three examinations.

**Step 6 - Taking the Examinations.** Follow the instructions on the Test Authorization Letter to schedule a testing appointment at a Prometric Test Center near you. Show up at the testing center on your appointment date.

**Step 7 - Score Reporting and Retakes.** After you complete an examination at a Prometric Test Center, you will immediately receive a pass/fail score on the computer. If you did not pass, there is a 30-day waiting period before you can repurchase and retake that examination. If you fail the same exam more than once, the waiting period is 90 days.

**Step 8 - Award Letter.** Once you pass all three CGFM Examinations, and your Verification of Government Financial Management Work Experience form has been submitted and accepted, the Office of Professional Certification will send you an award letter announcing your new CGFM designation. You can start using the "CGFM" after your name only after you receive the official award letter from AGA.

**Step 9 - CGFM Certificate.** A CGFM certificate will be mailed within a few weeks of issuing the award letter.

And the Phoenix Chapter of AGA is able to offer a Step 10. Successful CGFM candidates can apply for reimbursement of application and examination costs. Scholarships to attend CGFM training are also available. Contact CGFM Coordinator Kathleen Rogers, CGFM, CPA for additional information.

## 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

**ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS (AGA)**

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

Phone: 480-731-8582  
Fax: 480-731-8560  
E-mail: [aga@agaphoenix.org](mailto:aga@agaphoenix.org)  
Website: [www.agaphoenix.org](http://www.agaphoenix.org)

## **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](mailto:AGA@agaphoenix.org)

**Did you know being a Board member has its perks?** We would be happy to tell you about the benefits of being a Board member. See the Contact Us page on our website to contact one of us.



## **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](http://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](https://www.agacgfm.org/membership/downloads/membershipapplication_interactive.pdf).