

The Indy Observer

~For the Indianapolis Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants~



December 2008

Volume 43, Issue 5

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The past few months I wrote about certifications, networking, and developing a career GPS. This month, I wanted to do something lighter. As I was pondering what to write, I began silently humming "Deck the Halls" and crafted my own rendition of the classic carol. Here it goes.....



Edna Knight
CGFM, CPA

I'm so proud of the Indy Chapter

Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la

It's been fun with lots of laughter

Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la

Attended the lunches and earned the credits

Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la

Issued the newsletters with minimal edits

Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la

Recruited members and grew our club

Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la

Went on diets to lose the blub

Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la

Socialized and had some fun

Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la

Playing corn hole in the sun

Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la

Donated time, supplies and coats

Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la

All the while earning points,

Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la

More to do this program year

Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la

For now let's enjoy the holiday cheer.

Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la

I want to thank everyone for your support and making our program year to date a success – whether you are an active member; a committee chair, co-chair or volunteer; and/ or an officer or past officer; you all should be proud of what we've accomplished – I am!!

Have a safe and happy holiday season!!! Hope Santa Claus is good to you!! See you next year! ♦

Happy Holidays!

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AGA's 58th Annual
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE
& EXPOSITION

June 21–24, 2009
24 CPE hours
New Orleans, LA

ETHICS MUST BE GLOBAL, NOT LOCAL

In business school, we used to debate whether your business ethics should adapt to the local environment or be the same around the world. Many of my classmates argued, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." In other words, follow local practices. Those were the days when leading ethicists like Joseph Fletcher and James Adams at Harvard were promoting "situation ethics," based on flexible, pragmatic approaches to complex dilemmas.

I listened to their arguments but never could figure out how leaders of business organizations could operate with one set of principles in their homeland and another overseas.

In the 1970s, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FPCA) sent a chill throughout the business community by criminalizing the act of making payments outside the U.S. in pursuit of contracts. Yet the practice persisted. Many U.S. executives lobbied to relax the FPCA's provisions, arguing that they were at a competitive disadvantage in bidding against non-U.S. companies.

Risking the Company's Reputation

These days the business world has gone global, which has intensified the ethics debate. Making payments to obtain business is common practice in many developing markets in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe, and some companies feel obliged to play the game to compete. Witness Germany's Siemens ([SI](#)), which has admitted to nearly \$2 billion in bribes, leading to the resignations of both its board chairman and its CEO in 2007. Then there's Britain's [BAE Systems](#), which has been accused of making a \$2 billion payment to a Saudi prince to secure \$80 billion in government contracts. (The company denied the allegation, which is being investigated by the U.S. Justice Dept.)

What's significant about these ethical scandals is the damage they do to great institutions. If you were leading such an organization, would you risk permanently damaging your company in order to win a few overseas contracts? Regrettably, for some executives the answer is yes.

Forty years of experience has strengthened my belief

(Continued on page 3)

ABOUT THE OBSERVER

The Observer is AGA-Indianapolis Chapter's monthly newsletter which covers member and association activities on both the chapter and national levels. *The Observer* features developments within the profession, chapter news, and articles of interest to members. Opinions and beliefs expressed in *The Observer* are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the association. We welcome and encourage members to send us original or reproduced articles that may be of interest to our members for publication in our newsletter.

Editorial contributions, ideas, or suggestions should be sent to the AGA mailbox at DFAS-INAGA@dfas.mil.

LOOK FOR THE ANGEL TREE

The Association of Government Accountants is sponsoring two families this holiday season. Both families were referred by the social worker at Indianapolis Public School 105. This is the same school where the AGA-Indianapolis chapter donates school supplies to in the fall.

The angel tree will be setup in the Headquarters Office on the second floor near column 221AA-1 with ornaments representing wish items of family members picked by the social worker.



If you wish to brighten up the life of someone this holiday season, then please pick a name from the tree, purchase the requested gift, wrap it, use the other half of the paper ornament as the name tag making sure the name is shown and place under the tree December 15th thru December 23rd, 2008.

For more information regarding the Angel Tree, please contact Monica Norris at (317) 510-6729 or Fay Whitney at (317) 510-5559. ♦

~~The tree will be put up shortly after Headquarters moves to their new area.~~

ETHICS (CONT)

(Continued from page 2)

that the only way to build a great global company is with a single global standard of business practices, vigorously communicated and rigorously enforced. Applying "situation ethics" in developing countries is the fastest way to destroy a global organization. To sustain their success, companies must follow the same standards of business conduct in Shanghai, Mumbai, Kiev, and Riyadh as in Chicago.

Engage the CEO in the Process

How else will employees in far-flung locations know what to do when pressured by customers or competitors to deviate from company standards? If overseas managers miss their financial targets because they adhere to strict ethical standards, can they be confident management will back them up?

Operating ethically requires much more than a code of conduct. The CEO and top management must engage with employees around the world to insist on transparency and compliance. Otherwise, they will never know what's going on. The company must have a closed-loop system of monitoring and auditing local marketing practices. The "don't look, don't tell" approach is bound to destroy your company's reputation. High standards must be enforced with a zero tolerance policy.

This well-established approach is employed by the companies on whose boards I serve—ExxonMobil ([XOM](#)), Goldman Sachs ([GS](#)), and Novartis ([NOVN](#)). Their employees throughout the world know precisely what is expected of them. Nothing is more important to these companies than their reputations, and they know that nothing destroys reputations faster than ethical violations.

Ethics Create Shareholder Value

General Electric's ([GE](#)) former general counsel, Ben Heineman, writes in "Avoiding Integrity Land Mines" in the *Harvard Business Review* about high performance with high integrity, proposing that performance and ethics go hand in hand. Heineman argues persuasively that CEOs can't just publish their policies and enforce them. Rather, they must get personally involved in ensuring ethical behavior and engaging employees in vigorous dis-

cussions of real-world issues. Otherwise, marginal practices like using agents to make payments will abound.

Despite the best efforts, there will be deviations. That's when leaders are watched most closely by their subordinates. Will management make an exception for a top performer?


Early in my time as CEO of Medtronic ([MDT](#)) I had to deal with numerous such deviations that led to the termination of such high-performing executives as the president of our European operations and country managers of Japan, Argentina, and Italy. These actions sent a powerful message that we were serious about company standards, and no one was exempt.

The bottom line is that good ethics is good business. There is a direct correlation between behaving ethically and creating long-term shareholder value. Furthermore, high integrity in external business dealings goes hand in hand with creating greater transparency and increased integrity in internal relationships. This necessitates choosing leaders who are not only ethical themselves but also committed to ensuring their organizations operate ethically at all times.

Bill's True North Principle: Great global organizations can be built only from a solid ethical foundation. ♦

By: Bill George

(www.businessweek.com; 12 FEB 2008)



**Congratulations
Brooke Moore
for being November's
AGA Biggest Loser!!
Brooke lost 4.44% of her
body weight so far in
the competition.**

JUST FOR FUN

Holiday Word Search



S D S S C A N D Y V D W
 A L L N O W D A S H E R
 C A E O M U O N A V E E
 K C D W E L N C N I R A
 W U T M T K N E T X D T
 W P R A N C E R A E E H
 Q I E N M H R U F N L V
 Y D E V U I V D G I F T
 G R R C P M T O Y S B B
 P R E S E N T L R T I E
 B L I T Z E N P B A L L
 F R O S T Y V H I R W L

- | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| BALL | DEER | SANTA |
| BELL | DONNER | SLED |
| BLITZEN | ELF | SNOWMAN |
| CANDY | FROSTY | STAR |
| CHIMNEY | GIFT | TOY |
| COMET | PRANCER | TREE |
| CUPID | PRESENT | VIXEN |
| DANCER | RUDOLPH | WREATH |
| DASHER | SACK | |

IN YOUR OPINION: WHAT IS THE BEST GIFT YOU HAVE EVER RECEIVED?

Terry Turner - The best gift I have ever received which, money can not buy is another day. Now that's a present that's PRICELESS!

Henn, Jennifer - The best gift I've ever received came from my daughter Morgan - my grandson, Parker Gerald Johns. He was born July 24, 2008 and brings me more joy than I've ever known. My daughter says he is her greatest accomplishment - and I agree!



**Parker Gerald Johns,
grandson of Jennifer
Henn**

AGA/ASMC Holiday Luncheon!

A Sleigh-full of
Door Prizes:
\$25 gift cards!

Celebrate with good friends,
great food and holiday cheer!

December 11, 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.
The Garrison

Members: \$16; Non-Members \$18

Entertainment provided by the
Lawrence Central Sound singers

Menu to include:

Romano-Crusted Chicken, Vegetable/Meat Lasagna,
Whipped Potatoes with Gravy, Green Bean Almandine el Dente,
Tomato & Mozzarella Salad with Fresh Basil, Tossed Salad,
Raspberry Swirl Cheesecake

AGA Ticket Sellers:

Mary Aurtrey 220T x1323 Bob Matejka 201J x7566
Ernie Bell 114G x1709 Tom Spahr 321Z x6773
Shane Douglas 336G x1933 Maranda Summers 212Z x8831
Jennifer Henn 313W x2369

ASMC Ticket Sellers:

Donna Blackowiak 213H x5532 Angie Jacob 229Z x5359
Lynda Bridges 315W x2398 Bob Matejka 201J x7566
Mike Cousins 212H x7216 Brenda Shelton 111E x1788
Rachel Engle 207B x2091 Walter Smith 318T x7500
Tina Hinze 34H x7005 Carol Williams 109Z x1926

Tickets on sale until COB December 4!



CEC MINUTES - NOVEMBER 01, 2008

ATTENDEES

Janyce Merz, Cindy Cox, Monica Hutton, Mandy Illg, Trinna Barker, Marilyn McGee, Noah Sturgeon, Tom Spahr, Shane Douglas, Fay Whitney, Jeff Fourman, Mary Jevlev, Brooke Tabor, Jamie Van Horn, Dominick Thompson, Charlie Pollis and Katie Crist

OPENING REMARKS

President – Janyce Merz acting for Edna Knight. The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 a.m.

TREASURER NOTES

The email process for approving the net worth statement by the CEC: no questions

COMMITTEE NOTES

Education Committee – Trinna Barker and Dominick Thompson

PDC – November 17th at the Garrison. Supplies for the PDC were purchased 11/4. PDC speakers are Steve Turner, Darcy Keith, Cynthia Blevins, Col. Barbara Gilchrist, Nancy Beck, Aaron Gillison, Irvin Walker, and Kathleen Noe. Introducing the speakers will be Pam Leeper, Halee Howard and Jeff Slaga

Deadline for PDC registration was 11/4; should be receiving lists of names from training coordinators this week.

Social Committee – Mandy Illg

Connor Prairie Headless Horsemen event was cancelled due to lack of interest

Have been contacted by Carole Collins about partnering with ASMC social committee; Cindy Cox voiced concern about differentiating the AGA, since if events were the same, there would be less incentive to join AGA

Awards Committee – Shane Douglas

Planning also underway in association with the Awards Committee for the June Awards Banquet. Currently, the plan is to have an evening event at the Embassy Suites Downtown with a DJ. Members would be able to bring a guest. Rooms have been reserved for those who would like to spend the night with the cost being the government rate.

Meeting Arrangements – Tom Spahr

Primo's is closing. Last luncheon at that location will be in November. Looking for an alternate location for March and April luncheons.

Early Careers Committee – Jeff Fourman

Low turnout due to bad weather the morning of the event. So far, no new members from the event.

Planning for another supervisor job-shadow, as feedback has been overwhelmingly positive by both shadowers and shadowees

Programs Committee – Cindy Cox

November Luncheon Details: Rod Winn from OGC will be speaker. Someone at the head table will need to watch the time for the speaker, as last luncheon's speaker ran over. This will be the last luncheon offering a CPE.

Holiday Luncheon Details: The Lawrence Central Sound will be performing again this year at the Garrison. Cindy has a budget of \$300 for gift certificates. She will use her influence to ensure that the lead caroler is in attendance this year. Cindy also is planning a "Who's the King/Queen of X-mas" game.

CGFM Committee – Jayme VanHorn


CGFM Study Group will convene beginning November 13 and run through February 5 (due to breaks for the holidays). The focus of the group will start with Module 2.

Jayme VanHorn is running the group and will need a replacement for next year.

Community Service Committee – Fay Whitney

Thanks to Lori Tanaka, Mary Jevlev and Mary's husband for volunteering with the Bob Gregory's Coats for Kids Distribution on October 11th, 2008

(Continued on page 7)



The Deadline for Submitting Articles and Updates for the Next AGA Newsletter is:

December 31st

If you know someone who has recently been promoted, earned a degree, or a certification, please email DFAS-INAGA@dfas.mil so we may recognize their achievement.

CEC MINUTES (CONT).

(Continued from page 6)

Working with Indianapolis Public School #105 to adopt one or two families for our Annual Angel Tree Christmas Project

Planning to do Operation DVD again during January/February

Scheduling a food drive during March for Gleaners Food Bank

Wellness Committee – Charlie Pollis

Announcements/advertisements about the Wellness committee biggest loser winners: will be listed on the web site and will be passed out at Brown bag Luncheons

Healthy Recipe Cookbook – this AGA newsletter will solicit recipes, which will then be published in a newsletter the following month

Update on Walk in April – Fort Ben Park; working to partner/piggy back with InShape Indiana; Looking for donations

Citizen Centric Report Committee – Katie Crist

New committee members: Terri Droeger, Chris Peralta, Marie Gingras, Coralita Jones

Planning 1 report a month. First report for Lawrence ECD is the end of November. Looking for ideas for towns/cities to approach

Cindy Cox suggested finding connections to present the reports to when completed, such as the speaker from a previous luncheon who worked for Indianapolis

Membership Committee – Noah Sturgeon

DoDIG meeting – low participation in AGA due to differing priorities of leadership, who encourage membership in the AICPA; suggested getting someone involved in CEC who would encourage others to become involved

VITA Coordinator – Monica Hutton

VITA Recruitment Lunch & Learn will be in the center auditorium on December 2nd from 11:30-1:00

Training dates set for the end of January

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTES

Nothing to report

ADJOURN

The next CEC meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 3 from 7-8:00 a.m. in the S&C conference room (322P-1)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 a.m. ♦

Congratulations to the following AGA Member Anniversaries!

20 Year Members

Ms. Ruth A. Mather

Welcome to the new AGA members who have joined in November 2008!!

Mrs. Deborah S. Haines

Ms. Elaine S. Nesbit

AGA's
Seventh Annual
National
Leadership
Conference

February 19–20, 2009
Washington, D.C.

Inspiration Corner:

**Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree.
In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall.
~Larry Wilde, The Merry Book of Christmas**

December 2008

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

LOCAL AND NATIONAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Dec. 2nd: VITA lunch & learn (DFAS Center Auditorium; 11:30-1 pm) POC- Monica Hutton
- Dec. 3rd: CEC Meeting (DFAS Conference Room 322S; 7-8 am) POC - Melissa Jacobs
- Dec. 4, 11, & 18th: CGFM Study Group Module 2 begins (DFAS Training Rooms TBA; every Thursday, 5-6 pm) POC Jayme VanHorn
- Dec. 11th: AGA/ASMC Holiday Luncheon (Garrison; 11:30 am – 1 pm) POC-Tom Spahr
- Dec. 15th: CRP points due POC-Tina Hinze
- Dec. 25th: Christmas Day
- Jan. 27 & 28: VITA Training Days (DFAS Classroom Room D; 8am -4pm) POC Monica Hutton

	1	2 	3 	4 	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31			

VITA PREPARING FOR TAX SEASON

AGA is holding a recruiting event for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program on Tuesday, December 2nd, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the Center Auditorium.

Free lunch will be provided to those attending.

Kate McKnight, Senior Tax Specialist with the IRS, will be presenting details of the volunteer program. Volunteers typically assist low income residents of the community in preparing tax

forms, mid-January through April 15th.

Additional details about the VITA program are located at www.againdy.com or contact Monica Hutton at (317) 510-7855. or by email at monica.hutton@dfas.mil.



Indianapolis Chapter Directory

2008-2009 Officers, Board Members , & Committee Chairs

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
President	Edna Knight	2008-2009	317-510-6172	edna.knight@dfas.mil
President-Elect	VACANT	2008-2009		
Treasurer	Shane Douglas	2008-2009	317-510-1933	shane.douglas@dfas.mil
Secretary	Melissa Jacobs	2008-2009	317-510-4878	melissa.jacobs@dfas.mil
Previous President	Sally M. McManus	2008-2009	317-510-6751	sally.mcmanus@dfas.mil
3 Year Board Member	Forest "Bud" Klumph	2006-2009	317-510-3095	bud.klumph@dfas.mil
3 Year Board Member	Eric Reid	2006-2009	317-510-2223	eric.reid@dfas.mil
3 Year Board Member	Donna Cox	2007-2010	317-510-3022	donna.cox@dfas.mil
3 Year Board Member	Tony Hullinger	2007-2010	317-510-4618	anthony.hullinger@dfas.mil
3 Year Board Member	Sam Graham	2008-2011	317-510-1114	sam.graham@dfas.mil
3 Year Board Member	Edmie Castillo	2008-2011	317-510-6086	edmie.castillo@dfas.mil

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>CoChair</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Awards Committee	Edmie Castillo		317-510-6086	edmie.castillo@dfas.mil
CGFM Coordinator	Jayne VanHorn		317-510-3673	jayne.vanhorn@dfas.mil
Chapter Historian	Brooke Tabor		317-510-7708	brooke.tabor@dfas.mil
Chapter Photographer	Nestor Rivera		317-510-7134	nestor.rivera@dfas.mil
Chapter Recognition Coordinator	Tina Hinze		317-510-1719	tina.hinze@dfas.mil
Citizen Centric Reports	Katie Crist		317-510-2874	katie.crist@dfas.mil
Community Service Committee	Monica Norris	Fay Whitney	317-510-1519	monica.norris@dfas.mil
Early Careers	Brandi Hobson	Jeff Fourman	317-510-5065	brandi.hobson@dfas.mil
Education Committee	Dominick Thompson	Trinna Barker	317-510-1414	dominick.thompson@dfas.mil
Incentive Points	Tina Hinze		317-510-1719	tina.hinze@dfas.mil
Meeting Arrangements	Tom Spahr		317510-6773	thomas.spahr@dfas.mil
Membership Committee	Martha Welch		317-510-5468	martha.welch@dfas.mil
Newsletter Committee	Kim Mitzner	Dan Neumann	317-510-5025	kimberly.mitzner@dfas.mil
Program Committee	Cindy Cox		317-510-4469	cindy.cox@dfas.mil
Publicity	Mary JeleV		317-510-6604	mary.jelev@dfas.mil
Social	Brian Scheidler	Amanda Illg	317-510-4846	brian.scheidler@dfas.mil
VITA Coordinator	Monica Hutton	Justin Ware	317-510-7855	monica.hutton@dfas.mil
Website Administrator	Heather Crews		317-510-2319	heather.crews@dfas.mil
Wellness Committee	Brooke Moore		317-510-8667	brooke.moore@dfas.mil