



New Orleans Chapter  
*Le Journal de  
Nouvelle Orleans*

Volume 26 No. 7

[www.nfc.usda.gov/aga](http://www.nfc.usda.gov/aga)

March 2008

**OFFICERS**

**Clyde G. Mc Shan, II, CGFM, CIA**  
President  
[cmcshanii@aol.com](mailto:cmcshanii@aol.com)

**James J. Julian, CGFM**  
President -Elect  
[jamesjul@aol.com](mailto:jamesjul@aol.com)

**Jill Byrd, CGFM, CPA**  
Immediate Past President  
[jill.byrd@dcaa.mil](mailto:jill.byrd@dcaa.mil)

**Gary Millet, CGFM, CPA**  
Treasurer  
[gary.millet@usda.gov](mailto:gary.millet@usda.gov)

**Dawn B. Wagener, CGFM**  
Secretary/Historian  
[dawn\\_wag@yahoo.com](mailto:dawn_wag@yahoo.com)

**Fay Wilson, Warren Wilson, CGFM**  
Newsletter Co-Editors  
[fay.wilson@usda.gov](mailto:fay.wilson@usda.gov)  
[warren.wilson@usda.gov](mailto:warren.wilson@usda.gov)

**Marcie A. Tureaud, Lila Thompson**  
Education Co-Chairs  
[marcie.tureaud@usda.gov](mailto:marcie.tureaud@usda.gov)  
[lilat43@cox.net](mailto:lilat43@cox.net)

**Marcele Herringshaw, Ida Holmes**  
Meetings Co-chairs  
[marcele.herringsshaw@usda.gov](mailto:marcele.herringsshaw@usda.gov)  
[iholmes@stjohn.k12.la.us](mailto:iholmes@stjohn.k12.la.us)

**Juan Arriaga, CGFM**  
Programs  
[juan.arriaga@usda.gov](mailto:juan.arriaga@usda.gov)

**Godwin Ndukwe, MBA, CBM**  
Membership  
[godwinola@aol.com](mailto:godwinola@aol.com)

**Knica Lloyd, CPA**  
Publicity  
[klloyd@lla.state.la.us](mailto:klloyd@lla.state.la.us)

**Amanda Green, CGFM**  
Community Service  
[algreen@uno.edu](mailto:algreen@uno.edu)

**Pamela B. Lincoln, CGFM**  
Awards  
[pamela.lincoln@usda.gov](mailto:pamela.lincoln@usda.gov)

**Peggy Javery, CGFM, MPA**  
Regional Vice President  
Web Site Coordinator  
[peggy.javery@usda.gov](mailto:peggy.javery@usda.gov)

**Sheryl Davenport, CPA**  
CGFM Director  
[sheryl.davenport@usda.gov](mailto:sheryl.davenport@usda.gov)

*AGA serves government accountability professionals by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.*

AGA joint meeting with American Society of Women Accountants at Five Happiness Chinese Restaurant.

**Date:** Wednesday March 26, 2008

**Place:** Imperial Room 3511 S Carrollton (Five Happiness annex)

**Buffet:** Sweet and Sour Chicken; Mandarin Chicken; Shrimp with Honey Roasted Pecan; and more. Fortune and Almond cookies; soft drink or ice tea.

**Price:** \$18 members \$26 non members

**Time:** 5:30 Social 6:00 Dinner

**Deadline for RSVP:** Friday March 21

**Speakers:** Stan Smith, CFO of Orleans Parish School Board and Robert Fulton, CFO of Algiers Charter Schools Association will discuss Current Issues in School Finance

RSVP Marcelle Herringshaw 504 426-5114  
[marcele.herringshaw@usda.gov](mailto:marcele.herringshaw@usda.gov) . Please prepay to Gary Millet  
[gary.millet@usda.gov](mailto:gary.millet@usda.gov)\_504-426-0162

To mail a payment send to: AGA Attn: Gary Millet  
P.O. Box 29186  
New Orleans, LA 70189

**This presentation will qualify for one hour CPE.  
CPE credit forms can be obtained from the New Orleans Chapter  
website <http://sig.nfc.usda.gov/aga/index.html>**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I had the pleasure to attend the AGA Sixth Annual National Leadership Conference in February 2008. Jullin Renthrope, CGFM also attended. The two-day Conference provided presentations of interest to Federal, State, Local, and Private Sector attendees. Gene Dodaro, CGFM, provided the key-note address discussing "Creating Momentum in a Time of Transition." It is very likely that Gene will serve as the Acting Comptroller General of the United States now that David M. Walker is leaving Government. Gene underscored the need for us to build upon management reforms already in place and to highlight areas that need attention and improvement during the period of transition that will follow the next Presidential election.

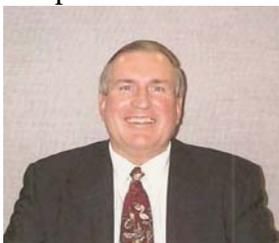
Another excellent session was a discussion of "Shared Services: What Should You Want? What Should You Expect" Presentations were made by Zack Gaddy, CGFM, Director, Defense Finance and Accounting Service and Douglas Bourgeois, Director, National Business Center, Department of Interior. The expansion of Shared Services is still an extremely important initiative of the Federal Government. In making a decision as to which service provider an agency should select, consideration should be given to internal controls, risk management, service level agreements, COOP, and costs. It is still my belief that most agencies will be moving to a shared services environment in the foreseeable future.

Jeffrey Davis, a Leadership Development consultant, discussed "Managing Multiple Generations at Work." He discussed the fact that four generations are active in today's workforce and that management must handle each differently. The Silent generation, called the Greatest Generation is made up of employees born before 1946. The Baby Boomers are still the largest segment of the workforce but they are the ones retiring in the greatest numbers. The Generation X-ers born in the 60's and 70's and the Generation Y-ers born in the 80's and early 90's are the fastest growing segment of the workforce. Members of the Silent Generation and the Boomers are motivated in a very different way than those of Generation X and Y. It is a management challenge to effectively tap into the strengths of each group to produce a more effective and pleasant work environment.

There were a total of twelve sessions, which presented a wide variety of interesting subjects. In addition, AGA recognized ten financial leaders by presenting them with individual awards for their achievements. Twenty-six exhibitors provided information about the services and products that they offer. Participants in the Conference were provided ample time to stop by the booths of the various exhibitors and to network with Conference participants. It is my view that the education provided through the various presentations and the information provided by the exhibitors is important to all attendees. Yet, it is my view, from the many conferences that I have attended through the years, that networking is the most valuable part of attending a program such as this. We not only learn through networking with others, but networking with senior leaders is the best way to advance your career.

I encourage all of you to attend AGA's Professional Development Conference and Exposition from July 27 through July 30, 2008 at the Marriott Atlanta Marquis in Atlanta, GA.

Clyde G. McShan, II  
Chapter President



**MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
AND NEWS**

Please share news about yourself or other AGA members. Contact Godwin Ndukwe at [godwinnola@aol.com](mailto:godwinnola@aol.com)

**AGA’S NEW ORLEANS CHAPTER MEETINGS (TENTATIVE)**  
**2007-2008**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>
March 26, 2008	5:30 P.M.	Five Happiness Restaurant 3605 S. Carrollton Ave. New Orleans, LA	Joint Meeting with American Society of Women Accountants
April 17, 2008	5:30 P.M.	Bull’s Corner 1036 W. Airline Hwy. LaPlace, LA	Joint Meeting with Baton Rouge AGA Chapter, Richard L. Fair, CGFM, State Auditor, State of New Jersey, AGA’s National President – AGA Update
May 30, 2008 (Final Date Depends on Team Schedule)	5:30 P.M.	Zephyr Stadium 6000 Airline Drive Metairie, LA	Chapter Awards Ceremony

**EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**

**AGA’S NEW ORLEANS CHAPTER EDUCATION EVENTS**  
**2007-2008**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>
May 7, 2008	1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M	National Finance Center 13.800 Old Gentilly Road New Orleans, La	Ethics
Spring, 2008	TBD	TBD	TBD

### 2008 PDC Hotel Now Accepting Reservations

It's time to look ahead to PDC 2008. Next year's conference will take place July 27 – 30 at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis.

The room rate is \$129 (plus tax). Rates are only guaranteed until July 6, 2008, *or until the block is sold out*. Reservations received after the block has been filled will be made on a space-available basis and may be subject to higher rates. We encourage you to make your reservations early for the best price and availability.

To make a reservation, please call the hotel at 888.829.1396 and mention you are attending the “AGA PDC” to receive the discounted rate. A credit card is required to guarantee the reservation. Or, for your convenience, [you may also reserve a room online](#).

### PDC 2008 Atlanta Update

This weekend the Atlanta area was hit by a series of severe storms which resulted in damage to the downtown convention corridor, including the Omni Hotel at CNN Center, the George World Congress Center, Centennial Olympic Park and the Georgia Dome. **AGA's PDC hotel, the Atlanta Marriott Marquis, was not damaged.** Downtown attractions were also not affected. The Georgia Aquarium, New World of Coca-Cola and Imagine It! The Children's Museum of Atlanta are all open for business. AGA expresses its sincere condolences to the people of Atlanta and the state of Georgia. As Georgia copes with this tragedy and assesses the damage left behind, please be assured that our sympathy, thoughts and prayers are with you.

### It's Renewal Time!

Annual membership and CGFM renewal packets should be arriving in mailboxes shortly. Members don't have to wait that long, though. You can renew online today. Please encourage your chapter members to use this quick and easy renewal method.

How to Renew Online: Access the AGA website and click on ‘Members Only’ on the left palette. Login using your membership ID number and password (your first initial followed by your last name—no spaces), click on the gray ‘billing’ button above your name. All you have to do is input your credit card information and hit ‘submit.’ The transaction will automatically process via our secure server and the renewal information will be automatically updated in AGA's in-house membership system. While you are logged into the Members Only section, be sure to take a look at your contact information and make any updates as necessary (especially your e-mail address).

### CGFM Exam Update

AGA is in the process of updating the three CGFM Examinations. The updated CGFM Examinations will be offered for the first time at the Intensive Review Course/CGFM Examinations event to take place before the Professional Development Conference & Exposition in Atlanta on July 24 – 27, 2008. The updated examinations will be available in Prometric testing centers beginning on Aug. 15, 2008. See CGFM Examinations Update page for more information.

**AGA Habitat for Humanities Project  
“Rebuild New Orleans”  
April 28 – May 2, 2008**

The following article, which appeared in AGA “Topics”, refers to the 2008 Habitat for Humanity Project that will take place April 28 – May 2, 2008 in New Orleans. National AGA volunteers from around the country will be in town to help with New Orleans rebuilding effort.

The New Orleans Chapter is asking for volunteers to help them help us. Last year, local AGA members participated by providing help with the projects, donating lunches, delivering lunches to the workers and participating in after hour events and entertainment. If you would be interested in participating in this years event, contact Peggy Javery (mailto:peggy.javery@usda.gov) 504-426-5267 prior to April 16, 2008.

**Community Service, Leadership and Music: 2008 New Orleans Habitat for Humanity Trip**

By Jeffrey S. Hart, CGFM, CFE, Immediate Past AGA National President



What do these three things have to do with each other-- *Community Service, Leadership, and Music*? Well, three exciting things are going on in New Orleans between April 25th and May 4<sup>th</sup>. First, I will be leading a group of AGA members, family, and friends on our second national community service project in New Orleans April 28-May 2. Second, AGA Sectional Leadership Meeting (SLM) for selected AGA chapter and other leaders will be held May 2-3. And third, the New Orleans Jazz Festival is being held the weekend before and after our community service project (actually, for 3 days before our work project, and for 4 days at the end). So, you have a few reasons to come to New

Orleans that week!

Regarding our community service project, what are we going to do exactly? Last year we did everything from installing floor joists, siding, soffits and fascia (exterior trim), interior molding, kitchen and bath cabinets, doors and door hardware, and address numbers. We painted and scraped. Two volunteers spent a day playing with and reading to elementary school students whose parents are stressed and overworked as they recover from Katrina. For me, it was of the best vacations I have ever had. It was so uplifting to be working with my own hands, alongside like-minded people, knowing that we were making a difference with every hour we spent there.

We also had plenty of time to go to a ballgame, check out the casino, and visit some of the best restaurants and music haunts in the city fabled for its food and music.

In the end, nine people volunteered from around the country last year including Past National President Charles Harrison, CGFM, and his lovely wife Janice from Nashville; Raul Fierros of San Bernadino, CA; Regional Vice President Karl Boettcher, CGFM, Delores Kendrick-Foster, and Mack Foster, CGFM, all of Washington, D.C.; Randall Mahaffey of Dallas, TX; and George Zepernick and myself of Denver.

Members of the New Orleans chapter also joined us at the work site including Past National President Clyde McShan, CGFM, Regional Vice President Peggy Javery, CGFM, Pam Lincoln, CGFM, Knica Lloyd, Faye Martin, Gary Millet, CGFM, Lila Thompson and Marcie Tureaud. Other volunteers from the USDA National Finance Center included Deidre Charlot and Lisa Stafford.

Delores said, in an article she wrote about the experience, that, “Not only were the residents of New Orleans grateful, but some of our AGA volunteers shared why they chose to answer the call for help. Mack shared that he came because of a sense of service, Delores came because she wanted to give back, and Charles said that ‘as his life is blessed, he wants to bless others.’” AGA volunteer Raul Fierros of our chapter near San Bernadino, CA, also made a beautiful video of our experience last year, and a truly inspirational account of why AGA members came, and what they got out of the experience. If you’d like a copy of Raul’s wonderful DVD, please contact him at [rfierros@dph.sbcounty.gov](mailto:rfierros@dph.sbcounty.gov).

As last year, anyone can volunteer for any period of time, or for any kind of task (e.g., construction or administrative tasks) they are able to, and everyone is responsible for their own accommodations and expenses.



Here’s the schedule:

April 25-27: New Orleans Jazz Festival

April 28: AGA volunteers may work in St. Bernard Parish (suburban NO)

April 29-May 2: AGA volunteers may work in New Orleans for Habitat for Humanity (probably in Musicians’ Village in the upper 9th Ward again)

May 2 & 3: Select AGA volunteer leaders attend SLM in New Orleans (by invitation only)

May 2-4: New Orleans Jazz Festival

The first New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival was held in April 1970. Over the years, Jazz Fest has received many honors, including being named the Festival of the Year four times by *Pollstar* magazine. The 2008 event marks the 39th anniversary of Jazz Fest, which the *Wall Street Journal* says “showcases a wider, deeper lineup of essential American musical styles than any festival in the nation...” and which *Life* magazine has called “the country’s very best music festival.”

The artists performing this year include The Neville Brothers, Stevie Wonder, Billy Joel, Jimmy Buffett, Tim McGraw, Santana, Maze feat. Frankie Beverly, Sheryl Crow, Widespread Panic, Dr. John, Al Green, Diana Krall, Keyshia Cole, Robert Plant and Alison Krauss, The Raconteurs, Irma Thomas and many more.

Find all the other details including travel discounts, ticket prices, performing schedules, and anything else you'd want to know at <http://www.nojazzfest.com/>

I'm looking forward to being with you all again this coming year! I hope you can make it, and bring some other friends and family along with you

I hope you will pencil in these dates on your calendar and join us for all the fun!

## IRS INFO

### Deducting Costs of Refinancing Your Home

Taxpayers who refinanced their homes may be eligible to deduct some costs associated with their loans.

The term "points" is used to describe certain charges paid to obtain a home mortgage.

Here are some things to remember when deducting points:

- Taxpayers who itemize deductions generally may be able to deduct the points paid to obtain a home mortgage as mortgage interest
- Points paid solely to refinance a home mortgage usually must be deducted over the life of the loan
- Points can be fully deducted in the year paid if certain tests are met

For a refinanced mortgage, the interest deduction for points is determined by dividing the points paid by the number of payments to be made over the life of the loan. This information is usually available from lenders. Taxpayers may deduct points only for those payments made in the tax year.

However, if part of the refinanced mortgage money was used to finance improvements to the home and if the taxpayer meets certain other requirements, the points associated with the home improvements may be fully deductible in the year the points were paid. Also, if a homeowner is refinancing a mortgage for a second time, the balance of points paid for the first refinanced mortgage may be fully deductible in the year it is paid off.

Other closing costs – such as appraisal fees and other non-interest fees – generally are not deductible. Additionally, the amount of Adjusted Gross Income can affect the amount of deductions that can be taken. For more information on deductions related to refinancing, visit [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) for Tax Topics 504, Home Mortgage Points, and 505, Interest Expenses. You may also review IRS Publication 936, Home Mortgage Interest Deduction, available at [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

Remember that for the genuine IRS Web site be sure to use [.gov](http://www.irs.gov). Don't be confused by internet sites that end in [.com](http://www.com), [.net](http://www.net), [.org](http://www.org) or other designations instead of [.gov](http://www.gov). The address of the official IRS governmental Web site is [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

#### Links:

- Tax Topic 504 — Home Mortgage Points
- Tax Topic 505 — Interest Expenses
- Publication 936, Home Mortgage Interest Deduction (PDF 130K)
- Publication 523, Selling Your Home (PDF 194K)
- Publication 527, Residential Rental Property (PDF 187K)
- Publication 530, Tax Information for First-Time Homeowners (PDF 120K)

**ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS**

**STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS**

February 29, 2008

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES**

For 7 months ended February 29, 2008

**ASSETS**

**CURRENT ASSETS:**

Cash	\$ 390.97
Savings	6,639.05
Accounts Receivable	710.00
Deposit – Restaurants	.00
Prepaid Seminar Expenses	448.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$8,187.92</u></b>

**OPERATING REVENUES**

Education/Training	\$ 710.00
Business Meetings	3,176.50
50/50 Raffle	105.00
Membership Dues	455.00
Christmas Party	225.00
Interest Income	81.65
<b>Total operating revenue</b>	<b><u>\$4,753.15</u></b>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

Accounts Payable	<u>\$ 65.18</u>
<b>NET ASSETS:</b>	
Hurricane Relief Fund	\$2,898.00
Membership Recruitment	300.00
Habitat Project Funds	243.47
Unrestricted net assets	<u>4,681.27</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$8,187.92</u></b>

**OPERATING EXPENSES**

Education/Training	\$448.00
Business Meetings	3,357.52
Speakers Gifts	.00
AGA PDC Raffle Basket	00
50/50 Raffle	53.00
Postage/Supplies/Gifts	72.00
Bank Charges	.00
Scholarship Winner	.00
Christmas Party	1,939.34
Officer Awards	<u>.00</u>

**Katrina Relief Fund (Details)**

Donations Received	+\$10,661.50
Member Dues Rebate	4,638.50
Members Meeting Subsidy	2,140.00
Audio Conf. Subsidy	435.00
April Spring Seminar	875.00

**Total operating expenses** \$5,869.86

**OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)** \$(1,116.71)

**NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)** .00

**INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE CONTRIBUTIONS** \$(1,116.71)

**CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS** (26.00)

National Office Donation +325.00

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS** \$(1,090.71)

**NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD** \$5,771.98

Remaining Balance \$2,898.00

**NET ASSETS AT END OF PERIOD** \$4,681.27

## RECOGNITION POINTS

Recognition Categories	Max Credits Per Category	Credits Through Jan 2008
Communications	3,000	
Membership	3,000	
Community Service	2,000	
Awards	1,000	
Chapter Leadership, Planning and Participation	3,000	
Education & Professional Development	4,000	
Certification	4,000	
Total	20,000	

(Not available at this time)



*P.O. Box 29186  
New Orleans, LA 70189-0186*

Please contact Godwin Ndukwe [godwinnola@aol.com](mailto:godwinnola@aol.com) with any e-mail address corrections.



*Association of Government Accountants  
New Orleans Chapter*

**“Breaking Down the Barriers to the Future of the Gulf Coast Region”**

April 30, 2008  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
315 Julia Street  
New Orleans, LA

7:30 a.m.	Registration and Continental Breakfast		
8:30 a.m.	Welcome – Clyde McShan II, President, AGA		
8:45 a.m.	Invocation – Ronald Tamborella		
8:50 a.m.	Introduction of Plenary Speaker – Peggy Javery		
9:00 a.m.	Opening Remarks <b>State of Louisiana</b> Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu (Invited)		
9:15 a.m.	<b>Recovery and Contingency Planning</b> U.S. Coast Guard		
9:45 a.m.	<b>Break</b>		
10:00 a.m.	<b>Accountability Challenges Facing Taxpayers</b>  Jim Letten, United States Attorney, Eastern District of Louisiana Robert A. Cerasoli, Inspector General of the City of New Orleans Jim Bernazzani, Special Agent in Charge, FBI, New Orleans Division		
11:00 a.m.	<b>Linking Continuous Improvement to CPE</b> William Moorehead, Dean of College of Business, Delta State University Jean Meyer, Professor, Loyola University (Invited) Bobby Derrick, AGA National Past President		
11:45	<b>Practical Approach to Team Building</b> Jeff Hart, AGA National Past President and Project Leader, National Community Service		
Noon	<b>Lunch</b>		
1:30 p.m.	<b>Managing Technology Risk and Personal Identifiable Information (PII)</b> Talbot Brooks, Director of Interdisciplinary Center for GeoSpatial Information Technology Mark S. Lewis, President of Louisiana Technology Council		
2:20 p.m.	<b>Break</b>		

*Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Credit – 7 Hours*

2:40 p.m.	<b>Frontier Innovation on Public Action</b> Jim Luke, Chief of Police, Picayune, Mississippi Dr. Ed Blakely, Executive Director Recovery Management of the City of New Orleans (Invited)		
3:15 p.m.	<b>Investments and U</b> Aldin Hagardorn, Financial Advisor of Edwards Jones Investment Co.		
4:30 p.m.	<b>Closing Remarks</b>		

\$149 – AGA Members  
 \$159 – Non – Members

OCFO employees located at NFC, please submit authorized SF-182's or checks made payable to AGA by April 25, 2008. Individuals not located at NFC, please submit authorized training form, SF-182's with accounting code or checks payable to AGA by April 25, 2007. Send training documents or checks to:

AGA  
 P.O. Box 29186  
 New Orleans, LA 70189-0186

For additional information, contact: Marcie Tureaud at (504) 426-5367 or [marcie.tureaud@usda.gov](mailto:marcie.tureaud@usda.gov), or Gary Millet at (504) 426-0162 or [gary.millet@usda.gov](mailto:gary.millet@usda.gov) .