

# The Roanoke Ledger

## Roanoke Chapter

### Website Address:

[www.agaroanoke.org](http://www.agaroanoke.org)

### President:

**Lisa Wensil**

### President-Elect:

**Lal Harter**

### Secretary:

**Sarah Fink**

### Treasurer:

**Patty Belcher**

### Newsletter Editor

**Deanna Cox**

## President's Message

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer. Vacations to the beach....backyard cook-outs.....baseball....trips to Bourbon Street in New Orleans (more on that later in the newsletter) and our August Conference on the 27th at the Roanoke Higher Education Center.

We have some excellent speakers lined up this year. Bruce Chase from Radford University will be presenting GASB 54 and following him will be Thomas Wellman from the Library of Virginia. After lunch, Brooke Bredel from the VA Treasury, Unclaimed Property Department will show us how to not "Miss out on Missing Money". Another hot topic, we will be covering this year is "Emergency Preparedness" presented by Susan Austin, Director of Emergency Services at Mount Rogers. Elizabeth Jamison, Director, of the MBA program at RU will present the closing session entitled, "Managing in Tough Economic Times". Please plan to attend, registration forms have already been sent out via email with the agenda and payment information. If you have not received yours,

please contact me or one of the other officers and we will see that you are added to the mailing list. We look forward to seeing you there.



We have an active and growing chapter. During the National PDC, our chapter was presented with a chapter recognition award. **Way to go everyone!!**

Our monthly meetings will continue in September, I will send out the details when we have confirmed a date and location. I encourage everyone to attend and get involved with our chapter. If you have a particular central location that you would like to suggest, let us know. Dinner is provided. So bring a co-worker and enjoy.

Welcome to our new members!!! Hope to meet you in Roanoke on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Lisa Wensil, CGFM  
Chapter President

### JOKES OF THE MONTH

When do accountants laugh out loud?

When someone asks for a raise.

What do you call an accountant without a spreadsheet?

Lost

Why do accountants get excited about Saturdays?

They get to dress casually for work.

# Roanoke Chapter News

## Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings are held the third Thursday of each month. Meeting locations will be announced a few days prior to each meeting. As member participation increases, the meeting locations and dates will be rotated in an effort to give all members a chance to attend and become involved in the Chapter.

The Roanoke Chapter will hold its next meeting in September at 5:45pm at the Mt Rogers Community Services Board in Wytheville. All members are encouraged to attend. Guests are always welcome.

If you need more information, please call Lisa Wensil at [lisa.wensil@swvwc.dmhmrsva.gov](mailto:lisa.wensil@swvwc.dmhmrsva.gov)

## Committee Chairs

Membership - Open  
Education - Open  
Comm. Service - Open  
Newsletter - Deanna Cox  
Early Careers - Open  
Webmaster - Billy Gardner  
CGFM - Linda Woody/Patty Belcher  
Historian - Frances Vaught

## WELCOME!

Please welcome new members **Darrell Jones** and **Richard Stanfield**, both with Henry County to the Roanoke Chapter of the AGA!

# Other AGA Information

## MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL NEWS

The Roanoke Chapter is part of the Mid-Atlantic Region. Visit the Mid-Atlantic website at [www.geocities.com/agamidatlantic](http://www.geocities.com/agamidatlantic) for up-to-date information on the Mid-Atlantic leadership.

## NATIONAL NEWS

For National news, please visit the AGA's website at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org).

## CPE OPPORTUNITIES

Roanoke AGA Professional Development Workshop: August 27, 2009 at the Roanoke Higher Ed Center. Call or email Lisa for further information.

Information regarding these conferences may be obtained at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org).

CPE hours may also be earned by taking a quiz online on each *Journal of Government Financial Management*. CPE certificates are printed immediately upon completion.

## MEMBER INFORMATION ONLINE

Update your personal information online. Just go to [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org) to the "Member Information" Section.

Renew your membership for 2009-2010 by logging onto the AGA website under Member Services.

To join the AGA, obtain an application on the above website.



## CGFM INFORMATION

All members are encouraged to become CGFM's. Information about how you can become a CGFM is on the AGA's website.

The Roanoke Chapter has purchased study guides that may be checked out by Chapter members for use in studying for the CGFM exam.

“Laissez les bon temps rouler!!!!” ..... “Let the good times roll!!”

Greetings everyone,

That was the unofficial theme for the 2009 PDC held in the “Big Easy” New Orleans. I was able to attend this year’s conference and it was a really great experience. Despite the record breaking heat wave and extreme humidity, the speaker’s presentations, the exhibitors and the just for fun social activities could not have been better.

I knew we were in for a hot time in New Orleans when the temperature reached 101° degrees before we hit Atlanta. Yes, guys I drove 12 hours. Call me crazy. The temperature on Saturday in New Orleans had been a balmy 104°. Did you get to see the segment on the national news and the weather channel of the streets actually breaking up under the pressure? Dusty (my Yorkie) attended as well. Twelve hours on the road, the heat, and various episodes along the way, explains why the parking attendant at the Sheraton labeled me the lady with the psycho Yorkie. After he revived in a very lovely cool air conditioned room overlooking the river, he really enjoyed the trip. Several of the restaurants, especially in the French Quarter, really catered to him. He became friends with one of the local trumpet jazz musicians whose venue was a riverfront park bench. Dusty’s favorite destination by the way at least 5 times a day; home also to the Natchez steamboat; which was the site for one of social networking hosted events. Social networking.....really a mini Mardi Gras party complete with a parade of conference attendees, jazz and marching bands, and let’s just say—other characters; right down Canal Street and onto the boat.

I hope you were following the daily blogs on the AGA website. They posted lots of photos and very precise summaries of the daily presentations. I can not begin to describe in this newsletter, all the speakers and information that they shared. Please log on and read the summaries. I will point out a couple that you will definitely want to read for yourself. Go to the AGA Blog site and click on the June 2009 archive. Well worth the read. The PowerPoint presentations can be accessed at:

[www.agacgm.org/pdc2009/presentations.htm](http://www.agacgm.org/pdc2009/presentations.htm).

The focus for the conference seemed to be on the Recovery Act and the Proposed Government Information Transparency Act...as topics these will concern all Americans for years to come. The tone was sobering to say the least. To actually be there in person to see and hear presentations from some of our nation’s top leaders and experts on government accountability was an experience I will never forget.

Another very sobering presenter was General Russel Honoré, Commander of Joint Task Force Katrina and a current CNN contributor. As you drive into New Orleans, you can not help but see the staggering amount of destruction from which the city is still reeling. “Entire family histories in New Orleans and Mississippi were lost when that storm came ashore,” he said. He could not stress enough the need to “Be Prepared”. On our journey home, we decided to take the scenic Gulf front route through Mississippi and stop and eat at a restaurant near Biloxi that we had stopped at years ago. That restaurant and the surrounding area is no more. All that we found were broken foundations of what was. Four years later and the reconstruction is still a long way from completion.

On a much lighter note, I found Alison Levine the most motivating speaker I have ever heard. The presentation was entitled, “Oxygen Not Included”. As the first woman to lead a team on an Everest Expedition, she used mountain climbing as a metaphor for how organizations should operate. I can not begin to describe her. She was so high energy and I know this will sound blasé, but she just really seemed high on life. If you don’t read but one segment; READ HERS!!! I came away believing I could climb mountains, too.

