

# The Roanoke Ledger

AUGUST-OCTOBER 2011

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## Roanoke Chapter

### Website Address:

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

### President:

Lal Harter

### President-Elect:

Valerie Tweedie

### Secretary:

Patricia Bidanset

### Treasurer:

Patty Belcher

### Newsletter Editor

Deanna Cox

## President's Message



### HAPPY FALL!!!

The hot dry summer has given way to the cooler temperatures of fall, and I welcome it. The fall also brings our semi-annual professional development workshop, which was a grand success. We had a wonderful program with exceptional speakers and I am grateful that it turned out so well.

Ed Mazur, Senior Advisor for Public Sector Services, Clifton Gunderson, provided an eye opening presentation on *Intergovernmental Financial Dependency*. As keynote speaker he highlighted the risks that all local governments should be aware of, but most are not. Presentations such as this, by current and former members of promulgating bodies (Ed served on GASB for about a decade) provide a great opportunity to clarify and enhance one's understanding of government accountability.

Marcia Buchanan, Assistant Director, Government Auditing Standards, GAO, provided a yellow book update. It's nice to have available the principal author of the auditor's rule book to provide a personal briefing of the changes. Heads up chapter members, please be aware that there have been significant changes in the area of auditor independence. The updated yellow book is now available on GAO's website at: [www.gao.gov/yellowbook](http://www.gao.gov/yellowbook). A word of caution; it's not complete. GAO is waiting on the Auditing Standards Board (ASB) to complete their revision of SAS 87.

Bobby Derrick, 35 year veteran of the federal government and former AGA National President, gave an entertaining presentation on ethics. That's right; entertaining and ethics in the same sentence (who'd have thought?). I found Bobby's presentation to be enjoyable, dynamic, and thought provoking. If you ever get the opportunity to listen to him speak, do it. He's full of personality and peppers his presentations with music, cartoons, and film segments. There is never a dull moment.

Kathy Reynolds, DTM and Division Governor of Toastmasters, gave an exceptional presentation on the art of public speaking. For those in need of assistance, like me, she did a wonderful job of not just covering the basics, but providing the speaking tools for success. Remember, you should feel it vibrate! (If you don't know what to think of this, you're not alone, neither did Chris, our final speaker. His introduction included a "feel it vibrate" reference and his expression of shock was priceless). To explain; according to Kathy when you project your voice your face should vibrate.

Chris Banta, CPA, CFE, with Brown Edwards and Company, gave an informative presentation on Fraud and Internal Controls. I'm generally a little wary of fast-talking, self-proclaimed "Jersey boy(s)", but it didn't take me long to settle in and appreciate his fact based presentation and honest straight-forward style. It's evident that he's been in the Commonwealth for some time now, as our southern sensibilities have clearly rubbed off on him.

## President's Letter (Continued)

We were also joined by Mark Morehouse, AGA mid-Atlantic Regional Vice-President (RVP) elect, who spoke briefly on citizen centric reporting. I for one will make a concerted effort to produce such a report and challenge other member finance personnel to do the same. The participation of regional and national leadership is always welcome and greatly appreciated.

In the five years I've been attending these fall workshops, I consider this to have been one of our best. If you wish to see some of what was presented, please visit [http://www.agaroonoke.org/pb/wp\\_1ad5d5a5.html?0.026857186075167516](http://www.agaroonoke.org/pb/wp_1ad5d5a5.html?0.026857186075167516) for copies of the presentations. We were fortunate to have had such great speakers volunteer their time and effort for the advancement and continuing education of our members and guests. It's the selfless sharing of coveted knowledge and experience that, to me, demonstrates service. When I grow up, I want to be just like these guys.

It's unfortunate that Brenda Flora, former chapter President, was not able to participate to the extent she has in the past. I'd like to thank Brenda for her generous service and wish her the best going forward. Her hard work helped make this event possible and her efforts are appreciated. She'll always have friends here and her presence and participation will truly be missed.

On a different note, I'd like to extend my congratulations to Valerie Tweedie as the new Roanoke Chapter President-Elect. Valerie's commitment to service is appreciated and we look forward to her term as President in 2013. Thank you to all Chapter Officers, and committee chairs for their significant contributions. We have a great group of professionals and members should know their contributions benefit not only us, but our communities.

Now that our fall professional development workshop is behind us, we must now turn our attention to our community service goals and projects. This is a great time for members to present their favorite charity to the Chapter for consideration. Over the past year, we were able to help homeless school children in Pulaski, Montgomery, and Roanoke Counties, and provided additional assistance to others in our communities. Please help your Chapter help your community; get involved.

If you would like more information on how you can get involved, email me or any of the chapter officers.

See you at the next meeting,



Lal Harter  
Roanoke Chapter President

## COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUEST

Please remember to notify someone in the Chapter if you or your place of business participate in a community service project. The Roanoke Chapter of the AGA will receive credit for chapter recognition points for community service that members participate in either individually or as a part of their place of work.



# Roanoke Chapter News

## Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings are generally 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 November 10, 2011 in Christiansburg at 6:00pm, location to be announced. All members are encouraged to attend. Guests are always welcome.

If you need more information, please contact Lal Harter at [lharter@pcva.us](mailto:lharter@pcva.us).

## **Welcome!**

To the following individuals who are new to the Roanoke Chapter of the AGA whom we have not recognized previously:

Marc Evans, Town of Christiansburg  
 Matt Hornby, Brown Edwards  
 Eric Thornton, Roanoke City Public Schools  
 Samantha Bailey, Adam Johnson and Diana Booth, of RFC

## 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.

### 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 2011-2012 by logging onto the AGA website under Member Services.

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

### NATIONAL NEWS

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



### CPE OPPORTUNITIES

AGA's National Performance Management Conference, November 3-4, 2011, Seattle, Washington

Government Finance Case Challenge, February 16-17, 2012, Washington, DC

National PDC, July 29-August 1, 2012, San Diego, CA (Mark your calendars NOW!)

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

### 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.