

June 14, 2011

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Executive Director, Association of Government Accountants  
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Attached is the submission of the Philadelphia Chapter's History Report  
for the 2010-2011 Activity Year.

Sincerely,

Arthur Ruggia  
Chapter President

Copy furnished:  
Jennifer Varvel, Immediate Past President

## PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER HISTORY REPORT

MAY 1, 2010 TO APRIL 30, 2011

### I. Chapter Officers and Committee Directors

#### A. Officers

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
President	Jennifer Varvel	US Department of Labor
Vice President	Arthur Ruggia	Defense Contract Audit Agency
Treasurer	Rosemarie Maribello	Treasury (Retired)
Secretary	Janet Cucunato	US Department of Labor

#### B. Committee Directors

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Bylaws & Procedures	Jeffrey Nekrasz	US Department of Education
Communications	Bob Peterson	Defense Contract Audit Agency
Public Service	Lisa Ferraro	US Health and Human Services
Research	Paul Sager	City of Philadelphia
Education	Paul Teti	US Health and Human Services
Past President	Teri Lewis	US Department of Education
Membership	Cara Lindsey	City of Philadelphia
Prof. Certification	Paul Teti	US Health and Human Services
Awards	David Berman	IRS (Retired)
Recognition	Daria Arnold	US Environmental Protection Agency
Historian	Charles Hoeger	Department of Defense (Retired)

## **II. Chapter Meetings and Educational Events**

The Philadelphia Chapter continued to maintain a vigorous educational program for members during the year. Chapter luncheon meetings were held monthly, typically on the third Wednesday of the month from September through November and from January through April at Maggiano's Restaurant, located at 12<sup>th</sup> and Filbert Streets in downtown Philadelphia. The Chapter subsidized part of the luncheon costs. No regular meetings were held during December and May when major educational events were scheduled. Chapter officers and committee directors met before each luncheon meeting and necessary business was discussed and decided. Invited speakers presented topics of interest and one hour of continuing professional education (CPE) was offered at the luncheon meetings. Sponsored audio conferences throughout the year and the annual tax seminar were free to AGA members. The Chapter is an authorized provider of CPE by the State Boards of Accountancy for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State of New Jersey.

In May, our program year began with an all day Professional Development Conference held at the Renaissance Hotel near the Philadelphia Airport. Also during this conference, Chapter members voted for officers for the next year. In December, the Chapter held an all-day income tax seminar primarily addressing federal tax issues. During the year the Chapter also hosted audio conferences on various topics, co-sponsored by the national organization. During the program year, 31 hours of continuing professional education credits were available to members. In recognition of the significant educational and other activities, the Chapter was awarded an AGA Platinum Level Recognition Award.

### III Professional Development Conference

Our 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual PD was held on Friday May 7, 2010. Sixteen workshops in the categories of Accounting and Auditing, Taxation and Professional Development were held for the 208 members and other participants attending. The following workshops were offered:

- The Auditors Role in Federal Prosecution  
Speakers: John Pease, Assistant US Attorney and Dennis Zawacki, Auditor, US Attorneys Office, Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- Computer Application Systems and Conversion Auditing  
Speaker: John Covone, CISA, MBA, Chief Information Technology and Audit, Defense Contract Audit Agency
- Tax Issues on Net Operating Losses; COBRA Subsidy Provisions of 2009 and 2010 Legislation; IRS Tax Return Preparer Initiative (offered twice).  
Speakers: Richard Furlong, Jr. William Mealy and Stephen Connor, IRS Stakeholder Liaison, Small Business/Self-Employed Division
- New Auditing Standards, Accounting Standards Board Statements 104-112 and GAO Yellow Book  
Speaker: Vincent Gallo, CGFM, Financial Analyst, US Environmental Protection Agency
- Practical Approaches to Improve Organizational Skills and Setting Priorities (offered twice).  
Speaker: Jeffrey Cohen, CPA
- Examination of Returns, Appeal Rights and Claims for Refunds  
Speaker: Alfio Brindisi, CPA, Brindisi Tax Academy
- Basic Concepts of Indirect Costs under OMB Circular  
Speaker: Stephen Cosminski, CPA Cost Negotiator US Department of Labor

- Contract Fraud and the Auditor/Accountant's Role in Fraud Prevention and Detection (offered twice)  
Speaker: Joseph D'Orsaneo, Special Agent, US Army Criminal Investigation Command
- Outlook for the US Economy and Challenges for Monetary and Fiscal Policy Makers  
Speaker: Herbert Taylor, PhD, Vice President and Corporate Secretary, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia
- Independent Contractor vs. Employee Classifications  
Speakers: Alfio Brindisi, CPA, Brindisi Tax Academy
- Money Laundering and the Federal Cash Smuggling Act  
Speaker: Karl Dahlberg, CFE, CISA, CPA, Professor, Rutgers University
- Global GAAP and Fair Value Accounting  
Speaker: Roy DeStephanis, CPA, MBA, CVA, The FACET Alternative
- Deception and Liars and How to Spot Them: Body Language, Tells, Emotions and Verbal Indicators  
Speaker: Dr. John J. Malarkey III, Professor, Wilmington University

#### IV Luncheon Meetings

- September 15,2010  
Topic: Use of the Social Sciences in Planning and Carrying out the Audit Function  
Speaker: Marc Wallace, PhD, Executive Assistant, Medicaid Fraud Division, New Jersey Office of the State Controller

- October 13, 2010  
 Topic: Auditing Entities' Business Continuity Planning Process  
 Speaker: Paul Sager, CGFM, Continuity of Operations Program Manager, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety, City of Philadelphia
- November 17,2010  
 Topic: Contract Fraud, Federal Statues and Penalties for Violations  
 Speaker: Joseph D'Orsaneo, Special Agent, US Army Criminal Investigation Command
- January 19,2011  
 Topics: How to Implement the Assessment of Internal Controls under OMB Circular A-123  
 Speakers: Mary Braun, CPA, MBA, Instructor, Management Concepts Inc.
- February 16,2011  
 Topic: Changes in the 2011 Tax Filing Season  
 Speaker: Richard Furlong, Jr., IRS Stakeholder Liaison, Small Business/Self-Employed Division
- March 16,2011  
 Topic: The Cooperative Audit Resolution and Oversight Initiative  
 Speaker: Richard Rasa, Director, State and Local Advisory and Assistance Services, Inspector General, US Department of Education
- April 20,2011  
 Topic: Challenges in Fostering Integrity in City Government  
 Speaker: Joan Markman, Chief Integrity Officer, City of Philadelphia

## **V Chapter Tax Seminar December 10, 2010**

Attendance: 77, 8 CPE Hours

Speakers: William Mealy, Stephen Connor and Richard Furlong, Stakeholder Liaison, Small Business/Self-Employment Division, Internal Revenue Service

Topics: Federal Tax Emerging Issues and the IRS Tax Return Preparer Registration Program and Foreign Bank Account Reporting Requirements

Speaker: Joan Trump, CPA

Topic: Tax Update from a Practitioners Point of View

## **VI Audio Conferences**

The Philadelphia Chapter participated in three audio conferences presented by the AGA National Office during the period. Each conference offered two hours of continuing professional education credits.

- October 20,2010 ~ Was It Fraud or Just Poor Audit Quality
- March 9, 2011 ~ Planning, Conducting and Reporting Audit Work More Efficiently
- March 23, 2011 ~ Improved Performance Reporting

## VII Other Activities

The Chapter held 50/50 drawings at our monthly meetings during the year and at our tax seminar. Proceeds were contributed to the US Marine Corps Toys for Tots program and to Aid for Friends, an organization servicing isolated shut-ins in the five county greater Philadelphia area, with free home-cooked meals, delivered by volunteer visitors. A contribution was also made to the American Cancer Society.

Each year, at the Professional Development Conference, a \$1,500 scholarship is Awarded to a student nominated by a chapter member. Applicants are required to maintain a high grade average, participate in community service activities and prepare an essay on the benefits of a public service career. This year's recipient was Stephanie Maguire.

We also presented the following Chapter Awards:

- Past President Award to Danielle Brown-Buzon
- The Outstanding Member Award to Joan Trump in recognition of her support of the Chapter's educational activities
- The Meritorious Service Award to Lisa Ferraro for her long-time support and dedication to our chapter
- Speaker Awards were given to IRS Representatives Richard Furlong, Stephen Connor and William Mealy
- Certificates of Recognition were given to Bernard Tymes and Vincent Gallo for attending the most Chapter Educational events.