



Advancing Government Accountability

THE AGA LEDGER

A Publication of the Association of Government Accountants
Ozarks Chapter, Springfield, Missouri
www.ozarksaga.org

Aug 1, 2006

Volume 2, Number 6

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Jerry Mitchell, CPA
jmitchell@ci.springfield.mo.us
864-1325
864-2065 (fax)

President Elect and Education Director

Position Open

Secretary

Deb Gillenwaters
dgillenwaters@ci.springfield.mo.us
864-1896
864-2065 (fax)

Treasurer

Vicki Franke, CGFM
Vicki.franke@cityutilities.net
831-8636

Scholarship Committee Chairperson

Kathryn Burnnett
kjburnett@prodigy.net
883-3956

Webmaster

Linda Charles
lcharles@ci.springfield.mo.us
864-1864
864-1880 (fax)

Newsletter Editor

Deb Fraley, CPA
dfraley@ci.springfield.mo.us
864-1903
864-1929 (fax)

Director of Membership

Justin Hill
jrhill@greencountymo.org
868-4120

Director of Professional Certification

Teresa Allen
tallen@ci.springfield.mo.us
864-1337

Past President

Cindy Stein, CPA
cstein@greencountymo.org
868-6201

Message From The President

As we enter the last days of summer the Chapter will need to rapidly begin focusing on our annual fall seminar. To begin the planning process, we will meet election day, Tuesday, August 8 at the Tower to discuss our Chapter's goals for the coming year. Here are just a few important topics I feel we should focus on:

- Fall Seminar
- Speakers for future meetings
- Fill President-elect position
- Community service opportunities
- Possible joint meetings with other fellow Chapters within the State
- Discussion on whether or not we want to continue meeting at the Tower
- Ways to increase both membership numbers and enthusiasm
- Possible increase of joint meetings with IMA

I really need for all officers and as many members as possible to be in this meeting so we can effectively tackle these challenges head on.

My appreciation for everyone that showed up for July's meeting as it was a successful joint meeting with our IMA friends and we look forward to meeting with them in the future. **Please plan on attending a very informative meeting in September when Linda Charles and Terry Moore discuss pivot tables.**

Thanks and I hope everyone has (had) a wonderful summer!

Jerry

Ozarks Chapter August Meeting Event

Tuesday, August 8, 2006

12:00 Noon

At the

Tower Club

Cost of Luncheon \$18.00

**This will be an annual planning meeting.
It is open to all members who would like to attend.
Your input would be greatly appreciated.**

RSVP: Cindy Stein 829-6201

cstein@greencountymo.org

by Monday, Aug 7 at 3:00 PM

Seminars and Conferences

AGA

First National Internal Control & Fraud Conference

September 25-26, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel in Atlanta, GA

With a theme of "Fraud Prevention and Detection: The Newest Tools and Techniques," the conference will focus on management's responsibility for ensuring a good system of internal controls and the role of all accountability professionals in minimizing the risk of fraud, waste and abuse. Hear from leaders in government and private industry who will discuss the latest discovery techniques and lessons learned from various schemes, and how different levels of government are cooperating to improve services to citizens.

The "Fraud Conference" will bring together leaders from all levels of government, the private sector and academia. In addition to an outstanding technical program, this event offers unparalleled opportunities to network, exchange ideas and share best practices with colleagues and friends.

[Online Conference Registration](#)

[Visit the Conference website](#)

Hotel Information:

Hyatt Regency, Atlanta
265 Peachtree Street NE
Atlanta, Georgia USA
Reservations: 404.577.1234 or
800.233.1234

[Hotel website](#)

National Performance Management Conference (PMC)

Join us in Schaumburg, IL on **Oct 30 & 31** for AGA's 2006 PMC.

Topics will include:

- Using performance information to improve management
- Engaging citizens to establish goals and measures in the community
- Assisting officials to integrate performance information
- Comparing benchmarks

MINUTES



Ozarks Chapter of AGA

July 11, 2006 Meeting

Our new President, Jerry Mitchell called the meeting to order. The minutes were approved as stated in the newsletter. Kathryn presented the treasurer's report and it was approved as read.

Jerry presented a newsletter award plaque to Deb Fraley. Jerry had accepted the award for our Chapter at the annual Professional Development Conference in San Diego. The plaque represents the Chapter's award for honorable mention in our Chapter's group in the annual Newsletter Contest.

Jerry reminded everyone of the open position of President-Elect/Education Director. He spoke about his trip to San Diego to attend the Professional Development Conference. While at the conference, Jerry took the CGFM exams.

Jerry introduced our speaker Jodie Adams of the Springfield/Greene County Parks Department. Ms. Adams spoke about the 2006 Parks Referendum and presented a video entitled "Creating the Future, Preserving the Past" which highlighted the accomplishments of the 2001 quarter-cent tax program and presented the five-year action plan for the next tax program. She also answered questions asked by those in attendance, thanked everyone for their interest and support of the Parks programs, and reminded them to go to the polls on August 8.

Jerry thanked Jodie Adams for her presentation. The meeting was then adjourned.



2006 Parks Referendum
Election Date: August 8, 2006

The following are the proposed 2006 Parks, Open Space and Greenways Five-Year Action Plan projects. Total project value is \$50 million.

1. SPORTS COMPLEXES - \$5 million Renovations and Improvements

Ewing Softball Complex renovation.
Meador Sports Complex upgrade and renovation. Killian Softball Complex renovation and upgrade.

2. BOTANICAL CENTER - \$3 million Development and Construction

Create a Botanical Center facility in Close Park.

3. AQUATIC FACILITIES - \$5 million Renovations & Spray Features

Renovation of Westport, Silver Springs, Fassnight, and Grant Beach Pool facilities.

4. FAMILY CENTER EAST - \$1 million Land Acquisition & Development

Architectural design and infrastructure development for Family Center East and Neighborhood Park

5. DICKERSON PARK ZOO - \$2 million Improvements

Facility improvements and exhibit upgrades according to Zoo Master Plan.

6. SCHOOL-PARKS - \$1 million Continuing Development

Additional School-Park facilities according to Vision 20/20 Plan: Carver, Cowden, Delaware, Disney, Field, Fremont, Holland, Robberson, Weaver/Grant Beach, Westport schools.

7. GILLENWATERS TENNIS COMPLEX - \$1 million Renovation

Renovation of 12 existing courts, lighting, fencing, parking area.

8. TRAILS, Greenways, and Linear Parks - \$7.275 million Acquisition and Development

Continued trails and greenway development: Jordan Creek Phase II, Wilson Creek Phase II, James River Trail, South Dry Sac Phase II, Galloway/Sequiota Parking Improvements. Neighborhood Greenway Connections.

9. DOLING AQUATICS CENTER - \$3.25 million Construction

Construction of indoor/outdoor aquatic facility (outdoor pool site).

10. PARK DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS - \$650,000 - Additional Park System Improvements

Development of new properties, historical park upgrades, playground renovations, park signage, picnic pavilions, parking improvements.

11. LAKES, STREAMS AND WATERWAYS - Water Improvement Projects

Fassnight Park & Creek, Sequiota, Doling, Close, Jordan Creek, Dickerson Park Zoo. \$7.5 million Acquisition, maintenance, and beautification of lakes, streams and waterways. \$9.125 million

12. AREA MUNICIPALITIES APPROPRIATIONS \$4.2 million

Area municipality park and waterway projects are proposed for Ash Grove, Fair Grove, Republic and Brookline, Rogersville, Strafford, Walnut Grove and Willard.



Election Date: August 8, 2006

Ballot Language

Shall the County of Greene impose a shared sales tax of one-fourth of one percent countywide for the purpose of providing funding for parks acquisition and development in Springfield, Greene County and area municipalities for trails, area-wide parks, recreation facilities, school-parks, lakes, waterways and watersheds, historic and natural resource preservation, and development of Dickerson Park Zoo, which tax shall be reduced at the end of five years to one-eighth of one percent for ongoing operations and maintenance?

For more information, call 864-1049, 864-1010, or visit [The Parks Department Election Website](#).

Starting Salaries for College Grads Continue to Rise: Accounting up 5.5%

According to a new salary report from the National Association of Colleges and Employers, salary offers are up for many grads. The average offer to accounting grads is \$45,656-up 5.5 percent from last year at this time. Business administration/management graduates are seeing their offers jump 6.3 percent to \$42,048. Investment banking firms boosted this average up, offering salaries of \$53,277, much higher than average.

AICPANewsUpdate@aicpa.org

US Businesses Lose 5% of Revenues to Fraud

According to research by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), U.S. organizations lose an estimated 5% of annual revenues to fraud. Based on the U.S. gross domestic product in 2006 - \$13.037 trillion - this percentage indicates a staggering estimate of losses around \$652 billion among organizations, despite an increased emphasis on anti-fraud controls and recent legislation to combat fraud. The latest fraud statistics are detailed in the [2006 ACFE Report to the Nation on Occupational Fraud & Abuse](#). The results are based on a survey of 1,134 certified fraud examiners.

New Scams Prompt IRS to Renew E-mail Alert

Following a recent increase in scam e-mail s, the Internal Revenue Service is reminding taxpayers to be on the lookout for bogus e-mails claiming to be from the IRS. The IRS saw an increase in complaints in recent weeks about e-mails designed to trick the recipients into disclosing personal and financial information that could be used to steal the recipients' identity and financial assets. For more information, read the [press release](#). For more identity theft resources, visit the following links:

- ❖ [Suspicious E-mails and Identity Theft](#)
- ❖ [Federal Trade Commission identity theft Web site](#)
- ❖ [OnGuardOnLine](#)



How to Buy a Hybrid

Practical advice to bear in mind when shopping for a hybrid car or light truck

By Matt Vella

No doubt about it: Hybrids are going mainstream. Though cars that combine traditional engines with electric components to maximize fuel economy still make up a small sliver of the total auto market, manufacturers are broadening their offerings faster than ever. Luxury vehicles, SUVs, and large sedans are now available in addition to diminutive originals. But with increasing choices come more complex purchasing decisions. Here's a guide to get you started.

[More Playbooks and Tip Sheets](#)

DO

Comparison-shop nonhybrids: Until hybrid technology is ubiquitous in nearly all models, it's important to continue comparison shopping, as you might with any other automotive purchase. Many hybrids are only marginally more fuel-efficient than their conventionally powered alternatives. The difference may easily affect your decision.

Practice patience: If you're dead-set on getting one of the most popular hybrids on the market, get ready to wait. Depending on where you live, you could end up waiting anywhere from several months to a year before you get behind the wheel. The flip side? All that anticipation makes the drive off the lot that much sweeter.

Feel good about the premium: A lot has been said—both positive and negative—about the value hybrids offer for the premium they command. Whichever side of the debate you fall on, the cost of the average hybrid premium falls squarely in line with the amount of extra technology under the hood.

Comparison-shop dealers: Every dealer operates under different pressures, leading some to deal more vigorously than others. That's true whether you're buying a gas-guzzling SUV or a svelte, fuel-efficient sedan. Some dealers may be willing to add sweeteners to move certain models.

Look out for incentives: Dealers have started offering incentives on certain hybrid models. That's a surprise to many, given the typically high-demand, low-volume characteristic of hybrid cars. Nevertheless, a healthy incentives package may be the tipping point between two models.

Call your CPA: Tax credits and rebates abound, but it may be hard to determine which ones your vehicle is eligible for. If your accountant doesn't have a grip on the issue, your local dealer should. If all else fails, contact the manufacturer directly or, better yet, log on to the Web.

DON'T

Expect to get a return on investment: This is a good tip for cars powered by futuristic or conventional means. You may very well end up getting your investment back, especially with gas prices rising with no end in sight. But, everyday driving practices and variable road characteristics make it an unlikely occurrence.

Forget the Web: To say the very least, most hybrid owners are comfortable with technology. That means the Web is teeming with driver diaries and firsthand owner accounts. These provide great insight into the everyday life of average hybrid drivers.

Be afraid to walk away: Another cardinal rule that applies to hybrids and nonhybrids alike. Just because you may be negotiating on a highly desirable vehicle doesn't mean having the wherewithal to walk away diminishes in importance. Remember, despite how it may feel, consumers have all the power in the auto showroom.



*Advancing Government Accountability
Ozarks Chapter of The Association of Government Accountants
Deb Fraley, CPA, Editor*

*Deadline for articles: Friday-eleven days prior to meeting date
Send articles to: dfraley@ci.springfield.mo.us*

