



The Ozarks Ledger



Ozarks Chapter
Volume V, Issue 1
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We're on the Web at
www.ozarksaga.org

President's Message

Happy New Year!

I hope to see many of you at the January 13th meeting. It will be at the Tower Club and our speaker will be Mary Mannix-Decker of the City of Springfield. Mary will be speaking on the Outlook for the FY 2010 budget, and discussing what she is projecting if the 1% tax passes, and an initial look at the budget if the tax does not pass.

As if that was not incentive enough, national AGA has supplied us with the funding to offer free lunch and CPE to each non-member guest attending January's meeting. Each member that brings a non-member guest will receive a small door prize. So, look around and make yourself popular by inviting someone new (or old) to January's meeting.

Please be sure to give me a call at 864-1896 to reserve seats for you and your guest.

February finds us again at the Tower Club and our own Martha Mundt will be providing our CPE by talking to us about the CAFR. Please join us for a delicious lunch and enlightenment. As always give me a call to reserve a place at the table for you.

March will take us back to the Cooper Tennis Complex for a six hour membership seminar. We will be offering six hours of CPE, a box lunch and your annual membership for one low fee. Two hours of ethics, as well as four additional hours of quality CPE will be offered. That seminar will be 9 AM to 4 PM on March 10th. Please mark your calendar so you do not miss this opportunity to make the most of your training budget.

I would like to thank Sally Payne for accepting the Membership Chair. I look forward to working with her to help our membership grow and enjoy all the benefits of AGA.

Our next CEC meeting is being held at 5:15 PM at the Health Department. All members are invited to attend and discuss chapter business. We always have an



Deb Gillenwaters, CGFM

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agenda and the meetings proceed at a fast clip, no one's time is ever wasted. Please think about joining us. Give me a call if you have any questions.

In December AGA visited the Tower three times. Two of the luncheons were part of our very early career efforts with Jerry Mitchell hosting two fifth grade classes from Weller school. Jerry is working with Weller as part of our community service. There will be further work with Weller come this spring when we will be asking for volunteers to help the kids with some landscaping.

The third luncheon was our regular meeting with Chief David Hall speaking to us regarding the impending tax election for the police and fire pension. A lively discussion followed and all were treated to the wonderful buffet the Tower offers each holiday.

We are well into the third quarter and plans for the fourth and final quarter of our AGA year are underway. Please let me or any committee member know if you have any suggestions on how to make the chapter work better or if there is a speaker you would like to hear.

January Speaker - Budgeting in the Current Economy

Mary Mannix-Decker will be our Speaker at next Tuesday's AGA meeting. She will be discussing the effects on budgeting in the current economy. I am sure there will be much to learn from listening to what Mary has to say.



As an added incentive this month we are offering a **free lunch and free CPE to any non-member brought as a guest by one of our members.** Additionally any member bringing a guest will receive a **door prize.**

Please contact me for your reservation for a delicious lunch at the Tower club and let me know who your guest will be. I will be happy to reserve a couple of places at the table for you.

Please contact me by 5 PM on Friday January 9th. Lunch and CPE for members will be \$18. Lunch will be at noon. Feel free to call or email me with your reservations or questions.

Thanks and I look forward to seeing you next Tuesday.

Deb Gillenwaters, CGFM

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Chapter Executive Committee Minutes Dec 23, 2008

The Ozarks Chapter of AGA held a board meeting on December 23, 2008 in the Springfield-Greene Health department in Deb Gillenwaters' office.

The items discussed were:

1. The discussion of the bylaws will be tabled until the chapter's retreat on Saturday, February 28, 2009 at the President-Elect Teresa Allen's resident from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
2. Mary Mannix Decker's presentation topic for the January 2009 meeting will be "Budgeting in today's recession and short falls". A \$5 Panera Bread gift card will be awarded to any member who brings a guest who is a non-member.
3. Stephanie Teasley, the Ozarks Chapter Treasurer, was given the December luncheon receipts and presented the status of the bank balance.
4. If any board member is interested in attending the Denver conference in February 2009, please contact Deb Gillenwaters.
5. The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 5:15 p.m.

2009 presentations will include the following topics and speakers:

February 2009 – Martha Mundt – preparing a CAFR.

March 2009 – Spring Seminar from 9-4, one hour for lunch – fee of \$120 includes membership, dues & registration. Topics and speakers: IRS - Anita Santiago, CGFM from MODOT. Careers in Forensic Accounting – Angela Morelock from BKD. Ethics – Will Huffman, Southern Missouri University.

April 2009 – IMA Seminar, Advanced Excel Tips/Tricks by Excel expert Bill Jelen. Ethics by Dr Rod Oglesby, Business Professor at Drury University. The cost is \$200 for the full day. The cost, including the book, to attend the half-day Excel presentation is \$109. If three or more people from the same organization attend, the price is \$99 for a half-day.

May 2009 & June 2009 – Audio Conference & a professor from MSU.

Suggested topics for Ozarks Chapter's meetings: Four 10-hour days; Code of Conduct; Citizen Centric Reporting; Succession Planning.

The board members present were Deb Gillenwaters, Teresa Allen, Deb Fraley, Justin Hill, Stephanie Teasley and Linda Charles.

Submitted by,
Linda Charles

Investment resolutions to tackle for 2009

By Bob O'Brien
myWealth.com Senior Instructor

1. Tighten up your budget. I have been a financial planner for 14 years and I still re-evaluate my budget every year to make it better. If you don't have a budget, start one. Keep in mind that a budget is simply a plan to get you where you want to go in life, not necessarily a restrictive plan.

2. Take inventory. Your net worth is a scorecard on how well you are doing financially. This has never been so critical. Anyone can add things up when things are going well, but if you are serious about your financial future, you will do it after a year like 2008.

3. Be honest about your financial situation. Most people are a mess right now. So be honest with yourself and look to establish hobbies that are inexpensive like cooking, crafts, walks in the park and reading.

4. Set realistic goals. Setting the right kind of goals that are attainable and yet stretches you, is a must. Then you will be able to build upon that goal after it is attained.

5. Get an investment strategy. Sounds real simple, but few people have a definable one. A lot of people never save because they just don't believe they can make their money grow through investing. It's a lot easier than you think

6. Get a retirement plan together. This is not hard at all, and there are a lot of places on the internet where you can run the numbers yourself. Are you funding your retirement properly? Do you have an age in mind where it will be financially reasonable to retire? No one can work for ever.

7. Make certain you are properly insured. If 2008 taught us anything, it taught us that bad things can really happen! Make certain that you have adequate life, disability and health insurance.

8. Understand your taxes better. Taxes, for many people, are the single greatest expense of their life. So having a general understanding of the system will assure you that you are not overpaying but rather taking advantage of strategies, credits and deductions properly. Let us teach you how.

Get Educated! This is probably the most important resolution of all. Sign up for a course or two. After all the financial blunders we have seen in 2008, you can't afford to just have blind faith in others. Knowledge is power and understanding your finances is the key to taking control of your future.



Future Ozarks Chapter Educational Events

| Month | Date | Description | Location |
|----------|------------|---|---------------------------|
| January | 01/13/2009 | Budgeting Mary Mannix-Decker | Tower Club |
| February | 2/10/2009 | CAFR Martha Mundt, CGFM | Tower Club |
| March | 3/10/2009 | Spring Membership Seminar | Cooper Tennis Complex |
| April | TBA | IMA Seminar Excel expert Bill Jelen and Dr Rod Oglesby | Missouri State University |
| May | TBA | Audio Conference - 2 CPE | Health Dept Conf Room |
| June | TBA | Audio Conference - 2 CPE | Health Dept Conf Room |

States, Cities Spar Over Stimulus Money

The nation's cities and counties are asking Obama transition officials to give them most of the infrastructure money from the multibillion-dollar economic stimulus package, setting off a dispute with the states over who can launch transportation projects the fastest. The disagreement over the stimulus money partly reflects the increased tension between state and local governments during a worsening recession. Many city and county leaders already are

upset at state officials who are slashing aid to local governments to cover budget gaps. Their anxieties over being shortchanged were heightened Dec. 2 when 48 current and incoming governors met with President-elect Barack Obama to ask Obama to direct much of the stimulus money to states. —Stephen C. Fehr, *Stateline.org*. Read more at: <http://www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=363653>

Jobless Rate Jumps to 7.2 Percent in December

By Howard Schneider, Washington Post Staff Writer, Friday, January 9, 2009; 11:30 AM

The U.S. economy shed 524,000 jobs in December, completing a year of declining employment and labor market weakness that is beginning to rival some of the country's steepest recessions.

The unemployment rate jumped to 7.2 percent, from 6.8 percent.

New data from the Labor Department showed that dur-

ing the past year U.S. employers have eliminated 2.6 million jobs, swelling the ranks of the jobless to more than 11 million people. Nearly 2 million jobs have been eliminated in the past four months alone.

The drop in employment spread throughout the economy, with both the manufacturing and service sectors shrinking their payrolls. Only education and health service companies and government increased hiring.

U.S. Deficit Would Top \$1 Trillion Under Accrual Method

The federal deficit for 2008 would top \$1 trillion if the government had to use the same accounting methods as private companies. And that doesn't even account for the huge costs of the Wall Street bailout, which didn't really start until the new budget year began on Oct. 1.

The government is promising \$49 trillion more than it can deliver on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid over the next 75 years unless Congress steps in to shore up the system. Some combination of tax increases, benefit cuts or other policy changes is needed to stave off unsustainable deficits. That was the finding Dec. 15 when the administration released a 188-page "Financial Report of the United States Government" for the 2008 budget year that ended on Sept. 30. The report, released by the Treasury Department and the White House budget office, found that under the accrual method of accounting used by businesses, the deficit for 2008 would have totaled \$1 trillion--not the \$455

billion reported in October under the cash system of accounting.

Under the accrual method, expenses are recorded when they are incurred rather than when they are paid. That tends to raise costs for liabilities such as pensions and health insurance. The big jump in the 2008 budget year was largely due to changed calculations for the payment of veterans benefits.

Even under regular cash accounting, the deficit is expected to top a staggering \$1 trillion for the ongoing 2009 fiscal year, reflecting the costs of the Wall St. bailout, weaker tax revenues from the deepening recession and the costs of President-elect Barack Obama's upcoming economic recovery measure.

Read more at --*SmartPros*

<http://accounting.smartpros.com/x64135.xml>

Nine Organizational Tips for 2009

LOS ANGELES, CA - Jodie Watson is the organizational expert on "Real Simple. Real Life.," a new lifestyle makeover series on TLC Network. She presents and implements organizational strategies and solutions that make lives easier and more manageable.

Below are nine organizational tips for 2009 that Jodie suggests will streamline the home, lighten the daily burden and provide everyone with a fresh start for the new year:

Kitchen

Get rid of duplicate or broken kitchen items. Check that all the lids fit all the containers or pots & pans and throw away any that aren't a match. You'll be amazed at how much more efficient & functional your kitchen will become by letting go of items that you seldom, if ever, use.

Pantry

Pull everything out of your pantry. Check each item and keep only those that comply with the "use by" date. Group items by category i.e. soups, pasta, vegetables and put the most used groups on eye level shelves. Consider giving excess or duplicate items to a local food bank.

Bathroom

Select the items that you use daily or at least once a week and discard any old, dried out or unused cosmetics, toiletries and lotions. Avoid overstocking bathroom items. Aim to have the product you are currently using plus one replacement for when it runs out.

Closet

Streamline your closet by gathering items categorically first. Then eliminate all the items that you have not worn in at least one year, are out of style or don't fit. These items can be donated or given away.

Kid's Toys

Sort through your kids' toys and purge any they have outgrown, are broken or have missing pieces. Categorize the remaining toys and place them in labeled bins or boxes. For younger children, it can be fun to draw representative figures on the labels. New toys that the children received over the holidays will hold special places in these arranged bins.

Paper

Start by pre-sorting the papers into broad categories such as: FINANCIAL, WORK, HOUSE, KIDS, etc. Once you have completed sorting through each category, deal with the papers right away -- one category and one pile at a time. Each piece of paper you have sorted will need to either have action taken on it, be tossed, shredded or filed. Going forward, handle paperwork on a daily basis as soon as it comes through the door. Open your mail over a trash can and immediately discard or shred anything that is unnecessary. Go to www.dmaconsumers.org or www.catalogchoice.org to permanently opt out to reduce the amount of unsolicited mailings you receive.

Handbag

Lighten your load by purging the contents of your handbag. All you really need at any given time is your wallet, keys, phone, calendar or date book, a pen or pencil, a small amount of make-up, comb and a handkerchief. The rest really can go bye-bye.

Wallet

To get the contents of your wallet organized, start by emptying out the contents and shred any out of date cards. Evaluate which cards you really need to have with you 24/7. Obviously, you will need to have your driver's license, a credit and/or debit card and any store membership cards. Your wallet is not a photo album. Keep only one or two photos of your family in your wallet to carry around with you and switch the photos out from time to time.

Garage

Here is a space you can really let go in. It's a pretty good sign that if you relegated something to the garage, you don't really need it. Baby clothes, old furniture, archaic tools or sporting goods need to go. Rent a dumpster if you need to and call the Salvation Army or other pick up services to come and collect the items that can be donated. The garage can be a challenge, but it's also an area where you can make significant changes.

Bonus

Organizing can be energetic work. How many calories can you use when organizing your home? Probably quite a few! More if you put on some invigorating music while you work.

*Happy New Year From
The Ozarks Chapter*



*Happy Birthday to all
those celebrating in
January*

Your 2008-2009 Ozarks Chapter of AGA Officers

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