



# THE LONE STAR AUDITOR

Published by the Austin Chapter IIA Newsletter Committee

March-April 2010

## **President's Corner**

By Larry A. Douglas

Without question, many of us will face challenges this year given the current economic situation. Many organizations are currently examining and downsizing their operations in order to minimize the impact from the global financial crisis. Local government entities, without exception, have already implemented plans to reduce their budgets while mandated to provide the same levels of services.

With that in mind, the Austin Chapter continues to explore opportunities to better serve our members. This year, the Board of Governors will strive to . . .

- Continue providing valuable professional training on a monthly basis and at minimal cost
- Engage our members through our channels of communications, including website updates, list-serve announcements, and enhanced quality newsletters
- Encourage new volunteers in order to develop the next generation of chapter leaders
- Identify new individuals for internal auditing by participating in student activities
- Advocate the profession by reaching out to local professionals not previously engaged in the IIA

If you have been too busy this past year, I encourage you to attend one of our excellent monthly training sessions or networking and social opportunities. Take the opportunity to meet one of our chapter's leaders – we look forward to seeing you and appreciate all of your suggestions and support.

From our Board of Governors and Officers, we look forward to having another successful year with you!

If you have an article or news you would like to have published in the monthly Austin IIA Chapter newsletter, please forward your request along with your ready to be printed information to Raquel Basurto at:

[Raquel\\_Basurto@roundrockisd.org](mailto:Raquel_Basurto@roundrockisd.org)

### **News Team:**

**Raquel Basurto – Chair – Editor**

**Kathy Baca – Committee Member – Reporter / Advertisements**

**Matt Sternad - Committee member - Website**

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# Membership News

By Ann Contella

## Three-peat!

You've seen it happen in the NHL for the Stanley Cup. You've seen it happen in the NBA Finals. And you've seen it happen in MLB's World Series. Now, you can help make it happen in the Austin IIA Chapter for achieving Platinum Status.

Platinum Status is granted by IIA Headquarters as part of the Chapter Achievement Program, which was established on the premise that the basic primary mission of a Chapter is to serve its members first and then the internal audit profession.

The program works on a point system. Throughout the Chapter year, each Chapter earns points in each of the following three categories: Service to Members, Service to the Profession, and Chapter Administration.

If you want to see the Austin IIA Chapter three-peat Platinum Status, you can help by participating in a number of activities that earn points for the Chapter. Some examples are:

- Attend luncheons and conferences
- Obtain professional certifications
- Submit / publish articles in Internal Auditor or other professional journals
- Volunteer to speak on internal auditing at a meeting or conference
- Write exam questions for IIA certifications
- Volunteer to be a team member on a QAR
- Volunteer to serve on a Chapter committee
- Recruit a friend for membership – added benefits described on [www.theiia.org](http://www.theiia.org)

Toronto Maple Leafs. New York Islanders. Chicago Bulls. Los Angeles Lakers. Oakland Athletics. New York Yankees. Next – Austin IIA Chapter.



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## 2009-2010 Officers

*President – Larry A. Douglas*

*President-Elect – Robert Elizondo*

*V. President of CPE – Darrell Carter*

*Secretary – Helen S. Young*

*Treasurer – Dennis Olson*

## Board of Governors

Term Expires May 2010

*Kathy Baca*

*Brian Chamberlin*

*Matt Sternad*

Term Expires May 2011

*Caroline Beyer*

*Elizabeth (Beth) Morse*

*Lissette Nadal-Hogan*

Term Expires May 2012

*Dinah Arce*

*Gus Rodriguez*

*Isabel Sweat*

Past Presidents

*Jan Engler*

*Chance Watson*

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## **IIA - Austin Chapter Two-Day Seminar**

**Have you ever wondered what it would take to become a Certified Government Audit Professional (CGAP)?**

The answer is that, with a little experience, is not that hard if you have a good way to study for the exam!

The IIA-Austin Chapter presents a structured CGAP Exam Preparation Course

Monday and Tuesday – April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010

8:30 am to 5:00 pm (each day)

at the

Crowne Plaza - Austin

6121 North IH-35

**Seminar is based on the four domains of study for the CGAP exam:**

**I: Standards and Control / Risk Models**

**II: Government Auditing Practice**

**III: Government Auditing Methodologies and Skills**

**IV: Government Auditing Environment**

It is strongly recommended that attendees purchase a copy of the IIA's CGAP Exam Study Guide and review it prior to the course.

Instructor:

Tom O'Connor, Government Audit Consultant

Tom had a 33-year career as a Federal auditor—30 with US GAO and another 3 with the Inspector General's Office at the US Agency for International Development.

Since 2002, Tom has presented over 55 review courses for the Certified Government Audit Professional (CGAP) exam

(including the 16-hour session held during the IIA's 2007 Southern Regional Conference where 80 % of the students taking the exam on the final day of the conference passed the exam.)

Don't miss out on getting your start toward a successful internal audit career.

**Class fee: \$325 for two-days of instruction and 16 hours of CPE**

**Each day will include a continental breakfast, lunch, and afternoon break snacks.**

*To Register go to:* <http://www.iiaaustin.org>

**Registration Deadline:** Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> – 6:00 pm

# Registration Rules

The registration website has changed some rules when you register for a luncheon or a seminar. You will notice that when you view the events under the price section you will now see:

[Click here to register](#) - [PLEASE REVIEW OUR BILLING AND CANCELLATION POLICIES](#)

If you click on the link you will go to the section of the page that shows:

## Registration and Billing Notes:

Please register on-line by 12:00 pm on Friday, (Month, Day).

[Click here to register](#)

If you plan to attend, please register by the due date. With a reliable headcount, the hotel can better prepare to accommodate everyone on a timely basis. Due to high attendance, walk-ins are HIGHLY discouraged and will be seated subject to availability pending no-shows.

**Cancellations:** Cancellations must be made by 12:00 pm on (Month, day) by clicking on the link in the confirmation email. If you have problems please contact [Carla Patrolija](#). Substitutions are welcome (the attendee substitutes for a registered individual who cannot attend).

**No-shows with reservations will be billed.**

**To be billed:** Using the on-line registration form, please select "PO" as the payment method and be sure to include the name and email address of the billing contact. If a [purchase order number](#) is required, please provide it on the registration form (or send the number to [Dennis Olson](#)).

**To make payments by mail:** Make checks payable to "Austin Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors". Mail the check and a remittance advice to PO Box 9421, Austin, TX 78766

**This mean you or your company will be billed for No-Shows. No exceptions.**

When you "Click here to register", you will go to the registration screen.

# Event Registration

The IIA-Austin Chapter presents a structured CGAP Exam Preparation Course - Monday and Tuesday – April 5th and 6th, 2010 - 8:30 am to 5:00 pm (each day)

\* Indicates a required field

\* First Name

\* Last Name

\* Company

\* Phone Number

\* Email address

\* Member Status

\* Meal Preference

\* Did you win a free meal last month?  Yes

\* I agree to the cancellation policies  Yes [Click here to view our billing policies.](#)

\* Payment Method  (Required if you didn't receive a free meal)

If you selected a payment type of PO, please provide the billing agency information.

Billing Information (for Purchase Orders):

Person:

PO #:

Email:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

**Please note that you will be asked if you agree to the cancellation policies. The system will not allow you to register if you do not check this box.**

# IMPORTANT !!

Once you hit the "Submit" button after registering you **WILL** receive a confirmation email stating that you are registered for the event. This registration confirmation will be sent to the email address of the attendee, not the billing information email address. If you do not receive a confirmation email then you are not registered.

## However,

it is very important that you check the spelling of the email address **BEFORE** you submit your registration. If you misspell the email address you will not receive a confirmation email.

## After the Event

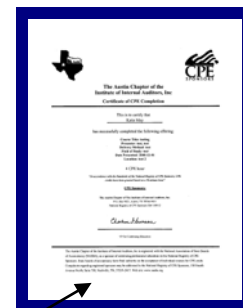
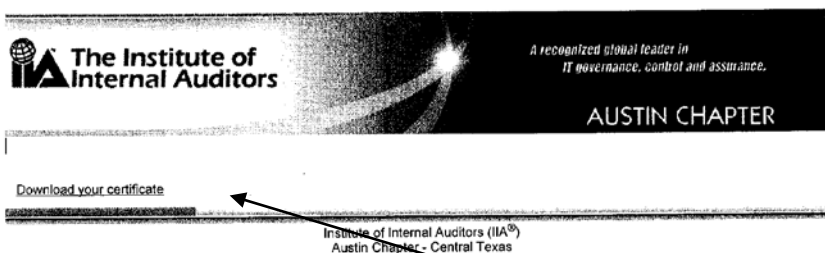
After the luncheon or seminar event you will receive a survey. Please take time to fill these surveys out because the Board uses this information to establish training needs, location, etc. for future events.

### \*\* IMPORTANT INFORMATION \*\*

Here is a reminder on how to download your CPE after an event. When you receive your survey complete the survey and hit the "submit" button. You will immediately go to a page as shown below.

Events | Survey

Page 1 of 1



You must click on the "Download your certificate".

Do not close browser until you have printed your CPE.

Your CPE will be available immediately.

# Back to Basics Section

During a lifetime, an auditor performs many audits, conducts thousands of interviews, and writes the results of his work performed but do we forget the basics of performing these duties? Does an auditor just go through the motions to get the end results published? During the journey do we forget that a person following behind us might need to use this information to further investigate a problem, issue or concern? I think we do. Sometimes we know the risk or the problem before we start the audit but we have to investigate further to see where the problem came from or what is causing the problem. This is the reason I have decided to start including a "Back to Basics" section for each of our newsletters. The "Back to Basics" articles are IIA HQ approved reprints. Since these articles have several pages, it is necessary that we only link the article to the newsletter.

Some of the information may be too elementary for our advanced auditors but I think we all can use a refresher from time to time. If you have an article or if you would like to write an article please let us know.

Enjoy

~Kathy G. Baca~

Link to article:

[http://www.iaaustin.org/files/Killing\\_the\\_Spider.doc](http://www.iaaustin.org/files/Killing_the_Spider.doc)

## Spotlight Member Beth Morse

### *Position/Job Description*

Regulatory Compliance for Farmers Insurance Group. I help to ensure we comply with insurance regulations and legislation in the states we service.

### *What do you love about your job?*

It's different everyday. I do research, investigate problems and interact with people in several countries.

### *Tell us about your family*

My family is really spread out; from Maine to Minnesota to Tanzania. I wish we lived closer together, but it is an excuse to travel.

### *Do you have any pets?*

We have goldfish in our outdoor pond, unless the herons and raccoons have had their way with them.

### *What are your hobbies?*

I love to read and travel. I even read **while** I'm travelling.

### *What is your favorite type of music?*

Anything I haven't heard before. For the past several months, I've been listening to the Best of Bollywood on my satellite radio and having a blast.

### *What is your favorite movie?*

That's a tough one, because I love old movies. One I watch at least once a year is "Auntie Mame" with Rosalind Russell.

### *Last Book Read?*

I'm never without one or two going at the same time. I am reading the Maisie Dobbs series now about a British psychologist/detective around WWI.

### *If you could do one thing for the rest of your life, what would it be?*

Live near the ocean.

### *What is one thing most people don't know about you?*

I bought a bride in Africa; not for me but for a friend we met in Malawi. His in-laws were ready to take back his pregnant wife if he could not pay off the bride price (his annual salary). It was the cost of a dinner out for us.

### *What are you most proud of?*

My brother and his family and the sacrifices they make everyday to live and work with the people of Tanzania.

## Current Job Listings



To have a job notice posted or removed from this website please email the [webmaster](#).

All postings may be removed within 90 days or earlier, if by request.

[Auditor III/IV](#) - Texas Youth Commission, posted 1/5/09

[Senior Auditor](#) - Harte-Hanks (San Antonio), posted 11/30/09

[Auditor IV](#) - Texas Water Development Board, posted 11/10/09

[Director of Internal Audit](#) - H-E-B, posted 10/12/09

ADJUNCT FACULTY needed for spring 2010 to teach accounting classes in undergraduate Financial and Managerial Accounting courses. Must have graduate degree with a minimum of 18 hours of accounting. Contact Dr. Kay Guess, St. Edward's University, via e-mail at [aundreag@stedwards.edu](mailto:aundreag@stedwards.edu) or phone: (512) 448-8562.

[Auditor - Financial/Performance](#) - Texas State Auditor's Office, posted 9/9/09

[Senior Auditor](#) - Texas State Auditor's Office, posted 9/9/09

[Auditor](#) - Texas Bank (Company Confidential), Houston, posted 8/11/09

If you have an opening in your company or department and would like to post it on the website please contact Matt Sternad via email. [matt.sternad@farmers.com](mailto:matt.sternad@farmers.com)

## IIA Austin Chapter FY 2010-11 Election Results

The slate of officers announced at February luncheon meeting was as follows:

### President-Elect

W. Darrell Carter, MBA, CIA –  
Tx. Dept. of Insurance

### VP for CPE

Kathy Baca –  
Tx. Dept. of Transportation

### Treasurer

Dennis Olson, CGAP –  
Tx. Dept. of Transportation

### Secretary

Sarah Cason, MBA, CIA –  
Univ. of Texas at Austin

### Governor (3-yr terms)

Robert W. "Bob" Cates, CIA –  
Tx. Dept. of Transportation

Kenneth J. Mory, CPA, CIA, CISA –  
City of Austin

Helen Young, MBA, CIA, CISA, CFE –  
Tx. General Land Office

The members shown above will be your FY10-11 officers, along with Robert Elizondo who moves from the President-Elect position up to the President position.

**Congratulations to all!**

