

The Washington Connection

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS
WASHINGTON D.C. CHAPTER



Issue 8 • May 2008

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MAY

LUNCHEON SERIES

Members \$25
Non-Members \$30



Kshemendra Paul, Chief Architect
June 19th, 2008

Zola restaurant - 800 F Street, NW - next to the International Spy Museum
(one block from the Gallery Place/Chinatown red/yellow/green line Metro)

For more details, see <http://agadc.org/mlunch2.php>

Register online at <https://secure.serve.com/AGADC/lform2.php>

[Read Bio](#)

Announcements

AGA D.C.'s Mentor Program: Now Open to All!

Now Accepting Hotel Reservations for PDC 2008

[Read More](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Spring Conference

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008

[Read More](#) **THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2008**

AGA Washington, DC Chapter
Annual Awards Dinner

Saturday, May 31 • 6:00 p.m. - Midnight

[Read More](#)

Click here to sign up to get newsletter and meeting notices automatically e-mailed <http://agadc.org/mlistsubscribe.php>

Cover photos by Christian and Barbara Escobar
[Contact](#)

President's Message - May 2008

by Dan Christovich, President

Greetings and thank you all for taking part in another great month of AGA Washington DC activities!



From all accounts, April was a great month that included a terrific luncheon with remarks by Mr. Dan Fletcher of the Department of Interior, the fantastic annual Virginia Wine Tasting Tour hosted by our member services committee, and our Mentoring Luncheon Panel featuring the Honorable Sam Mok put on by the Membership Committee.

Coming up in May is of course our annual Spring Conference featuring a great line-up of speakers and topics that I am sure you will find engaging. I very excited that we will also celebrate our Chapter Year with the annual Awards Dinner on Saturday May 31st at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. And hopefully by now you will have seen the launch of the new Chapter website.

So, what are your plans for the summer? In between baseball and soccer with the kids, family barbeques, and trips to the beach, how about a renewed focus on professional development? Now is the time to make a renewed pledge to get your CGFM pre-work done so that you can take the review course and exam at the PDC in Atlanta. Now is the time to talk about professional development with your co-workers and recruit them to AGA. Now is the time to take the extra step to become more involved in AGA DC and sign up for a committee for the 2008-2009 Program Year. As the famous commercial says - Just Do It! I would like to give a heartfelt thanks to all our Chapter Executive Committee members for their hard work this year. As you will soon learn, the Chapter again reached the Platinum level for the year.

I would also like to thank our 14 Corporate sponsors for their incredibly generous support throughout the year. Without them we would not be able to achieve the success that we have.

Please email me with any questions or comments that you may have. I can be reached at Daniel.J.Christovich@uscg.mil

Sincerely,

Dan Christovich

Dan Christovich
AGA Washington DC Chapter President

AGADOG

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Note From the Editor

by *Emily Asmus, Editor*

First off, let me say thank you for all those who submitted articles - there is a lot of knowledge in this group, whose articles, I am fortunate enough to review and publish.



Our team took a lot of time to produce a high quality newsletter notifying AGA D.C. members of Chapter and National events, services, and the people supporting this professional organization. And, if you are not already a member, we encourage you to join AGA D.C. Chapter and enjoy the many benefits it offers, in particular the high quality luncheon series, learning opportunities, and conferences.

This year we decided to install a "Letters to the Editor" page in The Washington Connection, allowing members of the AGA D.C. Chapter to voice their opinions on any matters of concern to AGA D.C. Chapter. As a rule, we will only publish signed letters and reserve the right to crop submissions for the sake of space. Before submitting a letter/comment to the editor, please consider the following:

- Relate your issue to a recent chapter event or article
- Keep submissions short and concise
- State your main point at the beginning
- If applicable, please include the article title and author you are addressing
- Send articles to Emily.Asmus@gt.com with "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line

As a general rule, if you have something to say, say it! We also encourage you to submit your suggestions, comments, or questions about the AGA D.C. Newsletter. We have made some significant changes to the layout and would love to know what you think. After all, this is your newsletter, the strength of this page and general publication depends on your comments.

*"But words are things, and a small drop of ink,
Falling, like dew, upon a thought produces
That which makes thousands,
Perhaps millions think."*

Lord George Gordon BYRON
English poet (1788-1824)

Thank you for your words,

Emily Asmus

Emily Asmus

AGA D.C. Chapter Newsletter Editor

Newsletter Team

Emily Asmus, Editor

Leon Fleisher, Assistant Editor

Erwin Solbach, Graphics

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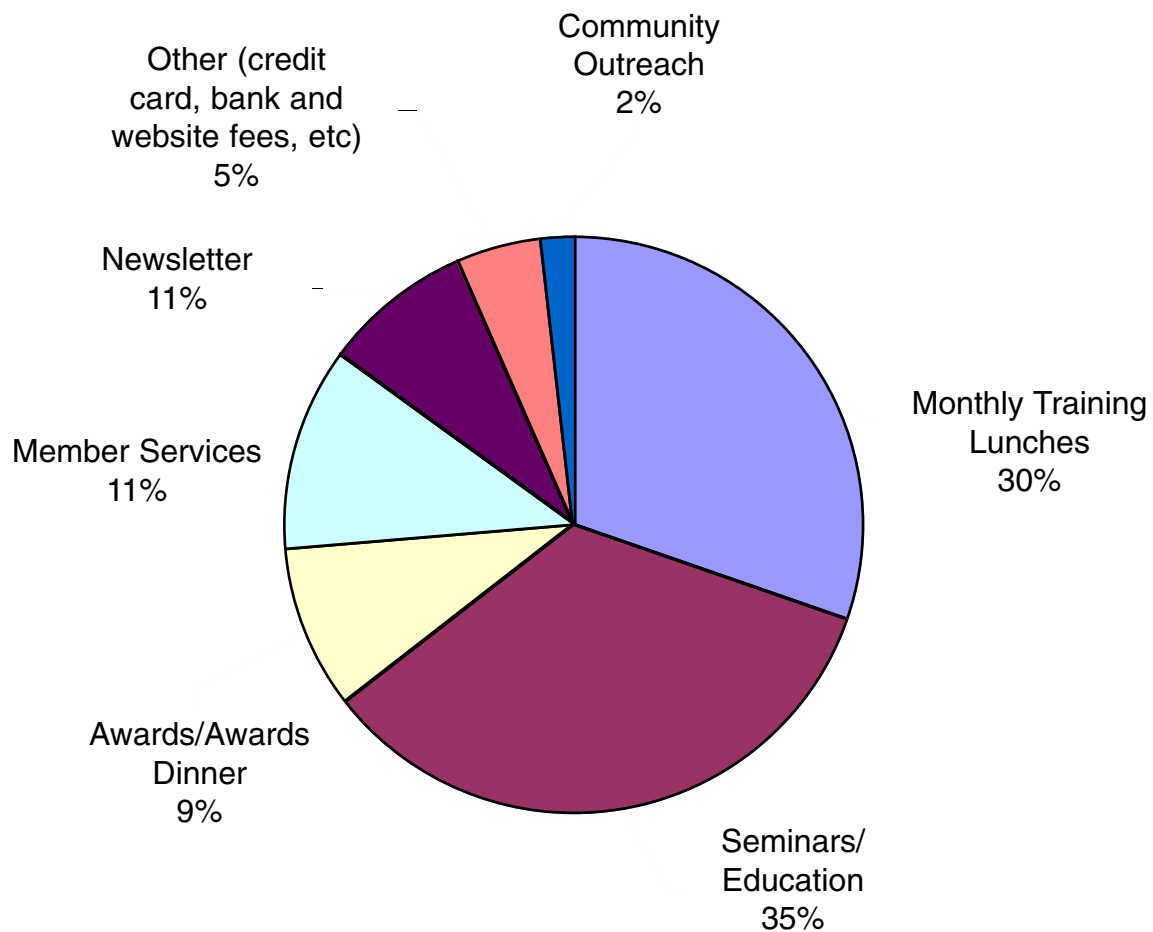
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AGADC Financial Status

AGA DC Chapter Year to Date Expenses as of 3/31/08



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Want to Make a Difference?

Consider a Career in Government Financial Management

Are you, or someone from your chapter planning to attend a career fair, or an event for college students? AGA now has an eye-catching brochure that offers information about government financial management careers and answers questions for aspiring government financial managers regarding the qualifications and skills needed to get started. It also includes a bookmark for students that directs them to the Tomorrow's Professionals website for more information. To order free copies of the brochure, please submit the collateral order form found in the Members Only section or contact Jessica Jones.

Who is Jeff Green?

Name: Jeff Green



AGA Position: Chairman, AGA DC Awards Committee

Company: Kearney & Company

Title: Systems Accountant

Background: I am a Senior Partner with Kearney & Company

(Kearney). I have been with Kearney since 1989 and am responsible for our CFO Assistance Business Unit which includes CFO Act audits, performance audits, A-123 assistance, Federal financial statement support and audit liaison services. In addition to my client work, I have also co-authored three books on Federal financial management, published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., including *Federal Government Auditing: Laws, Standards, Regulations, Practices, and Sarbanes-Oxley*; *OMB Circular A-123 and Sarbanes-Oxley: Management's Responsibility for Internal Control in Federal Agencies*, and *Federal Accounting Handbook, 2nd Edition* with other Kearney partners.

How long have you been a member of AGA: I have been a member of AGA since March 1, 2001. I have always taken an active interest in the activities and events hosted by AGA in order to take advantage of potential opportunities and to get the most out of my membership.

How has AGA helped you with your career: The AGA has helped my career in a wide variety of ways. First, the AGA provides excellent forums for discussing the challenges and emerging issues we are facing in government accountability. Second, it provides excellent opportunities to obtain Yellow Book compliant CPE. Lastly, it provides excellent networking venues providing opportunities to meet with clients and peers in less formal settings that promote open discussions of ideas and issues.

What advice do you have for someone thinking of joining the AGA? My best advice for someone thinking of joining AGA is to join and then get involved. Like most organizations, the more you put into AGA the more you will get out of it. The activities AGA sponsors at both the National and local chapter level offer something for everyone. One of my favorite events is the DC Chapter's annual Oktoberfest.

What is the best thing about working in government service? Having spent my entire career on the private sector side, I have found that the best thing about working with the Federal government is the opportunity to be part of "the solution." Before serving the Federal government exclusively, I worked in the commercial world, and so much of my time was spent on pure compliance. There was no long-term benefit in most of the work. On the government side, even when performing an audit, you have the opportunity to provide value, be an agent of change, and improve efficiencies that can have a long-term impact and cost savings to clients.

What has been the biggest obstacle in getting where you are today? The biggest obstacle I have faced has been the struggle to obtain recognition as part of a small business. It seemed at times that opportunities were reserved for the instantly recognizable named companies, or those with special status. I am very appreciative of the programs of the AGA that provided me vehicles to overcome this challenge.

What is your favorite hobby or outside activity? I enjoy playing golf and supporting my Orioles and Ravens.

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream? Chocolate.

Anything else that you would like to highlight? We are working in a very challenging yet exciting time in government service. We are facing many challenges but also have the opportunity for lasting improvements. It will be a great feeling to sit back in my retirement years and say I was part of the government accountability profession during the first time the Federal government obtained an unqualified audit opinion. I look forward to working with my friends and colleagues in the upcoming years in order to jointly achieve our goals.

Jeff Green

Jeff Green

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[AGA Northern Virginia Home Page \(Virginia\)](#)

[AGA Montgomery/PG Home Page \(Maryland\)](#)

[MACPA Home Page \(Maryland\)](#)

[VSCPA Home Page \(Virginia\)](#)

[GWSCPA Home Page \(D.C.\)](#)

[AICPA Home Page](#)

Luncheon Speaker: Kshemendra Paul



As of October 1, 2007, leading the Federal Enterprise Architecture (FEW) Program Management Office (PMO) is Chief Enterprise Architect, Kshemendra Paul. Kshemendra served as Chief Enterprise Architect for the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and was also DOJ's Program Manager for the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM). In this role he led efforts around data standards and inter-operability across Federal, State and Local stakeholders, resulting in adoption of NIEM as the basis for terrorism information sharing. Kshemendra also served as the co-Chair of the Services Subcommittee of the Architecture and Infrastructure Committee, where he was part of the team leading the development of the Practical Guide to Federal Service Oriented Architecture

Kshemendra was honored in 2006 with the Federal Computer Week IT Award celebrating the top executives from government, industry and academia having the greatest impact on the government information systems community.

Mr. Paul has over 23 years of experience in strategic planning, enterprise architecture, organizational management and systems development. Before joining the civil service in 2005, Mr. Paul was an active entrepreneur, co-founding LocalEyes (sold to AOL) and founding Andelina (sold to FoundryOne). He has participated as a member of senior management for a variety of other technology product and service companies. He holds both Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Electrical Engineering, and an additional Bachelor's degree in Mathematics, from the University of Maryland, College Park.

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FASAB RECRUITMENT NOTICE

The Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) is seeking a qualified individual to join its professional staff as an Assistant Director. The position is a Band III (salary range: 110,952.00 - 149,000.00 USD per year) within a banded performance-based compensation system. FASAB receives administrative support from the US Government Accountability Office (GAO). Therefore, all recruitment activities are managed through GAO's website and compensation is determined under GAO's performance-based compensation system. To apply for the position, visit <http://www.usajobs.gov/>

The announcement number is **GAO-08-FASAB-0510-01**.

Each assistant director assumes responsibility for a major technical project under consideration by FASAB. This requires research on concepts and standards adopted in the federal sector and by other standards setters; oral presentations before the Board and responses to member queries; and strong writing skills. In addition, assistant directors often consult with fellow staff members on other major projects, work with the community on implementation guidance for existing standards, and make presentations at conferences.

Detailed information about FASAB is available at www.fasab.gov. To see a sample of staff work, click on "Meetings" on the left and you will have access to briefing material from our most recent meeting.

Detailed instructions are included in the vacancy announcement. Please follow the instructions carefully to ensure your application receives our full consideration. For questions about this job or the application process, please contact:

Allison Y. Powell
Phone: 202-512-5502
TDD: 800-877-8339
Email: powellay@GAO.Gov

Announcements

SAVE THE DATE!

 AGA Washington, DC Chapter
 Annual Awards Dinner

Saturday, May 31
 6:00 p.m. - Midnight

Celebrate with your friends and
 colleagues during an evening of
 dining & dancing.
 (Black Tie Optional)

Grand Hyatt Washington
 1000 H Street NW,
 Washington, DC 20001

Tickets: \$25 each
 RSVP by Thursday, May 1

Seating is limited, so register now at
 [link] to join in the celebration.

Please contact the Hyatt by phone at
 202-582-1234 or on the Web at
www.grandhyattwashington.com
 to inquire about room availability.

AGA D.C.'s Mentor Program: Now Open to All!

*by The Membership Team—LeAnn Corcoran and
 Marguerite Nealon, Membership Co-Directors, and
 Ruth Apelt, Assistant Membership Director*

Last spring the Membership Team of the AGA D.C. Chapter initiated a Mentor Program, pairing retirees with Early Career members, (chapter members with five or less years of government financial management experience.) Due to the enormous interest we received, we are broadening the program to include every member who would like a mentor, regardless of their career stage. We now have an even larger pool of mentors-five people with Federal government and private sector experience. Would you like a mentor...or to be a mentor? If so, read on.

About the Program

The Program serves to facilitate member's professional development and enhance government accountability skills. Mentees receive one-on-one coaching from one or more mentors. Experienced professionals and retirees contribute to the professional development of our members. Before selecting their mentor, mentees have the opportunity to meet the mentors and review their résumés. The Membership Team is the conduit for exchanging information and getting the relationship off and running. The program is voluntary and open only to Chapter members.

Program Benefits

For mentees, benefits of the program include opportunities to:

- Enhance core financial management competencies
- Learn how others have advanced their careers in government accountability
- Seek advice or guidance for a specific work challenge
- Discover how greater involvement in the AGA D.C. Chapter can develop or strengthen one's management and leadership skills
- Develop further networking avenues

For mentors, the benefits include opportunities to:

- Give back to the profession by sharing knowledge and wisdom
- Have a meaningful impact on an individual's career development
- Build deeper relationships with other Chapter members

Participation

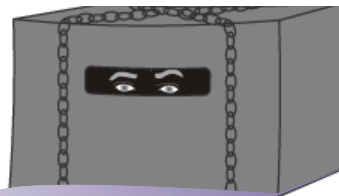
To sign up for the Mentor Program, please contact Marguerite Nealon wnealon01@aol.com or LeAnn Corcoran lcocoran@savantage.net.

Now Accepting Hotel Reservations for PDC 2008

It's time to look ahead to the 2008 PDC in Atlanta! Next year's conference will take place July 27 - 30 at the Marriott Atlanta Marquis. Everyone attending the conference will be housed in this hotel; AGA's room block is now open. Be sure to mention that you are attending the AGA PDC when making your reservation.

Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA



Spreadsheet Tips

Introduction

My career has been linked with the spreadsheet. I started work with a public accounting firm in 1981, when a spreadsheet was a large piece of yellow or green paper that one wrote on in a pencil. A microcomputer had an 8-bit processor and was only used occasionally to facilitate an audit. I remember installing VisiCalc as our first spreadsheet program on our Commodore 8032 microcomputer, and being annoyed that it would only use 12 kilobytes of memory. From there I moved onto Lotus 123 and then Excel. Meanwhile, I learned a lot of spreadsheet tricks and traps.

Importing Data

The biggest problem with spreadsheets is how it interprets the data. If you import straight text (such as a report printout), you can usually tell the spreadsheet which fields should be dates, numbers and text, but many people let the program figure it out, and it is often wrong. Unless you plan on adding the values in a field or performing some other arithmetic on them, import them as text. You should still be able to sort it as text without any problems.

Fields such as accounting codes should always be text. If you have, say, a four-digit field that can begin with zeroes and you import it as a number, you will lose the leading zeroes. Fund Group is one example, where 0100 is a common Fund Group but it becomes 100. Importing it as text will leave it as 0100. However, if you inherit a spreadsheet someone else (or some process) set up, you can change the format to custom "0000" and get your leading zeroes back.

Accounting period is another troublesome field. We federal accountants know that 02/2008 was November, 2007, but I have yet to find a spreadsheet that knows that. If you import "02/2008" as date or let it default to a date, it will become February 1, 2008. What's worse is that accounting periods that don't correspond to dates (such as beginning balances in period 00 or closing entries in 14) will be left as text, so they won't sort properly with the other periods. This isn't a problem if you leave them all as text. Better yet, split

the period into two columns, Fiscal Month and Fiscal Year, so you can leave them as numbers.

A problem I've only found in Excel is that it will force a field to be text even when you enter a formula. This only happens if you import text into a spreadsheet and declare a column to be text. If you enter a formula, it just displays the formula (e.g., "=SUM(A1:A4)") instead of the desired value. To get around this, edit the cell (push F2 or click on the formula bar at top), highlight the formula, cut (control-X or use the menu), then hit enter. The cell should now be blank. Go over to a column beyond what was imported (e.g., if 25 columns were imported, go to Column 26 or Z). Edit an empty cell, paste the formula, hit enter. You should now have the desired value. Cut the entire cell (do not edit it) and paste it on top of the cell you tried to enter the formula originally. You should now be able to paste it to other rows.

Sorting

When importing a text report, immediately add a new column called Sequence. The value of the first row is 1. The value of the second row is the first row + 1 (e.g., cell J3 has the formula =J2+1). Copy this formula down to the end, then copy and paste only the value so you now have 1, 2, 3, 4 and so on. Now save the spreadsheet. If you sort the data and decide you didn't do the right sort, you can easily get back to the original data sequence. I do this frequently to get rid of headers and total lines, and it is a lot easier to sort on the sequence field than to recreate the report's original sort.

If you import a report that has a header, create a new column to hold the header values. I recently did this with a directory listing. The header was "Directory of ", so cell H2 had the formula =IF(left(A2,12) = "Directory of", mid(A2,14,250), H1). This will populate H2 with the directory listed in A2 if it is a directory, and copy down the previous directory if it is not. Remember to replace the formulas with their values once you've verified the results. By moving the header fields to a row, you can now sort the data however you want and not lose the header information.

Inside the Black Box (Cont'd.)

Some spreadsheets have limits to the number of fields you can sort on. If you need to sort by columns A, B, C, D, and E but your spreadsheet will only allow you to sort on 3 columns, there are two workarounds. One is to first sort by A, D, E then sort by A, B, and C. Usually the spreadsheet will leave rows in the order they came in if the sort fields are the same. The second option is to concatenate the fields together in a spare column, then sort on that column. This only works if the data in the fields are all the same length. I've had to enter spaces into some fields or pad the entries with trailing spaces to force them to the same length.

Comparing Data

Sometimes you need to compare two report or spreadsheets and just find the differences. There are two basic ways of doing that. The easiest method is to list one report on the left (e.g., columns 1-4 or A-D), the other on the right (e.g., columns 6-9 or F-I), and in the center put a comparison statement. If you want to check that all 4 columns are the same, put in =IF(AND(A2=F2, B2=G2, C2=H2, D2=I2), 0, 1). Then copy the formula down (you may also need to sort each report separately to ensure they are in the same sequence). By entering numeric results you can highlight the comparison column and get a count of all the mismatches. If one report has data the other doesn't, you will have to insert cells or cut and paste the shorter report down so it lines up with the longer report. This can be quite time consuming if there are lots of data differences.

The other method is trickier, but you don't need to insert blank cells. Create a new column that stores a value indicating which report you got the data from. Put both reports in the same columns and then sort together. If all the data is the same, you should have two rows of the same data next to each other except for

the source column, which should alternate on each row. To check if this is the case, add a comparison column (F) with a 1 in the first row and the formula =IF(F1=0, 1, IF(AND(A1=A2, B1=B2, C1=C2, D1=D2), 0, "Error")) in the second row, and copy the formula all the way down. You will see the value "Error" in all rows following the data that only exists in one version. If you have a lot of data, you can copy and replace the formulas with their data, then search for the word "Error" in that column.

Conclusion

Accounting is actually the oldest information processing language, so it is only natural that electronic computers have come to be indispensable in the accounting profession. The digitizing of the old accounting workhorse, the spreadsheet, has been a major time-saver for accountants. However, like all software, it has its peculiarities and one must know how to deal with those to get the most from the program.

Simcha Kuritzky
Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA

Comments and critiques, as well as specific questions or suggestions for future topics, are always welcome. Send them to Simcha.Kuritzky@CGIFederal.com, and not to the AGA.

This column is provided as part of a free exchange of ideas in federal accounting, and is not reviewed substantively before publication.

Montgomery County Chapter Events

05/03/08 - 05/03/08

Community Service - D.C. Habitat for Humanity

Event Description: *Description:* Our chapter, in conjunction with the D.C. chapter, is pleased to announce a community service event to sponsor a home project in Washington, DC with Habitat for Humanity.

Volunteers Needed: We are seeking volunteers to help participate in the project on May 3, 2008. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Stu Sklamm using the below contact information.

Location: Washington, D.C.

Event Time: TBD

Contact: [Stu Sklamm](#)

Phone: 301-443-5260

For More Information: [Community Service - D.C. Habitat for Humanity](#)

05/14/08 - 05/14/08

FREE AGA Audio Conference: The Anatomy of Ethical Slips in Government

Event Description: *Description:* AGA, in conjunction with the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT) and the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA), is pleased to announce a new and increasingly important topic to our audio conference schedule - cases of ethical lapses.

During this audio conference, the presenter will recount some recent ethical lapses in government and examine the causes and effects. By examining a series of ethical lapses, we find that a pattern emerges. That pattern allows us to think about this question: What is it in the culture of an agency that allows obvious ethical breaches to occur and continue? Once we understand the culture, we can think about putting the detection methods, as well as antidotes, in place.

In our outrage over misconduct, we often fail to look deeply enough to see the causes and fall short of taking meaningful steps that would go further than just correction. Thinking more deeply about nurturing a culture of ethics is the key to prevention of ethical lapses, at all levels.

To share her expertise in ethical behavior and its ramifications is **Marianne M. Jennings, JD, Professor in the Department of Management in the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University (ASU)**. At ASU, Marianne teaches graduate courses in the MBA program in business ethics and the legal environment of business. Professor Jennings has authored hundreds of articles and has six textbooks and monographs in circulation. She has conducted more than 300 workshops and seminars in the areas of business, personal, government, legal, academic and professional ethics. Among her many awards and honors, Marianne was inducted into the AGA Speakers' Hall of Fame and also received a writers' award for best article in AGA's Journal of Government Financial Management.

Please join us for two hours of lively discussion about this important and timely topic. In addition to the speaker's commentary, there will be approximately 20 minutes for Q & A so that the participants can ask the speaker questions and share their own experiences.

Date and Time: This conference is scheduled on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 from 2:00 - 3:50 p.m. EST

Location and Cost: We are proud to announce that KPMG LLP, one of our chapter's esteemed corporate partners, has agreed to sponsor this event ***free of charge*** for our chapter members.

The conference will take place at KPMG LLP's Washington, DC office: 2001 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20036

05/15/08 - 05/15/08

Early Careers Social Hour

Event Description: *Description:* Our chapter is pleased to announce social hours specifically geared to our Early Career members.

Location of This Month's Event: ESPN Zone in Washington, DC

Time: The event begins at 5:30 p.m.

Contact: [AnLih Tung and Chris Deeb](#)

Phone: 301-931-2050 or 301-443-0089

For More Information: [Early Careers Social Hour](#)

05/21/08 - 05/21/08

May Dinner Meeting

Event Description: *Presentation:* Sam Mok, AGA's National President-elect

Community Service Activity: Please bring your used cell phones (sponsored by the Montgomery County Police), and please bring your used eye glasses (sponsored by the Lions).

Dinner Selection: Pepper steak with a trio of peppers on saffron rice, chef's choice of salad, soft beverage and dessert

Reception: 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Dinner and Speaker: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (approximate ending time)

Location: Hilton Hotel (formerly the Double Tree Inn) at 1750 Rockville Pike

CGFM

Take the CGFM Examinations Before the PDC

AGA is once again offering a great opportunity to take the CGFM Examinations and earn your CGFM before the 57th Annual Professional Development Conference (PDC) in Atlanta, GA. We are offering a two-day Intensive Review Course on Thursday, July 24, and Friday, July 25, 2008, and an opportunity to take the CGFM Examinations on July 26-27, 2008. The cost of the course is only \$249 for qualified participants, and it offers 18 CPE hours. Special Bonus: The CGFM Examinations are offered at no cost to course attendees.

This Intensive Review Course will cover the updates to the CGFM Examinations, and this event will be the first opportunity to take the updated examinations. While the core of the examination content remained the same, the three examination content outlines were updated, refreshed and streamlined. This is your opportunity to get the most up-to-date information and earn your CGFM right at the PDC!

More information and a registration form for this event are available on the AGA website - http://www.agacgfm.org/pdc2008/cgfm_exams.htm. If you have any questions, please contact Crystal Vanison at cvanison@agacgfm.org or 800.AGA.7211, ext. 316.

An AGA TRAINING AUDIO CONFERENCE

May 14, 2008
2 CPE Hours Available!

AGA, in conjunction with the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT) and the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA), is pleased to announce a new and increasingly important topic to our audio conference schedule – cases of ethical lapses.

During this audio conference, the presenter will recount some recent ethical lapses in government and examine the causes and effects. By examining a series of ethical lapses, we find that a pattern emerges. That pattern allows us to think about this question: What is it in the culture of an agency that allows obvious ethical breaches to occur and continue? Once we understand the culture, we can think about putting the detection methods, as well as antidotes, in place.

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Please join us for two hours of lively discussion about this important and timely topic. In addition to the speaker's commentary, there will be approximately 20 minutes for Q & A so that the participants can ask the speaker questions and share their own experiences.

Date:	Wednesday, May 14, 2008
Time:	2:00 - 3:50 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time
Learning Objectives:	To understand how ethical breaches are influenced by agency culture and what can be done to prevent such occurrences in the first place.
Prerequisite:	Familiarity with ethical behavior in the workplace.
Advance Prep:	None required
CPE:	Two credits
Field of Study:	Behavioral Ethics *

Cost:
\$249 per site (UNLIMITED ATTENDANCE) if you register on or before Friday, May 9, 2008 and \$299 thereafter. SPECIAL PROMOTION: Government agencies and AGA Corporate Partner members who register five or more offices will receive a 20% discount (i.e., \$200 per site)

To Register:
1) Register online 2) Print the registration form or the Special Promotion registration form and fax it to 703.684.6933

* Please note that this course qualifies for continuing professional education credits under NASBA; however, the material provided in this audio conference is general in nature and not specific to any laws or rules of any specific state. Therefore, please check with your State Board of Accountancy if you have any questions regarding the CPE eligibility of this course. This audio conference offers important information to almost everyone in the accountability profession. Please share this program announcement with others in your government, chapters, educational institutions and private firms. Remember, there is no limit to attendance per phone site. If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact Maria Lucas at 1-800-242-7211 ext. 308 or mlucas@agacgfm.org. Questions regarding the program should be directed to Raymond Harris at ext. 339 or rharris@agacgfm.org

Training with Treasury

Training/Events Registration Debt Management Services 2008 Annual Conference

Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel
1700 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Theme: The Federal Government's
Debt Collection Toolbox

Treasury Offset **PCAs**
FedDebt Demand Letters
AWG Referral to Justice
TROR Credit Bureau Reporting

May 21-22, 2008

Registration: 7:30 a.m.

Start Time: 8:30 a.m.



Register

Debt Management Services' annual debt collection conference will focus on the Federal Government's debt collection tools and how an agency should apply all appropriate debt collection actions.

This conference is meant to reach a broad-based Federal audience working in the Federal debt collection field. The conference is **FREE** of charge to participants.

The **agenda**, which can be viewed online on Wednesday, April 9th, includes:

- Round-table discussion of current processing and future enhancements related to FedDebt profiles, reports, 1099Cs and TOP referrals;
- Debt Common Client/Security, Economic Stimulus Payments, Collections; and Additional Payments;
- An overview of legislative proposals that may impact the collection of delinquent debt owed to Federal agencies; and
- The 2007 Private Collection Agency (PCA) Contract, Third PCA Referral Initiative, Closeout of 2001 PCA Contract, National Directory of New Hires; and Administrative Wage Garnishment (AWG).

Interested program staff, technical staff, and legal counsel should attend this conference.

Day Two will include the following workshop break-out sessions:

- Debt Collection 101;
- Treasury Report on Receivables and Debt Collection Activities;
- AWG;

Training with Treasury (Cont'd.)

- FedDebt Financial's: the big picture on adjustments to debt balances - what is affected;
- On-line demonstration of the FedDebt Management Reports
- How to improve your 1099-C reporting process;
- Discussion of file transmission errors, dispute processing and debt supporting documents; and
- Live demonstration of the Debt Common Client.

Please Note: Due to our efforts to eliminate paper; conference hand-out materials will only be made available on-line. Please print and bring all copies with you to the conference. The material will be available for print on May 12, 2008. Also, the break-out sessions on Day Two will be repeated throughout the day, if a session is FULL; please try to attend another session.

Hotel parking is available in the hotel's underground parking garage. The self parking rate is \$19.00 per day. The valet parking rate is \$25.00 per day. For room reservations, please call 1 (800) 228-9290 or (703) 920-3230. Hotel room reservations must be made by Monday, April 21, 2008. When reserving a hotel room, please mention that you are attending the Department of the Treasury Conference.

Registration for the conference can be completed via the Internet at www.fms.treas.gov/debt/training_DMS2008AnnualConf.html. Please register by May 2, 2008. Space is limited and it is imperative that you keep us informed of any change in your attendance plans. Due to the high volume of interest in this conference, notice of cancellation is mandatory. If you cancel within three days of the date of the event, it may affect your ability to register for future conferences and workshops. For questions, or should you have any special needs (e.g., sign language interpreting), please contact Stephanie Anderson by phone at (202) 874-8580 or e-mail at Stephanie.Anderson@fms.treas.gov or Denise Hammond at (202) 874-7005 or e-mail at Denise.Hammond@fms.treas.gov.

AGADC Member Happenings

AGADC Member Happenings

Snapshots

Cherry Blossoms, Washington, DC

Share your snapshots with us. Submit your photo today, for next month's newsletter.



Monument Photo by Christian Escobar
[Contact](#)

Federal News

Inspector general notes moderate progress at FEMA

By Chris Strohm
CongressDaily
April 3, 2008

Although it has been more than two-and-a-half years since Hurricane Katrina exposed massive government problems in handling catastrophes, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has not made substantial progress in key emergency preparedness areas, the Homeland Security Department's inspector general says in a new report.

Instead, FEMA has made moderate to modest progress in eight of nine of the most important preparedness areas, according to the report, which was not released but was obtained by CongressDaily.

Homeland Security Inspector General Richard Skinner is scheduled to testify Thursday along with FEMA Director R. David Paulison at a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee hearing to examine whether FEMA is better to prepared to handle a catastrophe than it was when hurricanes Katrina and Rita ravaged the Gulf Coast in 2005.

"FEMA officials said that budget shortfalls, reorganizations, inadequate information technology systems and confusing or limited authorities negatively affected their progress," the IG report asserts.

"We agree with FEMA," the report adds. "FEMA would also benefit from better knowledge management and plans for sustaining initiatives that are under way." According to the report, FEMA has made moderate progress in five areas: overall planning, coordination and support, interoperable communications, logistics and acquisition management.

The agency has made modest progress in three areas: handling evacuations, providing housing for displaced persons, and building a workforce to deal with disasters.

FEMA has the most need -- rated as making only limited progress -- in clearly defining mission assignments, the report concludes.

The report says that FEMA has made substantial progress only in providing law enforcement agencies access to its records and improving the ability of the Gulf Coast to evacuate.

But overall, none of the nine major areas was given the highest rating of making substantial progress.

The IG's office said it did not perform an in-depth assessment of each of the nine areas, but used its broad knowledge of the areas to gauge the agency's overall progress.

In a written response to the report, Paulison said the inspector general did not accurately reflect much of the work his agency has done over the last two years or how some responsibilities fall to other components of the department.

He also said the agency has a new strategic plan. Paulison said the IG's reporting methodology should be more comprehensive, writing that it was "unclear as to how the IG calculated and tabulated the ratings for the nine key areas."

Paulison disagreed with an IG recommendation that FEMA conduct a comprehensive needs assessment.

"FEMA has no shortage of recommendations of improvements the agency needs to make, and has had our capability gaps clearly spelled out," he wrote. "The sheer workload associated with responding to the administrative documentation requirements of over 700 recommendations from DHS, OIG and GAO is directly impacting our continued efforts to improve FEMA."

At Thursday's hearing, Paulison is also likely to explain to the committee that he does not intend to resign immediately.

News outlets in Florida began reporting Wednesday that he was going to resign based on comments he made to them at a hurricane conference. Paulison issued a statement hours after the news reports saying his comments were taken out of context.

"Let me be clear: I have no plans to leave at this time, and am committed to moving FEMA's mission forward," he said. "It is a fact that I serve President Bush, and therefore my service will end when we move into the next administration. However, I can assure you that this announcement is not imminent."



AGA-DC and GWSCPA 7th Annual Conference



Financial Management in Changing Times

May 7-8, 2008

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center

(Horizon Ballroom)

Highlights:

Join us for our annual spring conference. This year's theme focuses on how current trends and the upcoming transition in the Administration may impact the federal financial management community in the future. This year's invited speakers include:

Danny Werfel, Acting Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, OMB
David Norquist, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security
McCoy Williams, Managing Director, Financial Management and Assurance, GAO

Attention CPA's:

We are again offering an optional 2-hour breakout session on Ethics.

Conference Information / Registration:

Program times: 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on both Wednesday and Thursday

AGA-DC and GWSCPA members: \$375 early registration fee (\$425 registration after April 18)

Non-members: \$425 early registration fee (\$475 registration after April 18)

Group discount: Register at least three attendees from the same organization at the same time to get an additional 5% discount off the appropriate fee. Register six or more attendees from the same organization at the same time to get an additional 10% discount off the appropriate fee.

Continuing Education:

15 hours CPE credit (recommended) for all paid attendees

Who Should Attend:

Government financial management professionals, accounting and audit professionals, and other professionals who deal with government financial management professionals

For more information, visit www.agadc.org

Financial Management in Changing Times

7th Annual AGA-DC/GWSCPA Conference

Tentative Agenda

Wednesday, May 7, 2008	
7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.	Registration
8:00 a.m. to 8:10 a.m.	Welcoming Comments
8:10 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Keynote Address by Danny Werfel, Acting Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, OMB
9:00 a.m. to 9:10 a.m.	Break
9:10 a.m. to 10:25 a.m.	FASAB Panel: From the Grounds, Up and Beyond
10:25 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.	Break with Exhibitors
10:45 a.m. to 11:35 a.m.	Breakout 1: Treasury GWA Update
10:45 a.m. to 11:35 a.m.	Breakout 2: Financial Audit Manual
11:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.	Break
11:50 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.	Lunch
12:40 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.	Keynote Address by McCoy Williams, Managing Director, Financial Management and Assurance, GAO
1:30 p.m. to 1:40 p.m.	Break
1:40 p.m. to 2:55 p.m.	Change Management Panel
2:55 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.	Break with Exhibitors
3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Shared Services Panel

Thursday, May 8, 2008	
8:00 a.m. to 8:10 a.m.	Welcoming Comments
8:10 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Financial Report of the U.S. Government
9:00 a.m. to 9:10 a.m.	Break
9:10 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Updates on the Lines of Business
10:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	Break with Exhibitors
10:15 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.	Breakout 1: Ethics for CPAs
10:15 a.m. to 11:05 a.m.	Breakout 2a: A-123 Update – Where We Are and Where We Are Going
11:15 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.	Breakout 2b: TBD
12:05 p.m. to 12:15 p.m.	Break
12:15 p.m. to 1:05 p.m.	Lunch
1:05 p.m. to 1:55 p.m.	Keynote Address by David Norquist, Chief Financial Officer, DHS
1:55 p.m. to 2:05 p.m.	Break
2:05 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.	FMLOB Update
3:20 p.m. to 3:40 p.m.	Break with Exhibitors
3:40 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Executive Panel on the Blurring Line Between Acquisition and Finance

Awards

AWARDS NEWS

**AGADC
AWARDS
COMMITTEE
NEWS**

The Awards Committee is pleased to announce that we submitted 10 outstanding nominees to AGA for their National Awards. The committee is currently seeking nominations for the Ronald J. Lynch Scholarship. If you wish to nominate someone, please do so immediately! Nominations may be sent to Jeff Green, Awards Committee Chair at jgreen@kearneyco.com.

Don't forget! The Chapter's annual awards dinner is May 31, 2008 at the Grand Hyatt Washington. Register today at www.acagdc.org if you haven't already!



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Calendar of Events — 2007/2008 Program Year

Month	Luncheons	Community Service	Member Service	Education	Early Careers	Membership	Awards	CEC Meetings
September	19-Sep-2007 Zola Restaurant Danny Werfel Deputy Controller OMB Topic: "Smarter Accountability"	Baby Food Challenge	5-Sep-2007 Zayina Happy Hour 4:00 - 6:00 PM	20-Sep-2007 Audio Conference (AC) Making the Transition to Management: What it Takes to Succeed				4-Sep-2007
	17-Oct-2007		5-Oct-2007 or 7-Oct-2007		17-Oct-2007	25-Oct-2007		2-Oct-2007
October	Zola Restaurant Sally Ann Harper Topic: "Transforming the Enterprise at GAO"	Walk D'feet ALS ALS Association	Mont Vernon 8:00 - 9:00 PM OR NOVAGA 6:00 - 9:00 PM			Membership Luncheon Jerry Murphy Former Treasury Fiscal Assistant Secretary 12:00 - 1:00 PM Veterans Affairs		
			25-Oct-2007 Old Europe Oktoberfest					
November			28-Nov-2007 Opera Night at Café Mozart 8:30 PM					6-Nov-2007
December	5-Dec-2007		6-Dec-2007	12-Dec-2007	5-Dec-2007			4-Dec-2007
	Zola Restaurant William Campbell CFO Amtrak Topic: "The Transition from Public to Private Sector Financial Management"	Collect toys for needy children at monthly luncheon - US Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program	Mystery Dinner Show* 6:30 PM Dinner 8:00 PM Show Blair Mansion Inn Silver Spring MD	Anatomy of Fraud: Case Examples of Greed, Collusion and Override of Controls	FSIO/CGAC & BTAS/SFS Update NOVA Chapter's Holiday Social immediately following http://tagadc.org/novatraining.php			
January	23-Jan-2008 Zola Restaurant Ken Carfine Fiscal Assistant Secretary Treasury	Collect spare change at month luncheon - Make- A-Wish Foundation	AGADinner					8-Jan-2008
February	26-Feb-2008 Zola Restaurant Steve Isakowitz, CFO US Dept of Energy	Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)	6-Feb-2008 Capitals Game Partner with NOVA	7-Feb-2008 AC- Internal Controls				6-Feb-2008
				21-Feb-2008 - 22-Feb-2008 National Leadership Conference Washington DC 14 CPEs				
March	26-Mar-2008 Zola Restaurant Bill Boutboul Topic: Overview of audit of consolidated financial statements	Dress for Success Suit Drive	7-Mar-2008 Smithsonian Museum of Natural History Jazz Café 6:30PM					8-Mar-2008 Teleconference #: 1 866 285 7776 Participant Code: 7682585 12:00 - 1:00 PM
April	16-Apr-2008		12-Apr-2008		3-April-2008 or 4-April-2008	16-Apr-2008		1-Apr-2008
	Zola Restaurant Speaker TBD	Habitat for Humanity	Virginia Wine Tour (Partner with NOVA)		White House Tour TBD	Membership Briefing EPA 24-Apr-2008		Teleconference #: 1 866 285 7776 Participant Code: 7682585 12:00 - 1:00 PM
May			18-May-2008	7-May-2008 8-May-2008			31-May-2008	6-May-2008
June		Eyeglass Collection for Lions Club and Cell Phone Collection Verizon Wireless	Tidal Basin Paddle Boats and picnic	Spring Conference Ronald Reagan Bldg			Awards Gala	3-Jun-2008 Teleconference #: 1 866 285 7776 Participant Code: 7682585 12:00 - 1:00 PM
July		Boys and Girls Club (Baseball Outing)	Nationals Game					1-Jul-2008 Teleconference #: 1 866 285 7776 Participant Code: 7682585 12:00 - 1:00 PM
				27-July-2008 30-July-2008				
				Professional Development Conference Atlanta, GA				

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