

The Washington Connection

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS
WASHINGTON D.C. CHAPTER



Issue 7 • June 2009

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Snapshots



VIRGINIA WINE TOUR



AGADC Awards Gala



19th Annual Government Financial Management Conference

Tuesday, August 4th - Wednesday, August 5th

- Credit: 16 CPE's
- Tuition: \$795.00 and early bird price \$750.00 if registered by June 1, 2009
- [Conference Details and Program](#)

2009 Year-End Closing Seminar

Monday, August 3rd

- Credit: 7 CPE's
- Tuition: \$545.00 and early bird price \$495.00 if registered by June 1, 2009
- [Seminar Details and Program](#)

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See You in
September!

[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](#)

Note From the Editor

by *Leon Fleischer, Editor*

I hope everyone enjoyed our previous May issue. I attended the AGA DC and GWSCPA annual conference on May 12 and May 13 at the Ronald Reagan Building. It was a terrific conference put on by our chapter. I heard several attendees refer to the conference as the "mini-PDC"! A big thank you to Susan Johnson and her volunteers who coordinated this great conference. There were very informative topics presented on diverse topics such as the Recovery Act, the FMLoB, Enterprise Risk Management, and FIRS. Please see the pictures from the conference in this newsletter.



On June 21-24, AGA will be hosting its 58th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC) in the "Big Easy"-this is the premier education and networking event of the year. At the PDC, you can hear from dynamic speakers, make new contacts, and experience all the culture that New Orleans has to offer.

This is the last newsletter of the 2008-2009 year. We will take a break for the summer and resume with the September issue. I wish everyone an enjoyable summer, and hope everyone is able to take a break and enjoy the sunshine. On a personal note, it has been my pleasure to be the editor of the newsletter this past year. I have truly enjoyed working with everyone, and want to thank everyone who contributed articles to the newsletter this past year. This newsletter is only made possible because of the contribution of articles from the chapter's members. Thank you for all who submitted articles-these articles reflected the depth of knowledge and experience in this group, and the newsletter team is fortunate enough to review and publish these articles. We hope that you enjoy the newsletter and find it helpful for keeping up to date on events in the chapter and in AGA. Our team strives to produce a high quality newsletter notifying AGA D.C. members of Chapter and National events and services. And, if you are not already a member, we encourage you to join the AGA D.C. Chapter and enjoy the many benefits it offer, in particular the high quality luncheon series, learning opportunities, and conferences.

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter? Do you have an article you would like to see printed? Have you developed a time-saving process or procedure on the job? Have you traveled to any interesting locations? The Washington Connection requests that you submit any and all items of interest to our federal, state, and local members including: reviews of recently published books related to financial management; unique travel experiences or assignments; lessons learned on roll-outs of new systems; appointments or promotions; employment opportunities; and noteworthy accomplishments by our members. We also welcome digital photos that accompany your submission. Your articles, comments, and ideas are what make this newsletter go and we welcome all input!

Have a great summer! This is the final sign off for the 2008/2009 year.

Leon Fleischer

Leon Fleischer



Newsletter Team

Leon Fleischer, Editor

Jorge Asef-Sargent, Assistant Editor

Erwin Solbach, Graphics

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President's Message



by **Ann Davis**

What a wonderful year this has been! I am pleased to announce that the DC Chapter has received Platinum Recognition by AGA National based on our overall performance in governance, education, membership, and programs.

We owe much of our success to each of you who came out in record numbers to our monthly luncheons, educational conferences, social events and our annual awards dinner. We worked hard to develop creative events that were not only fun but also educational and you supported us with your presence, time, and donations.

- We brought in some of the best in federal government leadership to speak at our luncheons and due to your participation the luncheons sold out in days.
- Through our audio and Spring conferences, we offered over 40 hours of CPE, including 12 hours of free CPE through the audio conferences; these events also sold out.
- This past year we have had a number of successful social events, with a great turnout. We have worked jointly with the NOVAGA Chapter on multiple occasions and networked with our colleagues from Virginia at the Virginia Wine Tour, the Washington Wizards basketball game, and many other events. As usual, the Chinese New Year was our most popular event drawing over 80 of our members ranging from early careers members to retired agency CFOs. We look forward to celebrating this year with our members during one last outing as we watch the Washington Nationals take on the Chicago Cubs on Sunday, July 19.
- We collected over \$2,000 in cash donations from you through our ALS Walk, Toys for Tots, and Make a Wish Foundation community service initiatives.
- We also made enhancements to our website to improve its design and facilitate the registration process for events.

I also want to express my gratitude to and recognition of DC Chapter Executive Committee for its extraordinary efforts in creating, coordinating and executing this year's events. Your dedication and cooperation has gone a long way towards making this a successful year. Please know that you have made my time serving as your President a distinctive honor.

Ann Davis

Ann Davis



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Request for Newsletter Submissions, Comments, or Suggestions

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter? Do you have an article you would like to see in print? Have you developed a time-saving process or procedure on the job? Have you traveled to any interesting locations? The Washington Connection requests that you submit any and all items of interest to our federal, state, and local members including: reviews of recently published books related to financial management; unique travel experiences or assignments; lessons learned on roll-outs of new systems; appointments or promotions; employment opportunities; and noteworthy accomplishments by our members. We also welcome digital photos that accompany your submission.

The Washington Connection will not be issued in July or August. The next issue will be the September 2009 issue. *Have a great summer!*



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WANT TO HELP?

If you're interested in being a liaison or joining the mentor program, as either a mentor or mentee, please contact Ruthie Apelt: ruth.apelt@thomson.com

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AGA serves government accountability professionals by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

Click on the link below to view a short AGA video:
<http://www.agacgfm.org/downloads/agaweb.wmv>



ASMC & AGA Annual Golf Tournament July 15, 2009

Ft. Belvoir Golf Club
Gunston Course

0800 Shotgun Start

The event begins with a shotgun start at 0800 and concludes with a catered lunch at the clubhouse. The format is Captain's Choice.

- \$50/pp government and military personnel
- \$90/pp corporate and retirees.

Includes green fees, cart, lunch, and the opportunity to win fantastic prizes.

On-line Registration:

<https://secure.rhq.com/ireg/public/index.cgi?evid=R09-07-15-ASMC>

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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.

CGFM Session at the PDC

Attending the Professional Development Conference in New Orleans? Mark your calendars for an important CGFM session, *CGFM: Government Financial Management Certification for the Future*. It is set for 11 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. on Wednesday, **June 24**.



Improved service to citizens, a competitive advantage in the industry, a demonstrated commitment to continuous learning--these are just some of the benefits of the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) certification. Learn about the value and importance of the CGFM, perspective of employers and recent CGFM's. If you haven't yet earned the CGFM designation, this session is for you.

Win Baseball Tickets at next Luncheon!

There will be a drawing at every monthly luncheon for 2 free tickets to a Washington National's game. Another great incentive to attend the monthly meetings!

Winner!

Nancy Nakamura



Community Service

Thanks again to everyone who helped make our April Community Service event a success. We collected several pairs of eyeglasses and used cell phones that will be distributed to needy families domestically and worldwide.

During our May luncheon, we asked members and non-members to support SOME (So Others Might Eat) by depositing cash and checks donations in a bowl located on the community service table. SOME is an interfaith, community-based organization that exists to help the poor and homeless of our nation's capital. They meet the immediate daily needs of the homeless and needy with food, clothing, and health care. They help break the cycle of homelessness by offering services, such as affordable housing, job training, addiction treatment, and counseling, to the poor, the elderly and individuals with mental illness.

Please contact **Lloyd A. Farmer** 703-294-4473, **Tonya Allen Shaw** 202-720-5026 or **AnnMarie Walker** 202 461-6499 if you are interested in helping us with future events.

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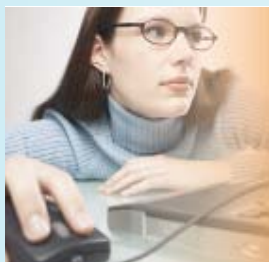
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- [GWSCPA Home Page \(D.C.\)](#)
- [AICPA Home Page](#)

Membership

AGA SOCIAL NETWORKING AND SURVEY: STRONG INTEREST AT LUNCHEON

By: AGA D.C. Membership/Liaison Committee

Would you like to participate in AGA's Facebook or another social networking site? What do you know about AGA D.C.'s membership? What services are important to AGA D.C.'s members (which now number 1,760)? These questions generated a lot of buzz at the Membership/Liaison Committee's April 22 free catered luncheon, which featured panelists and an enthusiastic audience.

Here's what happened:

Social Networking

After Rodneikka Freeman, AGA National's Membership Director, announced that AGA would soon be launching its "Facebook" page, people began suggesting ways to attract AGA participants, including the need to reduce fears about loss of privacy. Rodneikka agreed that AGA could advise potential Facebook users on "Do's and Don'ts," and shortly after the luncheon produced "Basic Rules to Guide You Through Your Facebook Experience." The luncheon sure got people brainstorming with good results!

What else was discussed on the social networking front? Well, we now know that AGA D.C. can create a group with links to the AGA National Facebook site. Using Facebook and/or Twitter, members might be more inclined to attend an AGA D.C. event, learning that someone else will be attending—a "buddy system" of sorts—via social networking. Twitter allows people to update others on their plans and activities with short "sound bytes." Members should also consider using "LinkedIn," another social networking site, which allows for groups, such as AGA, to exchange information, including job opening info, on professional matters.

Thank you, Rodneikka, Chris Deeb, Director, Early Careers for AGA Montgomery County/Prince Georges County, and Kim Farington, AGA D.C. President-Elect, for adding so much to our luncheon as panelists on social networking. Stay tuned! AGA D.C. is now looking into these social networking opportunities for the coming year!

AGA D.C. Survey/Enhancing Services

Luncheon attendees also learned about AGA D.C.'s recent membership survey, conducted by the Membership/Liaison Committee. About 15% of the membership responded to the survey, with members reporting:

- The majority (73%) work for either the executive branch/civilian agency or as consultants/accounting firms with federal clients.
- 75% have worked in the government arena for more than 10 years.
- 47% indicate that they will continue working in the government financial management/audit field for at least 10 more years.
- 79% of respondents report that they hold a CGFM, and 55% are CPAs.
- Members indicated that continuing professional education is the most valued service provided by AGA, followed by networking opportunities.
- "Accounting and Financial Reporting" is the number one educational topic, 44% of respondents noted, with "Auditing/Internal Controls," and "Strategic Direction and Emerging Trends," following closely behind.
- 66% reported that they pay all their own professional membership, certification, etc. fees.

Many respondents provided comments, some commending AGA D.C. for the wealth of educational and networking opportunities offered, and some noted that they had not been receiving e-mails on upcoming AGA D.C. events. These responses spurred the panelists and others to provide their own views on ways to enhance services to members.

Membership (cont.)

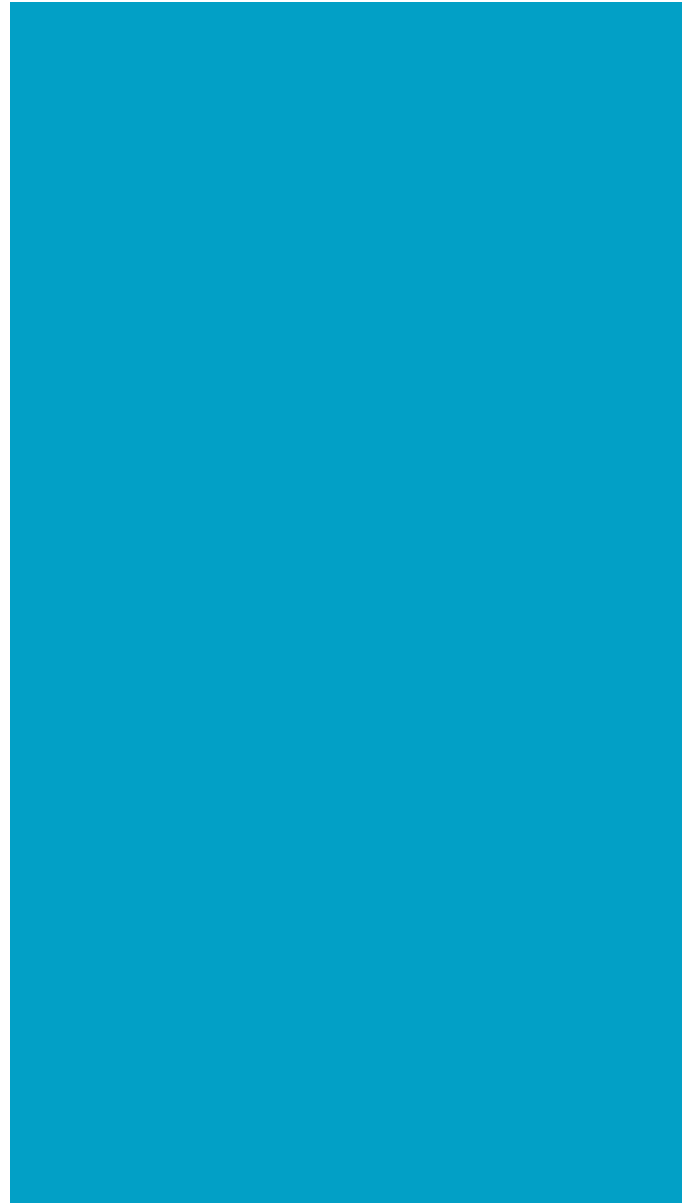
The challenges of keeping AGA D.C.'s e-mail addresses current were addressed. Certainly AGA D.C. will continue to remind members to update their addresses at the AGA National website (www.agacgfm.org) and in the AGA D.C. mail sign-up system on the homepage (www.agadc.org). Announcements will also be made at luncheons and elsewhere. One person suggested that e-mails also advise members of "Upcoming Events," at the beginning of the e-mail. Perhaps AGA D.C.'s Washington Connection could also provide a thumbnail synopsis at the top of the front page to attract the interest of the all-too-busy professional, another added.

Volunteer Sign-Up-You Too!

The luncheon generated interest in volunteering, with some offering to assist on membership/liason activities, including mentoring. Although you might have missed the luncheon, perhaps you would like to make things happen in AGA D.C., and a great way to do that is to contact the AGA D.C. Membership/Liaison Committee Co-Director, Marguerite Nealon (wnealon01@aol.com). Look forward to bringing you on board!



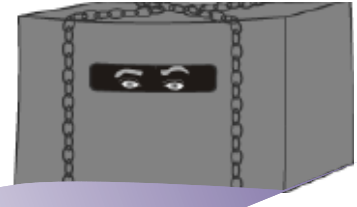
President-Elect Kim Farington





Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA



New Accounts for Interest, Penalties, Fines, and Administrative Fees

Introduction

One of the most confusing aspects of preparing financial statements is that many Standard General Ledger (SGL) accounts map to multiple lines. On December 13, 2007, the SGL Issues Resolution Committee proposed splitting 1360 Penalties, Fines, and Administrative Fees Receivable into several new accounts to reduce the number of multi-use accounts, and I reported on these in my February, 2008 column. On April 23, 2009, the IRC expanded the proposal to create separate accounts for exchange versus nonexchange transactions, and also to apply the split-out to 1340 Interest Receivable.

Receivables

Governments are notoriously bad about managing receivables. The SGL reflects this problem with overlapping and confusing accounts that map simultaneously to a number of mutually-exclusive lines on the financial statements. Accounts 1340 for Interest and 1360 for Penalties, Fines, and Administrative Fees are mapped to several Balance Sheet lines. Under the proposal, each receivable account's balance would be reported on only two lines, one for federal vendors and another for non-federal. In addition, since penalties and fines are nonexchange transactions, and administrative fees are exchange transactions, the 1360 series of accounts would be split into 136x for penalties and fines, and 137x for fees. The proposed accounts and their Balance Sheet mapping are summarized below:

Receivable Type	Balance Sheet		Interest		Penalties and Fines		Administrative Fees	
	Line Number							
	<i>Federal / Public</i>		<i>Asset / Contra</i>		<i>Asset / Contra</i>		<i>Asset / Contra</i>	
General	3	9	1340	1347	1360	1367	1370	1377
Loans	4	11	1341	1345	1361	1365	1371	1375
Investments	2	8	1342	1346				
Taxes		10	1343	1348	1363	1368	1373	1378

Revenues

Similarly, the revenue account 5320 and contra-revenue account 5329 for Penalties, Fines, and Administrative Fees will be split out between exchange and nonexchange transactions. The revised 5320 will be penalties and fines nonexchange revenue, and its new contra-account is 5324. A new 5325 account will hold administrative fees exchange revenue, and the revised 5329 will be its contra-account. This means the entire balance of accounts 5320 and 5324 will be on the Statement of Changes in Net Position (SCNP), while the entire balance of 5325 and 5329 will be on the Statement of Net Cost (SNC). Previously, the agencies had to report only the exchange portions on the SNC and nonexchange on the SCNP.

Inside the Black Box (Cont'd.)

Conclusion

I support any move to reduce the ambiguity of the SGL account mapping to the financial statements, so I approve of the addition of the new accounts. Should this proposal pass (and I expect that it will), agencies should plan now on how to split out their posting activity to 1340, 1360, and 5320 for FY2010. They may also want to start using subaccounts this year to smooth out the transition to FY2010 reporting.

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.

Simcha Kuritzky
Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA

Snapshots

AGADC CONFERENCE



AGA-DC Chapter President Ann Davis kicks off the conference.



Wendy Payne, FASAB Executive Director and Past AGA-DC President, provides an update on accounting standards.



David Cotton, Chairman of Cotton & Company LLP, provides ethics training for CPA's.



Danny Werfel, Deputy Controller of the Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget, provides a timely update on reporting guidance for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.



Danny Werfel, Deputy Controller of the Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget, takes a question from the audience.



AGADC CONFERENCE



Attendees take a moment to catch up between sessions.



Marianne Condon, AGA-DC Assistant Treasurer, and Mike Allen, AGA-DC Assistant Director for Education coordinate financial aspects of the conference.



Carrie Hug, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Accounting Policy Division, Office of the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Treasury provides an update on intragovernmental transactions.



Robert Tuccillo, CFO of the Federal Transit Administration and Marcia Paull, CFO of the Office of Justice Programs take questions about Implementing the Recovery Act.



Dianne Copeland, Director of the Financial Systems Integration Office, moderates the Update on FMLoB session with speakers Owen Barwell, Deputy CFO, Department of Energy and David Fisher, Director, Business Transformation Agency, Department of Defense.

AGADC CONFERENCE



Jeff Hoge, Director, Accounting Systems Division, Financial Management Service, Treasury takes questions from the audience after his update on the GWA FIRST Initiative.



Mari-Ellen Testa, Incoming AGA-DC Education Director, and Ann Davis, AGA-DC President, thank Mike Allen and Susan Johnson for directing this year's conference.



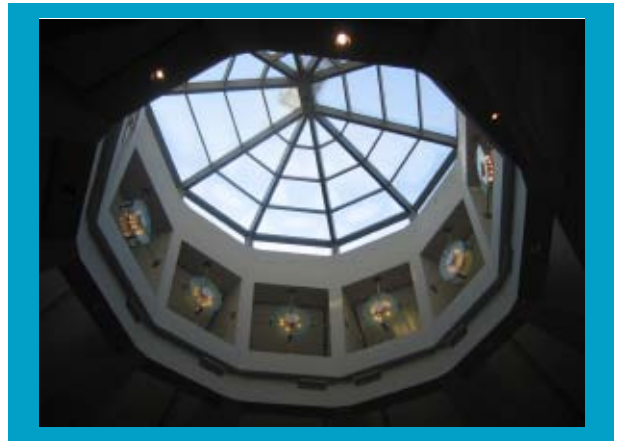
Doug Webster, Christine Shafik, and Michael Tennyson are introduced to the audience before speaking about Enterprise Risk Management.

Snapshot

AGADC CONFERENCE



Coffee Station



Dome



Long Time Volunteer Darrell Johnson



Registration



Snapshots

AGADC CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS



Leon



Danny and Kim



Mike and Susan



Susan and Team



Mike, Susan, and Ann



Thank You!

Snapshots

AGADC CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



David Fisher & Panel



Carrie



John Cox



Last Panel



AGADC CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Marcia Paull



Karen Landry, NRO



Scott



Tuccillo



Susan



Wendy & Jeff



Risk Panel

Snapshots

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Chapter Awards Dinner: Another Success

On Saturday, June 6, the DC Chapter held its annual awards dinner at the Hyatt Grand Washington. More than 200 attendees, including awardees, former chapter and national presidents, chapter members for 25 years or more, and Early Careers members, enjoyed an elegant dinner, celebrated their colleagues accomplishments, and danced the night away. The guest list included AGA's current National President, Sam Mok, current National Treasurer, Thad Juszczyk, and Executive Director Relmond Van Daniker. More than a dozen past, present, and future chapter presidents were in attendance, including current chapter president Ann Davis and president-elect Kim Farington, as was much of the Capital Region leadership. Photos from the event are available for view and/or download at:

<http://pa.photoshelter.com/invite/g/U0000uuNImkLWEoQ/G00006cwGzo1yk0c/>

Password is AGA (case sensitive).

The evening's focus, however, was on the award winners:

- Distinguished Leadership Award: S. Anthony McCann, Associate Administrator and Chief Financial Officer, Health Resources and Services Administration. Mr. McCann will also receive AGA's National Frank Greathouse Federal Distinguished Leadership Award at the Professional Development Conference.
- Distinguished Service to the Financial Management Community Award: Richard L. Fontentrose, CGFM, CPA, Assistant Director, Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board. Richard will also receive AGA's National Cornelius Y. Tierney Research Award at the Professional Development Conference.
- Achievement of the Year Award: U.S. Treasury Department's Office of the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Office of Financial Management (OFM)- represented by James Lingeback, Don Geiger, Toya Craig, and Bob Faber). OFM will also receive AGA's National Achievement of the Year Award at the Professional Development Conference.
- International Achievement Award: Robert F. Dacey, JD, CGFM, CPA, Chief Accountant, U.S. Government Accountability Office. Mr. Dacey will also receive AGA's National International Achievement Award at the Professional Development Conference.
- Einhorn Gary Award (Chapter) - R. Scott Bell, CGFM, Senior Accountant, U.S. Department of the Treasury.
- Einhorn Gary Award (National) - Wendy M. Payne, Executive Director, Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board. Ms. Payne was awarded the chapter's Einhorn-Gary Award in 2005
- James W. Saylor Chapter Service Award: Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM, CPA, Executive Consultant, CGI Federal
- Lifetime Appreciation Award - T. Darrell Verner, CGFM, retired. The chapter honored Mr. Verner, a member of 52 years for his outstanding commitment, staunch determination, and tireless dedication in advancing government accountability and enhancing AGA's prestige and stature. Mr. Verner's wife, Gerri and son, Douglas, himself a 30-year member were on hand for the occasion.

The chapter wishes to thank Scott Bell, Eleanor Crawford, Pat Wensel, Ann Davis, Dan Christovich, Shonya Carlock, Tracy Savage, Ellen Goldberg, Ann Marie Walker, Pushparajan Ariokaswami, and many others who helped make the awards dinner a success. The chapter would also like to thank Gene Hunt and his staff at the Hyatt, and especially all of the chapter sponsors, without whom this and the many other events throughout the year would not have been possible.

Snapshots

CHAPTER AWARDS DINNER



Member Services

On Saturday, April 25 46 AGA DC and NOVAGA members gathered to enjoy good food, great wine, and beautiful weather! We had two buses this year, and each bus enjoyed three new wineries, along with a relaxing lunch at Grandale Farms restaurant. Luckily, there were no mechanical problems with either of the buses this year, so the trip was relatively adventure-free!

Among the wineries visited were: Breaux Vineyards, Bluemont, Sunset Hills, Corcoran, and Notaviva. We had a wonderful time tasting, touring, and getting to know our colleagues. Thank you to all those who attended, and thank you again to all of our sponsors for making these events possible. If you were unable to join us, we hope to see you at the next event!



VIRGINIA
Wine Tour



Community Service Project

Third Annual National Community Service Project Another Rousing Success—"Third-and-a-half" Habitat Event Coming Up June 25

By AGA Past National President Jeffrey S. Hart, CGFM, CFE

Thirteen AGA members supported by as many local chapter members participated in the Third Annual National Community Service project in New Orleans' Ninth Ward April 27–May 1, 2009. Like last year, the project was sandwiched between the two weekends of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festivals. Most out-of-town participants stayed in the beautiful, new University of New Orleans dormitory in two- and four- bedroom, furnished apartments.

Due to popular demand, we have created a second opportunity this year to experience what it's like to work with Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans. Please join me, AGA National President-elect Billy Morehead, Ph.D., CGFM, CPA, and other AGA leaders at AGA's "Third-and-a-half" Annual National Community Service Project on June 25, the day after the PDC ends. This will be the third consecutive year, and the second time in 2009, that AGA members and their family and friends meet in New Orleans to build a house in Musicians' Village with Habitat for Humanity for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

One of the highlights in April was seeing Nat Franklin, the owner of the first home we worked on two years ago. Nat clearly was doing well and he is proud of his new home. He had made a variety of small improvements to his small home, including a new driveway and carport. Another highlight was the lunchtime concert presented by the musician-home owners of Habitat's Musicians' Village.

This year's on-site volunteers included Past AGA National President Virginia Robinson, CGFM, CPA, DABFA, Past AGA National Treasurer Evelyn Brown, CGFM, and Senior Vice President-at-Large Karl Boettcher, MBA, CGFM, from the Washington, D.C. Chapter; Past RVP Doreen Shute, CGFM, CPA, from Montgomery/Prince Georges County Chapter; Melinda Barbish from the Richmond Chapter; Janice Wieberg, CGFM, and Thomas Wieberg of the Mid-Missouri Chapter; Yong-He Bae, Erin Koksall, and Thanh Le of the Denver Chapter; and Howard Tamborella, CGFM, and Marcie Tureaud from the New Orleans Chapter.

Thanks also to Past RVP Peggy Javery, CGFM, Amanda Green, CGFM, Gary Millet, CGFM, and all the members of the New Orleans Chapter for their always amazing and generous hospitality. The hot catered meals delivered by Howard Tamborella and PNP Jullin Renthrope, CGFM, CPA, CFE, CGFO, were delicious as usual. Special thanks to PNP Clyde McShan, CGFM, for again inviting all of us into his beautiful home for his legendary crawfish boil, and for arranging for the free tickets to the Zephyrs baseball game. I also want to thank Knica Lloyd, CPA, for the nice gift bags with the New Orleans T-shirts and all the other nice goodies. It's our wonderful AGA colleagues in New Orleans that really make this such an enjoyable endeavor. Thanks also to Doreen Shute and the Capital Region chapters for providing us all with the fashionable lime green T-shirts.

This year's volunteers clearly enjoyed themselves. Janice M. Wieberg, CGFM, said, "This was a most wonderful experience for me. Tom had explained how much it meant to him, after he'd worked this event last year, but until I actually experienced it for myself, I didn't truly and fully understand what he meant. We are both definitely planning on returning next year." PNP Virginia Robinson said, "It was wonderful meeting AGAers and others with true grit and the real community service spirit. I've known for a long time that our New Orleans Chapter is part of the crème de la crème in AGA, but this time they even out did themselves. I'm definitely planning to return."

Over 2,000 families were to be evicted from their 300-square-foot FEMA trailers on May 31 according to the local newspaper. By one estimate, as many as 20,000 buildings in the city remain uninhabitable after the 2005 hurricane devastated New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. Stay in New Orleans an extra day, and take part in this fun and meaningful event. You can make a difference.

All AGA hotels will honor the special AGA rate for this extra night if space is available. Volunteers will work from 7:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Transportation will be arranged (perhaps for a small fee), and a delicious catered lunch will be provided by the New Orleans AGA chapter. **Please complete [the registration form](#) as soon as possible to participate.**

Contact me for details at 303.312.6169 or hart.jeff@epa.gov. You can also [read my description with photographs from AGA's April 2008 Habitat work project in New Orleans](#).

Community Service Project

THIRD ANNUAL NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT SPAWNED A "THIRD-AND-A-HALF HABITAT EVENT COMING JUNE 25TH

When I heard about the plans for the Third Annual AGA Habitat Project, I was both curious and excited. I had not traveled to New Orleans since attending the last PDC held there. Like many others, I watched the news reports and TV specials covering the status of existing conditions and descriptions of what remains to be done for some current and former residents. While we saw some of the devastation from Hurricane Katrina in the ride from the airport, it paled in comparison to what we saw in parts of the 9th Ward. En route to our first work site we began to see the empty ravaged homes and empty lots where houses once existed. Seeing is believing.

There were 13 volunteers-Jeff Hart, Indianapolis, Evelyn Brown, DC; Karl Boettcher, DC; Doreen Shute, Montgomery, PG; Melinda Barbish, Richmond; Janice and Tom Wieberg, Mid-Missouri; Yong-He Bae, Erin Koksal, and Thanh Le, Denver; and Howard Tamborella and Marcie Turead, New Orleans and myself-exhibiting true grit and the real AGA community service spirit all week long. What an experience! On our first day we worked to repair an existing structure that had all manner of damage and destruction. We donned our gloves and began work; sweeping debris, wiping down walls, erecting shelves; caulking windows, applying 'mud' and general clean up. During the remaining days, we progressed to such tasks as sawing and hanging siding with tools that had previously been foreign to most of us. Our painting skills were honed too. In fact, we formed competitive teams to accelerate progress and to inject a bit of fun as well. The competition served us well because we, along with a wonderful family from Denver-a retired district attorney; his wife, also an attorney; their son, an attorney too and daughter-in-law, a scientist; made major progress in helping the Habitat staff put some of the finishing touches on two houses in just five days. Not sure that we feel that we're ready to build homes on our own yet, but, wow; we learned a lot.

The work-fantastic exercise-used muscles (especially for the overhead painting) that some of us had forgotten that we possessed. It's good that I felt exhausted after a hard day's work because I definitely needed some means of assuaging the fleeting guilt I felt for the way I ate those scrumptious lunches purveyed by PNP Jullin Renthrope and others in the New Orleans Chapter. I say fleeting guilt because at the end of the day when we were able to enjoy repasts such as the one hosted by PNP Clyde McShan, my thoughts and taste buds enveloped sheer delectation as I devoured the crawfish and five different kinds of cheesecake. In fact, Clyde told me he had an allowance for each of us of 1^{1/2} lbs of steamed potatoes, 3 ears of corn on the cob, 5 lbs of crawfish, and unlimited dessert.

There's no question that we plan to heed Jeff Hart and Karl Boettcher's call to stay an extra day after the PDC to work for Habitat again. The New Orleans Chapter, definitely among the crème de la crème in AGA, has said they will be prepared for us. Since AGA is about learning, helping others when we can, and having a bit of fun too, will you commit now to join us on June 25th, if you haven't already done so. Hope we'll see hundreds of you there.

Virginia B. Robinson

Virginia B. Robinson
Past National President

THIRD ANNUAL NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT



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Calendar of Events — 2008/2009 Program Year

Month	Luncheons	Community Service	Member Service	Education	Early Careers	Membership	Awards	CEC Meetings
August			17-Aug-2008	20-Aug-2008				6-Aug-2008
			Washington Nationals Game: Pre-game Tailgate: 11:30 AM at RFK Stadium 1st Pitch: 1:35 PM	Audio Conference: Everything You Wanted to Know About Performance Management and Reporting But Were Afraid to Ask Time: 2-4 PM CPEs: 2				Veterans Administration Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
September	17-Sep-2008	17-Sept-2008		3-5 Sept-2008 10-12 Sept 2008	19-Sep-2008			3 Sep 2008
	Luncheon Time: 11:45 - 1:45 Speaker: Danny Werfel, OMB Location: D'Acqua Restaurant CPE: 1	American Cancer Society (Raffle) during the Luncheon		Training: CGFM CPEs: 48	"Explore DC Series" Jazz Location: Sculpture Garden Time: 5:30pm			Veterans Administration Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
				10-Sep-2008				
				Audio Conference: Fraud Prevention and Detection Time: 2-4 PM CPEs: 2				
October	14-Oct-2008	12-Oct-2008	4-Oct-2008	15-Oct-2008	Date: TBD	22-Oct-2008		8-Oct-2008
	Luncheon Time: 11:45am - 1:45pm Speaker and Location: Army Navy Club CPE: 1	Walk to D'Feet ALS® Constitution Gardens, Washington, DC	C&O Canal Tour and Lunch	Audio Conference: Results of AGA's Research on Performance Based Management Reporting Time: 2-4 PM CPEs: 2	Luncheon Speaker Series Location: GAO Building	Fall Membership Liaison Luncheon: The Value of Certifications Location: Veterans Administration		Veterans Administration Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
			23-Oct-2008		23-Oct-2008			
			Haunted Tour of DC Location: 17th and I Exit of the Farragut West Metro Station Time: 7:30pm		Early Careers Happy Hour Location: Chef Geoff's, Washington, DC Time: 5:30pm			
November		14-Nov-2008	Date: TBD		18-Nov-2008			5-Nov-2008
		DC Chapter AGA's Food2Feed Thanksgiving Donation Old Post Office Pavilion, Washington, DC **Collection of donations are accepted until Nov. 14th**			Happy Hour Kickoff Location: ESPN Zone Time: 6:30pm			Veterans Administration Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
December	10-Dec-2008	10-Dec-2008	15-Dec-2008	10-Dec-2008				
	Luncheon Time: 11:45 - 1:45 Speaker and Location: Mr. Stan Collender, Managing Director, Qorvis Communications @ Army Navy Club CPE: 1	Toys for Tots during the Luncheon	AGA DC Holiday Happy Hour Location: Old Ebbitt Grill, Back Bar Time: 4:30 - 6:00pm	Audio Conference: 21st Century Managers: New Mix of Skills and Education Levels Time: 2-4 PM CPEs: 2				

Calendar of Events — 2008/2009 Program Year

	22-Jan-2008	22-Jan-2009	Date: TBD	15-Jan-2009	20-Jan-2009			
January	Luncheon Time: 11:45 - 1:45 Speaker and Location: Ken Carline, Treasury Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Army Navy Club CPE: 1	Make-a-Wish Foundation during the Luncheon	Chinese New Year	Training: Internal Controls in the Federal Government-- Understanding A-123 Location: Ernst & Young, Washington DC Time: 8AM - 4:30PM CPEs: 8	Happy Hour Location: Buffalo Billiards Dupont Time: 6:30 PM			
				21-Jan-2009 Audio Conference: How XBRL Can Enable Improved Financial and Performance Reporting Location: Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC Time: 2-4 PM CPEs: 2				
February	Luncheon Time: 11:45am - 1:45pm Speaker and Location: Mr. Michael S. Miles, Principal Advisor and Chief Executive of Variplan, Army Navy Club CPE: 1	Volunteer Tax Assistance Program - (Throughout the Month of February)	Chinese New Year - Location: China Garden, Rosslyn, VA Time: 6:30 - 9:00pm		Lucky Strikes Event ***** Explore DC Series			
			25-Feb-2009 Wizards Game - Wizards vs. Philadelphia 76ers Location: Verizon Center, Washington, DC Time: 7pm					
March	Luncheon Time: 11:45am - 1:45pm Speaker and Location: Larry White, Captain, USCG (retired), CPA, CMA, CFP, CGFM and Executive Director of the Resource Consumption Accounting Institute, Army Navy Club CPE: 1	Dress for Success Suit Drive during the Luncheon ***** DC Habitat for Homeless			10-Mar-2009 Luncheon Speaker Series Location: GAO Building			
					18-Mar-2009 Happy Hour Location: Chef Geoff's, Metro Center			
April	Luncheon Time: 11:45 - 1:45 Speaker: Mike Wood Location: Clyde's CPE: 1	Cell Phones/Eyeglass Donation (Bring Cell Phones & Eyeglasses to Luncheon)	Virginia Vineyards Tour (new vineyards)	Audio Conference: "The Future of Government Auditing-- Which Direction(s) Are We Heading?" Location: Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, DC Time: 2-4 PM CPEs: 2	White House Tour	Spring Luncheon Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm Speaker and Location: TBD CPE: N/A		
							22-Apr-2009	
May	Luncheon Time: 11:45 - 1:45 Speaker: Kathleen McGettigan Location: Army & Navy Club CPE: 1	Cell Phones/Eyeglass Donation during the Luncheon	Botanical Gardens *****	Training: "AGA-DC/GWSCPA Annual Conference - Financial Management in Challenging Times" Time: 8-4:30 PM Location: Ronald Reagan Building, Washington, DC CPEs: 15	10-May-2009 US Capital Tour			
					19-May-2009 Happy Hour Location: Bar Louie, Chinatown			
 June		16-Jun-2009	Date: TBD		4-Jun-2009 Explore DC Location: Kennedy Center Millenium Stage		Awards Dinner Location: Hyatt Hotel, WDC Time: TBD	Veterans Administration (Room 532) Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access Code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
July		15-Jul-2009 ASMC/AGA Golf Tournament Contact Daniel Christovich for more details at dan@christovich.us	19-July-2009 Nationals Game and Tailgate					

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