Issue III

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MISSION STATEMENT

AGA fosters learning, certification, leadership and collaboration for professionals and stakeholders committed to advancing government accountability.

VISION

AGA is the premier association for advancing government accountability. AGA defines government accountability as a government's obligation to the people for its actions and use of resources.



Thank you January Luncheon Speaker!

Tony Scardino,
Deputy Director (Acting) and
Deputy Under Secretary for Intellectual Property
United States Patent and Trademark Office

February Luncheon Speaker



Ann M. Ebberts, MS, PMP, Chief Executive Officer, AGA

March Luncheon Speaker



Rear Admiral Andrew J. Tiongson

Assistant Commandant for Resources &
Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
United States Coast Guard

President's Message



Colleagues,

The beginning of the new calendar year is a time for reflection and setting sights on new and exciting things to come. During the past 12 months, we have experienced a change in Administration, policy shifts, and a renewed emphasis on operating with more efficiency, while preparing for uncertain times. The first half of the DC Chapter's program year was filled with opportunities for learning and collaboration. The Chapter welcomed new members and offered education opportunities, many at no-cost to members. We heard from industry thought leaders, shared experiences at networking events, and collaborated on emerging issues impacting the financial community. Specifically, we heard from industry leaders at our Luncheon Speaker Series that exemplify commitment to the DC Chapter and the profession:

- Mark Reger Deputy Controller of the United States, Office of Management and Budget
- Stephen Goss Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration
- Terri McKay Director, DOD Defense Finance and Accounting Service

Our community service focus was the D.C. Child and Family Services Agency, The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and Toys for Tots. Together we increased awareness for these outstanding organizations, contributed some well-deserved financial assistance, and proudly gave back to our community. All these events, networking, social and educational, have etched fond memories of an exciting 2017. As we pivot to 2018, the changing dynamics and uncertain operating environment of government will impact mission execution. To prepare for these uncertain times, the Chapter is providing more education, networking and career development opportunities for you - our valued members. In addition to the education opportunities with the Luncheon Speaker Series and audio conferences, this spring the Chapter will host the 17th Annual Federal Financial Management Training titled "Embracing Disruptions to Achieve Positive Outcomes".

To further augment members' professional development, the Chapter will host its 4th Annual Speed Mentoring Program to connect professionals in the government financial management community. Members will also enjoy networking programs, including happy hours, sporting events, and the highly anticipated annual tour of local wineries. The Chapter's community service program will assist middle school students in the Junior Achievement of Greater Washington learn about reality-based financial planning. Community service programs will also showcase the Capital Area Food Bank, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and the Avon Walk to End Breast Cancer. The AGA Washington DC Chapter will culminate its program year with the annual DC Chapter Awards Gala at Clyde's of Gallery place with a celebration of the year's achievements. AGA's Washington DC Chapter is here to help provide you the tools to navigate and lead through dynamic times. Our website at AGA DC.org provides details for these outstanding programs.

Regardless of the time of year, our dedicated Corporate Sponsors support the Chapter's value proposition of providing quality programming to its members; and the Chapter is better served due to the generous support of our sponsors. Many of the programs and events mentioned here would not be possible without their generous support. As you prepare for 2018, commit to actively participate in Chapter programs to demonstrate by example and share with others and take advantage of the full range of opportunities offered.

Salin R. Mawari, CGFM, CPA 2018 AGA Washington, DC Chapter President

> "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?" Martin Luther King, Jr.



January Luncheon Highlights!

Thank you to all AGA members for attending the January Luncheon!

A special thanks to our speaker Mr. Tony Scardino for his insights and remarks!





Look Ahead: Get to Know February Luncheon Speaker!



Ann M. Ebberts

Chief Executive Officer, AGA

Ann Ebberts is the Chief Executive Officer for AGA, overseeing the operations of the Alexandria, Virginia based national office operations. AGA provides member services to its 100 chapters, educational events appropriate for government financial management professionals at all levels of government, maintains the CGFM certification, conducts research, and promotes accountability, good government initiatives, and intergovernmental cooperation for accountability professionals.

Prior to AGA, Ebbers spent 30+ years providing management consulting services to the federal government in financial and project management, process improvement, program evaluation and shared services. Twenty-six years were spent at Booz Allen Hamilton where she was the vice president of the Financial Services Team, retiring from the firm in 2014. She has a B.S in marketing management from Virginia Tech and M.S. in systems management from the University of Denver, and is a certified Project Management Professional.



Look Ahead: Get to Know March Luncheon Speaker!



Rear Admiral Andrew J. Tiongson Assistant Commandant for Resources & Chief Financial Officer (CFO) United States Coast Guard

Rear Admiral Andrew Tiongson serves as the Assistant Commandant for Resources and Chief Financial Officer for the U.S. Coast Guard. In this capacity he is responsible for all budgetary, financial and resource management activities relating to the programs and operations of the Coast Guard. As a component of the Department of Homeland Security, the Coast Guard is comprised of a nearly 60,000 member active duty, reserve and civil servant workforce with an annual budget of \$10 billion. Rear Admiral Tiongson is a career cutterman whose time at sea spans five Coast Guard cutters and one U.S. Navy ship. Rear Admiral Tiongson has served in a variety of key staff positions, including two acquisition projects, in the office of Congressional Affairs as the Senior Policy Advisor on domestic and international drug issues and Veteran's Affairs to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and as the Executive Assistant to the Vice Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Thank you for Attending January Happy Hour!



Save the Date!



2017-2018 AGA DC Audio Training Schedule

The AGA DC Chapter will host the following National audio trainings throughout this program year at the Ford House Office Building, 441 2nd Street SW, 3rd Floor, Room #H2-396, Washington, DC 20515, across from the Federal Center, SW Metro Station. Registration links will be distributed to members the week before each training.

Cost:

There is no charge for AGA members in good standing for these events and attendees will earn two (2) CPE credit hours.

When:

March 7: Infrastructure Financing

March 28: Cybersecurity April 25: DATA Act

May 16: Fraud/Data Analytics

June 13: Leadership

Annual Awards Gala!

Don't miss out on attending our 2018 Annual Awards Gala! More registration information/details to come!

When:

May 19th, 2018 at 5 pm

Where:

Clyde's Restaurant 707 7th St NW Washington, DC 20001



2018 Year Luncheon Speaker Schedule

Date	Speaker	Title	Organization
2/20/18	Ann Ebberts	CEO	Association of Government Accountants
3/21/18	Rear Admiral Andrew J. Tiongson	Assistant Commandant for Resources & Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	U.S. Coast Guard
4/24/18	Jose Arrieta	Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition	Department of Health and Human Services
5/16/18	Wendy Payne	Executive Director	Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board

Other Upcoming AGA Events!

AGA DC Member Services Basketball Game

Please join Member Services as we celebrate another exciting basketball season in DC! Join fellow members of the AGA DC Chapter to cheer on the Washington Wizards as they take on the Charlotte Hornets at the Capital One Arena on Friday, February 23 at 7:00 PM. There are a limited number of tickets available so be sure to register soon! Members are welcome to bring one guest. Please **Email:** ant.richards82@gmail.com to register and more information.





AGA Multi-Chapter NLT Happy Hour

Please join AGA Early Careers of the Washington, D.C., Northern Virginia and Montgomery / Prince George's County Chapters for lite fare and drinks at the end of the AGA National Leadership Training (NLT). Come to mix and mingle with fellow AGA members in a comfortable and relaxed environment. Space is limited so register now. The event will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Due to the high demand guests are not permitted for this event. The closest Metro stations are Federal Triangle, Metro Center. Please contact Daniel Lange @ dlange@kpmg.com for registration and information.

Washington Women Speak! Event



The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia Chapters are sponsors for the 12th annual Washington Women Speak! Event.

Please join us (men and women) for another inspiring Washington Women Speak! Where we will have the opportunity to honor and hear accomplished female executives share inspirational insights and awareness to issues that impact women's ability to ascend to and thrive in leadership roles.





SAVE THE DATE

March 22, 2018

8:00am - 11:00am

National Press Club

Register by following the link below:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/grant-thorntons-12th-annual-washington-women-speak-tickets-39877527759

Register now for the 17th Annual AGA DC Chapter Training Embracing Disruptions to Achieve Positive Outcomes

Registration is now open!

Register now to earn up to **16 valuable CPE credits** at the 17th Annual AGA DC Chapter Training at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. **Don't miss this opportunity to hear firsthand from government leaders** about the issues impacting Federal financial management and related functions. As is our tradition, we offer **ethics training** that meets Virginia CPA requirements and can be applied to DC and Maryland requirements. Excellent networking opportunities are offered at the **sponsor booths** and **happy hour** reception.

Breakfast, lunch, break refreshments and happy hour reception are included in your registration.

Come learn from key leaders in the federal financial management sphere with insight to the current financial environment and playbook for managing in uncertain times to achieve successful outcomes and much more! Key topics will also include updates from OMB, FASAB and GAO.

Registration prices are as follows:

AGA Members: \$525 Non-AGA Members: \$645

When & Where:

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Washington, DC

April 11 and 12, 2018

Group Discounts:

Register 5 or more individuals and receive a 7% group discount from the AGA Member and Non-AGA Member price! Please process group registrations using the Eventbrite registration page. To receive the 7% discount for registering 5 or more attendees, please select from only the "7% Group" ticket options. For example, if you were registering 4 chapter members and 1 non-chapter member, then you would purchase 4 of the \$488.25 tickets and 1 of the \$599.85 tickets in a single sales transaction. To qualify for the discount, all members of your group must be registered in a single transaction.

Please contact Drew Pottle at deloitte.com if you have questions. Please note AGA DC will process SF 182 requests, but if payment is not received then the attendee is obligated to pay the registration fee.

Registration fees are NON-REFUNDABLE. Attendees should plan to attend the networking reception, immediately following the conclusion of day 1 sessions.

Update from CGFM Committee! CGFM.



CGFM Committee Updates - By Wendy Allen

Let us help you accomplish your CGFM Goal!

Have you checked-off what you need to do to reach your CGFM goal?

Are you aware of all of the National and Chapter level resources available to assist you in meeting your goal?

The National AGA CGFM website provides a wealth of valuable information that will help you along your path to attaining certification. Just some of the topics you will find covered on the website include Learn about becoming a CGFM, Learn about maintaining CGFM, and Learn about hiring a CGFM. Check out the national website at: www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification.

Your Chapter CGFM committee is your local resource for information on requirements, classroom opportunities, advice and general certification information. Check out our AGA DC chapter website: https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/WashingtonDC/CGFM-Certification.aspx

AGA DC Chapter Benefits

Be sure to take advantage of all these wonderful benefits we are offering our members!

- Exam Rebate Initiative Take the exam and pass it from now through April 2018 and we will reimburse you the cost of your exams! You must submit the passing certification per module in order to qualify for the rebate. Cost of each exam is \$125! We only have a limited amount of rebates available so do not delay!
- Loaner Study Guides/Practice Exams Taking the exam? Need the materials? AGA DC will be making electronic versions of the study guides AND practice exams available to AGA DC members on a short-term loaner basis. Contact Wendy Allen at wjallen@kpmg.com if you are interested.

Congratulations!

The following members obtained their CGFM in October and November 2017! Way to go!

Mr. Henok A. Getahun, CGFM Ms. Elida M. Lynch, CGFM Mr. McKinley Posely, CGFM Ms. Julie A. Ferguson, CGFM Miss Narja Hylton, CGFM

Join us in March to celebrate **CGFM Month** and remember to get the word out to your colleagues and friends. The CGFM is a worthy certification to have!

Questions? Contact Wendy Allen at wiallen@kpmg.com

PDT AWARD NOMINATIONS!

AGA AWARDS COMMITTEE JANUARY 2018

Now is the time to identify outstanding individuals who exemplify great skill and expertise in their fields, making outstanding contributions to their profession! AGA will present the following awards at the Professional Development Training (PDT) in July 22–25 at Orlando, Florida.

DC Chapter Awards will be presented on March 19th at the Awards Gala.



Robert W. King Memorial Award
Einhorn-Gary Award
Frank Greathouse Distinguished Leadership Award
Achievement of the Year Award
Educator Award
Cornelius E. Tierney/Ernst & Young Research Award
International Achievement Award
Emerging Leader Award of Excellence
Relmond P. Van Daniker Government Transparency Award

Our Awards webpage has detailed descriptions and eligibility criteria of the above PDT award categories here. Check it out!

Last year, members of the Washington DC Chapter were selected as recipients of **10 PDT awards of distinction.** You can review the recipients here.

Submit your nomination via our online form no later than March 5, 2018. Click here.

Please direct questions regarding awards to:
Myriam Galvan-Zambrana (Myriam.Galvan-Zambrana@us.gt.com)
or Thomas Chin (T.Chin@cncsoig.gov).



Young Professionals PDT Full Scholarship!

AGA annually selects five young professionals to attend AGA's **Professional Development Training (PDT)** in July. The participants in this program will act as ambassadors for attendees and assist at the AGA exhibit hall booth and other activities throughout the training event. **Applications for PDT 2018 in Orlando, FL are due March 1, 2018.**

3 Reasons You Should Apply:

1. Earn up to 24 CPE Hours

Enhance your lifelong learning and gain the knowledge and understanding to better improve your job effectiveness. The presentations are facilitated by both industry experts and colleagues who have faced similar challenges. In doing so you can earn up to 24.5 CPE hours.

2. Stay On The Cutting Edge

Includes top-notch speakers from federal, state, local, academia and private sector bringing you key findings and educational experiences to augment your job knowledge and skills.

3. Network and Connect

AGA's PDT is the place to connect with a variety of government financial experts and industry colleagues from around the nation facing the same or similar issues that you could exchange ideas and moments with to bring back to your organization.

For additional scholarship details visit:

https://www.agacgfm.org/Membership/Connect/Awards-Recognition/Young-Professionals-PDT-Scholarship.aspx

To learn more about the PDT, click <u>HERE</u>



The national AGA office is offering Early Career members the opportunity to go to the annual Professional Development Training for a 50% discount this year. If you know of coworkers who could benefit from this opportunity, please encourage them to join the DC chapter and apply!



Are you under 30 years old?

The first 50 qualified young professionals who register for PDT 2018 will receive 50 percent off their registration fee!

Why is PDT great for young professionals?

- Offers 80 educational sessions to suit your personal training needs including sessions specific to early-career development
- Enables you to earn up to 24 CPE hours in four days
- Provides countless opportunities to build your professional network with financial professionals from all levels of government
- Allows attendees to explore potential career paths and connect with mentors

Gives access to exclusive networking events with like-minded young professionals from around the country. Hurry! Limited to 50 attendees.

Contact us now at membership@agacgfm.org, Subject: PDT 2017 50 Under 30 Promotion to see if you qualify.

The fine print:

- You must be under 30 years of age as of July 9, 2018
- You must be an AGA member
- You must be a first-time PDT attendee

50 percent will be calculated based on fees at the time of registration

Inside The Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzsky, CGFM, CPA

Background

Government agencies have traditionally focused on their budgets, not accrual accounting. The Anti-Deficiency Act was passed in 1870; accrual accounting was not mandated until 1956 (31 U.S.C. 3512e). When an invoice is accrued or paid, it is important to record the expenditure in a timely manner. Whether the expenditure was expensed or capitalized is of less concern. Overspending one's budget by even a small amount can be prosecuted as a criminal act while under-or over-capitalizing will only result in an audit finding, and then only if it is material.

So it is not surprising that many agencies expense most or all of their expenditures and only afterwards decide if the expenditure should have been capitalized. In some cases, this treatment is necessary because the agency doesn't know if the spending will exceed capitalization thresholds until the year is almost over. In other cases, management may have to determine if the spending will benefit future periods, or there may be legal or contractual issues that need to be resolved before management can determine the proper accounting treatment.

The Standard General Ledger (SGL) Board has given us two models for capitalizing expenses: direct and offset.

Models

The direct model uses entries B402, B134, and G120 to accrue a capital expenditure, e.g.:

Debit 172000 Construction-in-Progress
310700 Unexpended Appropriations - Used
480100 Undelivered Orders - Obligations, Unpaid
880200 Purchases of Property, Plant, and Equipment
Credit 211000 Accounts Payable
570000 Expended Appropriations
490100 Delivered Orders - Obligations, Unpaid
880100 Offset for Purchases of Assets

The offset model starts with a typical accrued expense entry combining entries B402 and B134:

Debit 610000 Operating Expenses/Program Costs
310700 Unexpended Appropriations - Used
480100 Undelivered Orders - Obligations, Unpaid
Credit 211000 Accounts Payable
570000 Expended Appropriations
490100 Delivered Orders - Obligations, Unpaid

Inside The Black Box (continued)

Afterwards, the agency determines that some of this expense should have been capitalized, e.g., a fraction of payroll should have gone to construction in progress. The agency would record this capitalization using entry D514 to offset as follows:

Debit 172000 Construction-in-Progress

Credit 661000 Cost Capitalization Offset

Account 661000 is used because it doesn't report trading partner, and neither does 172000. In the direct model, 880200 reports the trading partner and in the offset model, the original posting to 610000 does. There is now a third option, which is to use the new 615000 account for the original accrual as follows:

Debit 615000 Expensed Asset

310700 Unexpended Appropriations - Used

480100 Undelivered Orders - Obligations, Unpaid

880400 Purchases of Assets - Other

Credit 211000 Accounts Payable

570000 Expended Appropriations

490100 Delivered Orders - Obligations, Unpaid

880100 Offset for Purchases of Assets

If the agency later determines that the assets reach the capitalization threshold or are part of a larger project, then they can be capitalized using entry D514 above or with the difference as follows. The difference should only be used in the same year as the original expense or it may cause abnormal balances in accounts 615000 and 880400.

Debit172000 Construction-in-Progress

880200 Purchases of Property, Plant, and Equipment

Credit 615000 Expensed Asset

880400 Purchases of Assets - Other

Conclusion

If the purchase is from the public (i.e., anyone but a federal agency), then either model can be used because there is no interagency reconciliation. If another agency is involved, then if the seller posts account 510000 Revenue from Goods Sold, then the buyer should use the direct approach (debit the asset or 615000 originally). If the seller posts 520000 Revenue from Services Provided, then the buyer should debit an expense account other than 615000 and capitalize using the offset account 661000.



Contact Us

Whether you're looking for more information, or you'd like to give us your suggestions or comments, you'll find easy ways to contact us right here.

The most direct way to get your question answered is to send an email to the AGA DC Board Member via agadc.org. Check out the Officers and Directors for their contact information. For example, if you have a question about the AGA DC monthly luncheon, contact Eric Schaefer at eschaefer05@yahoo.com.

AGA DC Chapter

PO Box 432 Falls Church, VA 22040

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Gold Sponsor



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Allmond & Company is a certified public accounting firm that began operations in 1985. During the past twenty years, the firm has provided tax, accounting, auditing, and management advisory services to hundreds of professionals and small to medium-sized businesses in the Washington, DC area. The firm's primary efforts, however, have been in support of auditing and accounting requirements of the Federal Government.



WATKINS GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Watkins Government Services LLC (WGS) is a woman owned small business consulting firm in metropolitan Washington, DC that serves the government sector; delivering financial management, grants management and business process re-engineering services to federal, state and local agencies.

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