## THE WASHINGTON CONNECTION



Association of Government Accountants, Washington DC Chapter Newsletter

March 2016



#### **President's Message**

By Ross Simms

Dear Washington DC Chapter Members,

We are continuing to foster learning, certification, leadership, and collaboration for government financial management professionals. In recognition of Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Month, Mayor Bowser declared March 2016, CGFM Month in the District of Columbia and you can see the proclamation in this newsletter. We are also providing free CGFM exam training to assist members

in their professional development.

Providing professional development opportunities is one of our key priorities and we will offer 16 hours of CPE at our 15th Annual Financial Management Training. The training will be held on March 29 and 30, 2016 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center and Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States will be our keynote speaker.

In addition, we are continuing to provide CPE through free audio conferences and during our monthly luncheons. The topics include Enterprise Risk Management, Electronic Invoicing, federal accounting standards, financial management in the intelligence community, and more. Visit our website for information on the luncheon speaker, date, and topic.

The Chapter is also providing monthly collaboration and networking opportunities. Check our events calendar located on our website for dates, times, and locations.

Lastly, thanks to our accountability and outreach team, our FY16 Citizen Centric Report received the Certificate of Excellence in Citizen-Centric Reporting for demonstrating high standards of content, visual appeal, readability, quality, distribution and timeliness in reporting. You can review the report at our website.

To join our team in planning and conducting Chapter events and activities, email me at rsimmsaga@gmail.com.

Ross Simms

#### Chapter President



#### In This Issue

- Washington Women Speak!
- Citizen Centric Report
- DC CGFM Proclamation
- Upcoming Events
- Government Case Challenge
- CEARS Recruiting Event
- New Members



#### Washington Women Speak!

On March 10th, the DC and Northern Virginia Chapters, as well as Grant Thornton LLP sponsored the Women's History Month Event entitled "Celebrating Women In Military" at the Women's War Memorial Theater at Arlington National Cemetery.

Over 240 men and women attended this inspiring event to pay tribute to and celebrate women leaders in the military.

A special thanks to the AGA members, sponsors, the public and our distinguished speakers for making this event such a success!





#### Upcoming Events

15th Annual AGA Federal Financial Mgmt Training at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center

#### **April Luncheon**

Ms. Sheila Conley "Medicaid vs. Medicare" Wednesday, April 20 11:30-1:00 at Clyde's of Gallery Place 707 7th Street NW

#### **May Luncheon**

Mr. Jay Hoffman Wednesday, May 18 11:00-1:30 – The Hamilton 600 14th Street NW



#### Certificate of Excellence in Accounting and Reporting Recruiting Event

In November 2015, the Washington DC Chapter brought together membership of both the DC and Northern Virginia Chapters, as well as participants from many Federal agencies, the Government Accounting Office (GAO), public accounting firms, and non-for profit organizations, with the intention of growing the CEAR program and participation level of reviewers, through an information session and recruiting event. AGA's CEAR Program has been helping federal agencies produce high-quality Performance and Accountability Reports (PAR) and Agency Financial Reports (AFR) since 1997, established in conjunction with the Chief Financial Officers Council and OMB to improve financial and program accountability by streamlining reporting and improving the effectiveness of such reports. This event featured discussions from AGA National program leadership such as the Technical Director of the CEAR program, Chris Collins, and Bob Dacey, Chief Accountant for the GAO and the Chair of the CEAR Board, Moreover, the program included an informative presentation from Ronald Crupi, retired Chief Financial Officer of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) where we detailed the benefits of the Agency's participation as a first time submitter of their AFR for consideration. This led to a robust question and answer session highlighting to all in attendance how the evaluation of their AFR by the CEAR award criteria has enabled the NLRB to dramatically enhance their understanding and capabilities to achieve greater accountability and transparency. The success of the event was demonstrated by over 30 new applications for CEAR reviewers. Special thanks AGA Accountability and Outreach Directors who served as speakers James Gallagher and Wendy Morton-Huddleston and Margaret Sullivan, Early Career Co-Director for the photo.

#### **Government Case Challenge**

AGA invited undergraduate students to compete in the virtual Government Finance Case Challenge\*. Student teams collaboratively analyzed data for a specified U.S. state, city or county government and develop a <u>Citizen-Centric Report (CCR)</u>.

Submissions were provided by students in October and finalists were announced in November. Colleges who participated included: Auburn University; California State University in San Bernardino; North Carolina State University; University of Nebraska and the University of North Carolina in Pembroke.

The three finalists were Auburn and North Carolina State and North Carolina with North Carolina State winning the competition.

Thanks to all our schools, participants and judges for making it a great event!

#### Award Winning Citizen Centric Report (CCR)

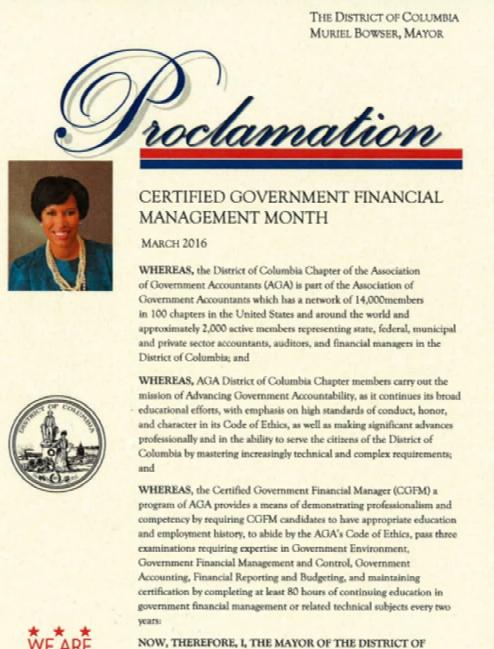
Our chapter has produced a Citizen Centric Report for the 4th consecutive year. This reporting effort is intended to enhance transparency between governments and their citizenry. AGA's stated belief is



"that government financial information should be provided to citizens in forms that are clear and understandable, updated regularly and often, delivered to all, easy to locate, honest in breadth and technically accurate in detail. In fact, as the owners of government, citizens have a right to this information." The Washington DC Chapter of the AGA has sought to provide this level of transparency and accountability annually to our membership, and this year received the Certificate of Excellence in Citizen-Centric Reporting for demonstrating high standards of content, visual appeal, readability, quality, distribution and timeliness in reporting. We encourage all members to view the report on the AGA DC Chapter website, FY 2016 Member Centric Report, and to share this report with your Agencies and public citizens.

# March is CGFM Proclamation Month in the District!

On March 16, 2016, Mayor Muriel Bowser proclaimed that March is CGFM month in Washington, DC. Thanks to the DC Chapter leadership for reaching out to the Mayor's office and promoting AGA and our certification.





NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, do hereby proclaim March 2016 in Washington, DC as "CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGER MONTH".

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#### **Upcoming Speakers**

#### **April Speaker**

### Ms. Sheila Conley, Health and Human Services, Deputy CFO

Ms. Conley joined HHS in 2006 and is responsible for: leading the Department's annual financial statement preparation and audit process; implementing a rigorous internal control program; overseeing HHS's financial management systems; as well as reducing improper payments. Prior to HHS, Ms. Conley worked at the State Department, OMB and KPMG where she provided audit and financial management consulting services. Ms. Conley is a CPA and CGFM and obtained her degree from James Madison University where she graduated summa cum laude.

#### May Speaker

Mr. Jay Hoffman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, CFO

#### **Contact Us**

Please contact us if you have any questions or would like additional information on the DC Chapter of Association of Government Accountants.

If you have any information that you would like to see in next month's newsletter, please contact Michael Loos at:

Michael.Loos@us.gt.com

Thank you!

Washington AGA Chapter P.O. Box 423 Washington, DC 20044-0423

#### www.AGADC.org

Follow us on Twitter @AGA\_DC

### Welcome New Members!

Mesfin Abebe Natan Z. Aberu John A. Adams **Ricardo** Aquilera Krystal M. Avila Arreola Richard M. Banh Melissa M. Baur James Belanger Sherika L. Benjamin Traci A. Billings William J. Blot, Jr. Alison A. Boyce Donald N. Bruce Diane M. Carthorn Kenneth Todd Cason, Sr. Weslev D. Casson Catherine C. Chatfield Stella Chen Tremayne Cobb Justin B. Cole Angela D. Coleman Taryn L. Cyrus Michael V. Danish Emily Dean Amanda Dombrowski Donna A. Donella Dashaun M. Dorsey Melissa Dozier Carmelita M. Duenas Quintina Durante Adil I. Durrani Carlton Irie William Edwards Cody A. Ferguson Robert G. Garrett, III Diana Gracias Robert S. Grant, Jr. Barrett B. Guy BriChelle Hall Jeffrey R. Hayden John Hill Dennis Jay Hoffman Joseph Hungate Damon O. Hunt Eric G. lacobucci Naomi R. Jackson Raquenel Jackson Tonia L. Jackson Yolanda O. Jackson Halimatu Jalloh Justin Joes Christie Johnson Rendell L. Jones Sophila Jones Wenisha Shivani Jones Anshita Joshi Maima Kaba John M. Keiran Tammy K. Kennedy-Nichols Leigha Kiger

Nino Kintsurashvili Mark A. Lemke Kumar Mantripragada Jacob D. Matthews Pat McClanahan Shemsa Saidi Mohamedi Tina Nicole Montgomery Taylor M. Murrin George R. Neill Emeka T. Oputa Delcina Parrish Andrea M. Payne Jacob T. Powell Stephanie Rego Gregory J. Sanial James D. Shelton, Jr. Stephanie Shortino Jacob Simmons Leta Simons Shannon Smith Joseph A. Stewart Michael Stewart, Jr. David A. Tagg Henry L. Tennant, Jr. Sonia Maimouna Thomas-Tierney Salome J. Tinker Sahitya Rajita Tippavajhala Heleen Townsend Milena Traasdahl Paul R. Tsikerdanos Voula K. Tsoutsouras Amber E. Turnbull Eno Udoibe Anthony Varrone Omar Vazquez Alma J. Velez Erba Mike Veshchev Andrew J. Walter Yong Wang Alicia Ward-Johnston Nathan West Jermaine L. Wilcox Tonya E. Williams John R. Wobbleton, Jr. Irma Work Alexander P. Yow

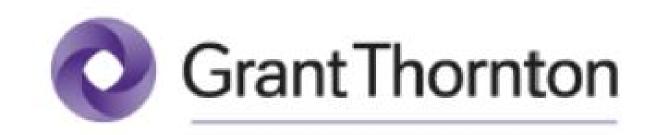
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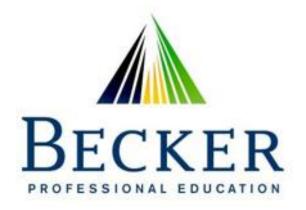




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