

The Washington Connection

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS
WASHINGTON D.C. CHAPTER



Issue 01 – September 2015



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Upcoming Events

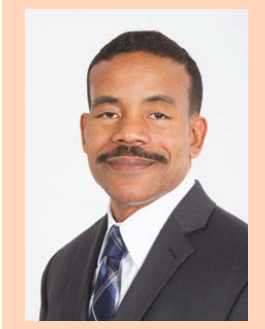
Oktoberfest

Saturday, October 3rd _ 12pm-7pm
Capitol City Brewing Company
The Village at Shirlington: 4001 Campbell Avenue,
Arlington, VA

October Luncheon

Speaker: John Hill
Wednesday, October 28th
1130-1330 _ Clyde's of Gallery

President's Message



By Ross Simms

Welcome to our 65th year of advancing government accountability!

These are truly exciting times and the AGA DC Chapter is *Outfront* helping members navigate the labyrinth of issues that impact the financial and performance management community. The Chapter has developed a dynamic program aimed at delivering exceptional service and value to help our members anticipate and stay ahead of demands. Here are the highlights of the Chapter's upcoming activities:

Education and Professional Development

The Chapter will offer a suite of signature educational and professional development training. The Chapter will host a series of luncheon meetings featuring distinguished experts on current financial management and accountability issues and requirements. Also, to help ensure that more members can attend, we will conduct some of our meetings at The Hamilton which offers greater capacity. In addition, on March 29 and 30, the Chapter will provide 16 hours of training at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, DC and, in the spring, will provide CGFM training featuring a six-day CGFM training class.

Early Careers

The Chapter will host monthly activities to engage the next generation of leaders. They will have an opportunity to meet and learn from some of the most influential individuals in government and to establish relationships with their peers.

Social Events and Networking Opportunities

The Chapter will provide members with a wide array of social activities throughout the year. Attend a Washington Capitals hockey game or Washington Nationals baseball game, or take a tour of the Cherry Blossoms. These and other events will provide an entertaining environment for meeting other members and sharing ideas and experiences.

Membership and Awards

We will conduct several initiatives to increase and engage our membership throughout the year, including recognizing new members and members who have demonstrated sustained commitment to the Chapter. Also, the Chapter will promote the advancement of government accountability to the community. We will recognize the efforts and accomplishments of individuals and groups as part of our annual Gala.

Accountability and Outreach

The Chapter will promote AGA's performance and accountability programs. Citizens are highly interested in understanding the financial health and performance of their government and government agencies are looking to determine the ideal model for communicating that information to them.



Our efforts in this area involve arranging speaking engagements and forums with performance reporting and management officials and several other activities designed to position the Chapter as the leading source of information on accountability within the chapter.

Community Services

The Chapter will afford members the opportunity to share their gifts and talents with the DC community. The Chapter plans to conduct a community service event in each month of the program year and all members will have a chance to “pay it forward.”

Many thanks to our corporate sponsors and the thoughtful dedication of volunteers from government and private industry. The AGA DC leadership team is committed to delivering quality programs to Chapter members and looks with excitement toward another year filled with events and activities for everyone.

Email me at rsimmsaga@gmail.com to join the team and help us prevail *Outfront*.

Sincerely,

Ross Simms
Chapter President

-

Note from the Editor



By Tom Harker, Editor

Welcome to the 2015/2016 edition of the Washington Connection!

I hope everyone had a nice and enjoyable summer and took the opportunity to enjoy some quality time with family and friends.

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 offers, 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!

Finally, we are pleased to welcome two new volunteers to serve as co-editors on the newsletter team, Ms. Liz Hacquard and Mr. Mike Loos.

Sincerely,

Tom Harker

Newsletter Team

Tom Harker, Co-Editor

Liz Hacquard, Co-Editor

Mike Loos, Co-Editor

Welcome, New Members!

MEMBERS NEW TO AGA DC

Ramatu A. Abdullah

Mr. Alexander D. Acker

Zeb C. Agbanyim

Cindy Y. Ancrum

Jason T. Aston

Robert J. Baldre

Mr. Gregory Barbiaux

Mr. Alexander B. Becker

Richard Curtis Bricker

Mrs. Janice N. Butts

Cassy Choi

Ms. J'amie M. D'Aguiar

Jessica Davis

Scott Duplechain

David S. Engelen

Bernida D. Evans

Folake Fadayomi

David Arnon Flores

Christina M. Frye-Capellan

Hon. Charles Fulghum

Ruth C. Gardner

Leslie Gerald

Henok A. Getahun

Amula O. Gobah

Sylvia Gomes

Lasheeco B. Graham

Mr. Richard Gregg, JD

Laura Gulla

Alexandria A. Hale

Richard L. Haley, II

Richmond Hammond

Mr. Ki T. Han

Emily Hand

Jody Harry

Danielle L. Henderson

Mr. Brian C. Howard

Ismail R. Ismail

Judy James

Adam J. Johnson

Ms. Katrina D. Johnson

Ms. Jocelyn M. Jolley

Tori Kaufman

Yong Ki Kim

Daniela Kostyaneva

Catherine E.S. Kuhlmeier

Mr. Michael Landry

Chelsea LaPorta

Matthew H. Levin

Mr. Wilberth Lovos

Arita Mangal

Mr. Derrick A. Martin

Leslie A. Maynard

Mr. Robert McCarty

Vivian B. Michalic

Dianne R. Miller

Loida S. Miranda

Sydney A. Mobley

Janet L. Morgan

Miranda P. Mudd

Julian E. Muganda

Noel A. Nazario

Doug Oakford

Ms. Meagan Pauli

Joseph L. Peterson

Lamonte D. Purdie

Rolando Ramos

Malva D. Reid

Melissa L. Ryan

Stephanie Sanchez

Paras Sharma

Edward F. Shea

Gregory T. Shumaker

Lambert Shundi

Debora F. Silva

Stacy Lynn Slette

Rodney T. Snipes

Mrs. Olulola Soyoye

Mr. Daniel J. Stahl

Alexander M. Stefanic

Alex Tessema

Crawford L. Thompson

John M. Thompson, Jr.

Patricia A. Wareham

Mahalia V. Warren

Brian C. Williams

Paul Wood

Mr. Andrew R. Younkle

Lisa Ziehmman

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Education Committee:

The AGA DC Chapter has an exciting schedule of education programs planned for the upcoming AGA year. This year's education events include monthly luncheon programs, audio conferences hosted at DC area locations, and our annual two-day financial management training at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. Attendees at each of the monthly luncheon programs will earn one hour of CPE and attendees at our audio conferences will earn two hours of CPE. Our 15th Annual Financial Management Training is scheduled for March 29 and 30, 2016, and attendees can earn 16 CPE hours. And by popular demand, the DC Chapter Annual Awards Gala will be held on March 29, 2016, at the Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

We plan to offer eight (8) free audio conferences at the historic Smithsonian Institution Castle building on the National Mall. This central location is easily accessible using the Washington Metro public transportation system.

The 15th Annual Financial Management Training is the premier training event for federal employees and contractors. Don't miss this opportunity to hear firsthand from government leaders about issues impacting Federal financial management and complementary functions. As is our tradition, the training offers Ethics training that meets Virginia CPA requirements and satisfies DC and Maryland requirements.

All of these training programs also offer networking opportunities with industry leaders.

Additional details for each of these programs will be announced soon.

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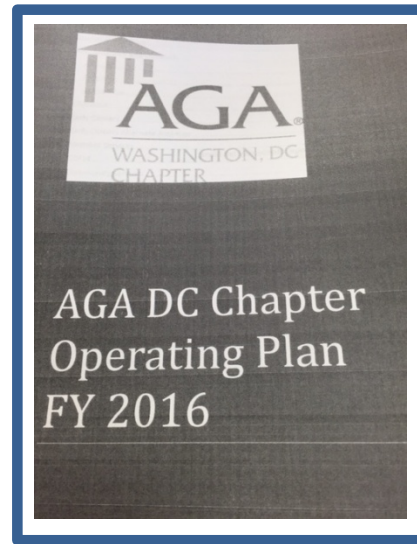
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Pictures

Change in Presidency



Ross Simms relieved Christy Beck as President of the DC Chapter this summer and presented the DC Chapter Operating Plan.

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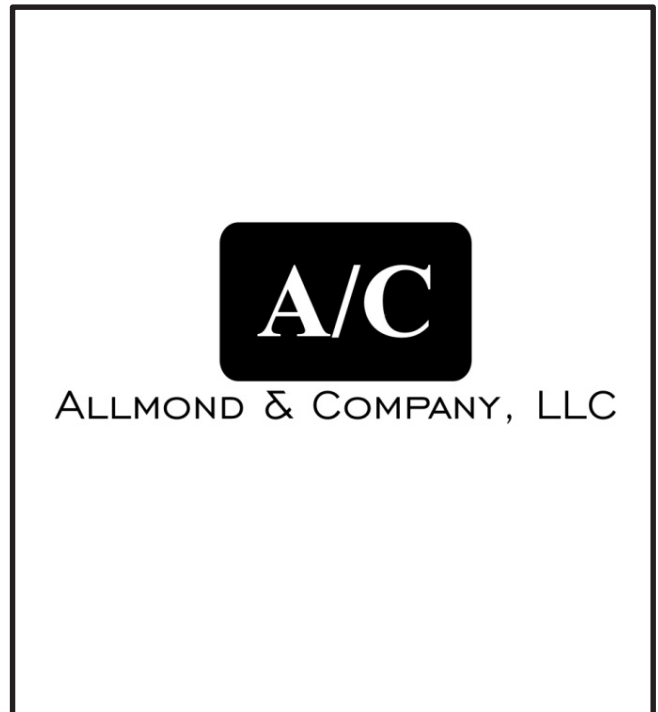
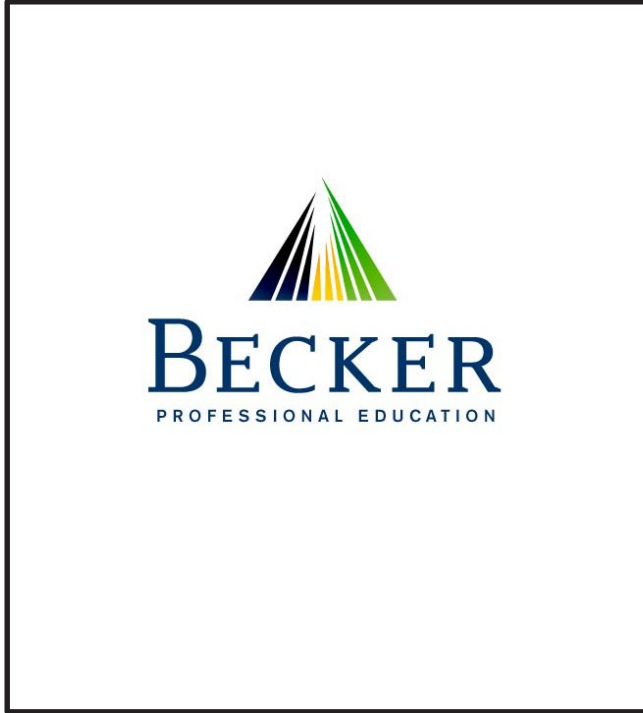
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The Deloitte logo is centered within a white rectangular box with a black border. The word "Deloitte" is written in a bold, dark blue sans-serif font, followed by a small green dot.

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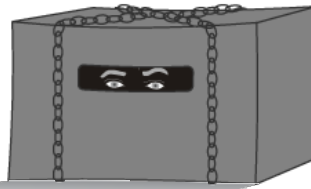
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Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA



Life after Cancellation

Background

Back in the 1950s, each appropriation was identified by a Treasury Account Symbol (TAS) that consisted of a two-digit Agency code, single-digit year, and four-digit major account or fund group code. With only a single digit as the year, the appropriation symbol would repeat every decade, causing cash, obligations, and authority from two separate appropriations to be reported together. In 1956, Congress addressed this problem with Public Law 84-798 which placed cash and unliquidated obligations from funds over three years old into a "merged" account. Treasury identified these with an "M" for the year indicator. Since agencies could restore large balances out of the merged accounts to pay for obligations, this practice reduced Congress' power of the purse, so they passed the "M Account" legislation (Public Law 101-510) in 1991. The new law required that the funds stay in place as expired for five years, then be permanently withdrawn.

However, that same year Congress also passed the CFO Act which led to agencies submitting trial balances by TAS. Now a new problem emerged: what to do about old assets and liabilities that were purchased or incurred in a fund that is about to be cancelled? While some long-lived capital assets are purchased in no-year funds that use an "X" for their year indicator, not all are. If the asset is still around, even if fully depreciated, it has to be reported on the books under some symbol. Many agencies routinely transferred their assets to a current symbol. In addition, when a fund is cancelled, the liabilities are supposed to be reported in account 296000. If the old symbol is gone, how can it be reported?

For the Government wide Treasury Account Symbol Adjusted Trial Balance System (GTAS), Treasury has resurrected the merged account as a "C Account". Unlike the "M Account", the new "C Account" will never contain cash, obligations, or budget authority. It will only be used to report assets and liabilities of cancelled appropriations. Originally use of the "C Account" was to be mandatory, but protests from agencies caused Treasury to make it optional. Agencies can report old assets, liabilities, and related transfers and expenses under the "C Account", or move them to an existing, valid symbol instead. GTAS will automatically create the C TAS but it will not populate it.

Implementation

The old "M Account" was handled automatically by Treasury without the agency having to record a transfer. However, the "C Account" requires agencies to record a transfer out of the old symbol using 573000 Financing Sources Transferred Out without Reimbursement and into the "C Account" using 572000 Financing Sources Transferred In without Reimbursement. Agencies will have to set up new funds in their system to use the "C Account" symbols and post entries to it as part of their annual close process. Agencies cannot simply remap the old funds to the new symbol (as they could have done for the "M Account") since the transfer has to be booked.

SGL Accounts

Only a small fraction of SGL Accounts will be allowed in the "C Account". Probably the most important component in the "C Account" will be property, plant and equipment. If a building lasts 40 years and is paid for with annual appropriations (possibly over several years), it will spend most of its life in the "C Account". Even fully-depreciated equipment that is still in use will likely be reported there. Because agencies don't report balances in their cancelled appropriations, many have taken to transfer assets either to the current year or to a no-year fund using accounts 572000/573000 Financing Sources Transferred In/Out without Reimbursement. Some agencies have used revolving or working capital funds to handle the purchase of fixed assets for which the fund is reimbursed by the appropriated funds. These steps are no longer necessary. The assets allowed in the "C Account" are operating materials (151100 thru 151400) and fixed assets (171100 thru 189900). The only liability account allowed is 296000 Accounts Payable from Cancelled Appropriations. Potentially long-term liabilities such as 222500 Unfunded FECA Liability and 292000 Contingent Liabilities will have to be transferred to a current TAS.

Of course, the only equity account permitted is 331000 Cumulative Results of Operations, since this fund is, by definition, unfunded. Agencies can record transfers (using the aforementioned 572000 and 573000 accounts), depreciation (671000), remove canceled payable (680000 Future Funded Expenses), and dispose of assets (711000 Gains on Disposition of Assets – Other or 721000 Losses on Disposition of Assets – Other).

Budgetary Accounts

I could not find any details on budgetary accounts in the "C Account". Since GTAS includes trial balances for both proprietary and budgetary accounts, it is likely that Treasury will expect agencies to include the balances of 420100 Total Actual Resources – Collected, 420800 Adjustment to Total Resources - Disposition of Canceled Payables, and 435000 Canceled Authority, which were not reported in FACTS II.

Conclusion

Many agencies simply exclude cancelled funds' balances from their trial balances and financial statements. Since balances are not reported, there is little incentive for agencies to clean up these trial balances and set most account balances to zero. These agencies also have to transfer any balances they do want to report into an open fund. With the new "C Account" logic, agencies will need to maintain trial balances for their cancelled funds.

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

Community Service Committee Updates

Thank you for everyone's charitable support during the FY 2015 Chapter year. We successfully raised over \$3,500 in monetary and non-monetary donations to support non-profit organizations throughout the Greater Washington DC area.

To name a few organizations, we've sponsored the following:

- The Washington DC Boys and Girls Club
- Reading Is Fundamental
- U.S. Marine Corps Toys to Tots
- Miriam's Kitchen
- DC Greenworks
- Junior Achievement
- Homeless Animals Rescue Team (HART)

As we head into the new FY 2016 Chapter year, we are excited to communicate and support public services that other non-profits are providing throughout the Washington DC area.

Below are just a few of our upcoming community service events:

- On **Saturday, September 12, 2015**, the AGA DC Chapter will be participating in the **FANtastic March, a 5K fundraiser event**. The funds raised will be donated to [Jan's Tutoring House](#) and used in assisting with its mission to provide educational and enrichment activities for inner city Washington, D.C. school-age children and youth.
- At the September luncheon, we will spotlight the DC Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA). They are a public child welfare agency in the District of Columbia responsible for protecting child victims and those at risk of abuse and neglect and assisting their families. We'll be hosting a raffle to raise donations and promote awareness during the September luncheon meeting.
- For October/November 2015, we'll be volunteering with Junior Achievement out at their Finance Park facility in Fairfax, VA. *MORE DETAILS TO COME.

Sincerely,

The Community Service Committee
(Jennifer, Christine, and Janet)

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 traveled to any interesting locations? The Washington Connections 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 rollouts of new systems; and noteworthy accomplishments by our members. We also welcome digital photos that accompany your submission.

Please send your comments and contributions to Tom Harker, the newsletter editor for the 2015-2016 program year, at Tom.W.Harker@uscg.mil.



October Calendar Highlights

October 3, 2015

Early Careers/Member Services Oktoberfest

Location: Capitol City Brewing Company, 4001 Campbell Ave, Arlington, VA 22206, United States

Description: AGA Early Careers and Membership Services will be participating in the 16th annual Mid-Atlantic Oktoberfest in Shillington, Virginia on Saturday October 3.

AGA DC chapter will pay for the first \$10 of your ticket, and you pay the remainder (\$20 cash only) for this awesome event! Please RSVP to Stephen Wills at SGWILLSUSA@GMAIL.COM by Friday, October 2. We will meeting at the Oktoberfest entrance in front of Capitol City Brewing Company on Saturday, October 3 at 11:30 AM sharp.

For more information, go to <http://capcitybrew.com/oktoberfest15.php>

Starts: 11:30 AM Ends: October 3, 2015 - 7:00 PM

October 21, 2015

Audio Conference: Fraud Prevention

Location: Smithsonian Castle, 1000 Jefferson Drive Southwest, Washington, DC 20560, United States

Description: Speaker: TBD _ 2 hours of FREE CPE

Starts: 2:00 PM Ends: October 21, 2015 - 4:00 PM

October 28, 2015

AGA DC October Luncheon

Location: Clyde's of Gallery Place, 707 7th Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20001, United States

Description: <https://www.agadc.org/event/monthly-luncheon/>

Speaker: John Hill Topic: TBD_ 1 CPE Hour

Starts: 11:30 AM Ends: October 28, 2015 - 1:00 PM

Community Service Event: Junior Achievement

Location: Clyde's of Gallery Place, 707 7th Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20001, United States

Description: Community Service event will take place during the DC Chapter Luncheon

Starts: 11:30 AM Ends: October 28, 2015 - 1:00 PM

2015/2016 Officers and Directors

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