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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 to Jason Miller,
Executive Editor, Federal
News Network: Oct. 2019
Luncheon Speaker!**

**Look ahead to
December 2019
Speaker: Tim
Gribben,
Commissioner,
Bureau of the Fiscal
Service**



President's Message



Welcome to our October edition of the Washington Connection!

The 2019-2020 program year is off to a great start. In September, we hosted this year's first monthly luncheon hearing from Paul K. Martin, NASA Inspector General and his many experiences safeguarding the important mission of NASA.

In October, Jason Miller, Executive Editor from Federal News Network shared with us media insights from behind the editor's desk. Also in October, we recognized National Best Cancer Awareness month and supported the Breast Cancer Foundation through donations from luncheon attendees.

I am pleased to share that several Chapter initiatives are well underway, most notably our focused efforts around membership retention and young professionals' recruitment. We finalized key components of our revitalized Mentorship program, and last month, we hosted at our luncheon 11 students and 1 professor from The George Washington University. The students networked with attendees and most registered for AGA membership after the luncheon. Additionally, last month, we attended a University Accounting Information Systems class and presented the benefits of AGA membership and provided information regarding careers in government.

Our Chapter's committees have been working hard on coordinating a number of training and networking events to continue to engage and serve our members and the federal government community at large. Below is list of upcoming events:

- **Wizards vs Hornets** – NBA Game November 22, 2019
- **AGA DC Monthly Luncheon** – Tim Gribben Commissioner, Bureau of the Fiscal Services December 10, 2019
- **AGA DC Audio Conference** – Internal Controls December 11, 2019

I would like to thank all our committee members for their continued efforts and commitment to our Chapter. Together, they constitute a dynamic team that is responsible for our successful Chapter. I also want to thank our generous sponsors for their continued support that enables the DC Chapter to provide the Chapter's many educational and other beneficial member services.

With warm regards

Malena Brookshire

October 2019 Luncheon Highlights



Thank you Jason Miller for your insights!

December 2019 Luncheon Speaker: Tim Gibben



Timothy (Tim) E. Gibben was appointed commissioner of the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service (Fiscal Service) on May 13, 2019. Mr. Gibben provides leadership, policy direction, and guidance for Fiscal Service's efforts to transform financial management and the delivery of shared services in the federal government and oversees bureau operations.

In FY 2018, Fiscal Service issued more than 1.2 billion federal payments worth \$3.5 trillion to more than 100 million people, collected more than \$4.15 trillion in federal revenue, and collected \$7.44 billion in delinquent debts. The bureau conducted 270 Treasury security auctions to finance the public debt and awarded more than \$10 trillion in Treasury marketable securities to investors. Fiscal Service manages a daily cash flow of more than \$111.8 billion, has government-wide program responsibilities for credit and cash management, and accounts for the federal government's debt of \$22 trillion. Fiscal Service produces the daily and monthly Treasury statements, the Monthly Statement of the Public Debt, and the Financial Report of the United States Government.

Prior to his current position, Tim served as the chief financial officer (CFO) and associate administrator for performance management at the Small Business Administration (SBA). Prior to joining SBA, Mr. Gibben was a manager at the U.S. Postal Service. In the private sector, Mr. Gibben spent over five years at a privately-held technology firm as director of a business unit and two years with J.P. Morgan.

As SBA's CFO and associate administrator, Mr. Gibben was responsible for all aspects of SBA's financial management (including preparation and submission of the agency's budget and financial statements), performance management, internal controls, and acquisition. Mr. Gibben previously served as SBA's deputy CFO and as chair of the agency's executive resources board. In his performance improvement roles, Mr. Gibben was responsible for leading SBA's performance improvement initiatives through strategic planning and analysis, performance reviews, and accountability/performance reporting.

Mr. Gibben graduated from the College of William & Mary with a bachelor's degree in accounting and earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Duke University.

Save-the-Date - Training and Conferences



2019-2020 AGA DC Audio Training Schedule

This year the AGA DC hosted programs will take place at KPMG LLP DC Office, 1801 K Street, N.W.; Washington, D.C. 20006 or Guidehouse LLP DC Office, 1730 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20006 (6th floor).

Cost:

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

When:

12/11/19—Internal Controls
2/5/20—GASB Update
3/4/20 — Improper Payments
3/25/20— Cybersecurity
4/8/20—Ethics
4/22/20—DATA Act
5/13/20—Fraud/ Data Analytics
6/10/20—Leadership

2020 Annual Awards Gala Save-The-Date!

Please Save the date! The Awards Gala will take place Friday, May 15th at 6pm sharp onboard the Odyssey cruise boat.

The cruise will depart from Pier 4 at the DC waterfront!

More information to come!



AGA Annual Training Registration is live!

Don't miss this opportunity to hear firsthand from government leaders about the issues impacting Federal financial management and related functions. 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. Space is limited so reserve your attendance now as this event sells out! [Here](#) is the link for the registration.

When: March 18th & March 19th, 2020

Where: Ronald Reagan Building

Save-the-Date: AGA DC Meetings

The luncheons will be held at the Hamilton at 600 14th Street NW.

Date	Speaker	Topic
12/10/2019	Tim Gribben	Commissioner, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the
1/15/2020	Monica Valentine	Executive Director, FASAB
2/19/2020	John Lynskey	Controller, National Science Foundation
3/11/2020	TBD	TBD
4/21/2020	Erik Causey	KPMG
5/20/2020	TBD	TBD

Please note - we will be posting previous luncheon presentation slides on the AGA DC Chapter website! Click [here](#) to access them.

CGFM Committee Update - by Shawn Syed



FALL, FOOTBALL, AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Fall is the perfect time of year for football and becoming a Certified Government Financial Manager. The CGFM is a respected credential that recognizes the specialized knowledge and experience needed to effectively 'tackle' government financial management responsibilities.

Want to learn more about the CGFM? Click [here](#).

CGFM CANDIDATES

Be sure to take advantage of all these benefits we are offering our AGA DC Chapter members!

- ◆ **Exam Rebate Initiative** - Through **October 31**, CGFM examinations will be in the initial (beta) period. The updated examinations will be administered in Pearson VUE testing centers; however, the scores will not be immediately reported to the candidates taking these examinations. The scores will be reported by December 31, 2019. CGFM examinations taken during this beta period will be offered at a discounted rate of \$100 per exam. Take the exam and pass it from now through October 31 and we will reimburse you the cost of your exam!
- ◆ First come, first served. Join those members who have recently passed exams and taken advantage of our rebate program! Please submit the following to Stacey Ferris at sferris@ferriscpa.com and cc Shawn Syed at shawn.syed@syedandassociates.com.
 - Copy of passing certification
 - Proof of payment
 - Mailing address
 - AGA member number
- ◆ **Loaner Study Guides/Practice Exams** – AGA National will provide study guides to all members registered to take the exam through October 31. After the beta period, there will be a hold on exams until January; however, AGA DC has purchased electronic versions of the study guides and practice exams which are available to AGA DC members on a short-term loaner basis through the hold period. Contact Stacey Ferris at sferris@ferriscpa.com if you are interested (available on a first come first served basis). Additionally, if loaner exams are not available AGA DC will reimburse the cost of each practice exam purchased. We only have a limited amount of rebates available so it is first come, first served. You must submit the following to qualify:
 - Proof of scheduled exam
 - Proof of payment
 - Mailing address
 - AGA member number

Congratulations To Our New CGFMs!

Congratulations to our new CGFMs! Congratulations to the following members who obtained their CGFM in from July to August 2019! Your hard work paid off!!

Ms. Courtney K. Edson, CGFM

Justin T. Gonzalez, CGFM

Frank J. Mustari, CGFM

DeMonte' L. Shaw, CGFM

Leonel Robles, Jr., CGFM



Awards Committee Announcement

AGA Seeks Nominations for National Leadership Training Awards!

Recognize and nominate well-deserving professionals in all three levels of government and the private sector who have made outstanding contributions to the financial management, accounting, auditing, or budget fields! These awards will be presented at AGA's 2020 National Leadership Training on February 12-13, 2020 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC.

We are now taking nominations for the 2020 National Leadership Training awards. Nominees do not have to be AGA members. Take a moment and review the award categories below.

Federal Leadership Awards

Distinguished Federal Leadership Award recognizes elected or presidentially-appointed federal officials who exemplify and promote excellence in government management and have demonstrated outstanding leadership in enhancing sound financial management legislation, regulations, practices, policies and systems.

Elmer Staats Award recognizes federal professionals who exemplify and promote excellence in government financial management, outstanding leadership, high ethical standards, and innovative management procedures.

State and Local Leadership Awards

Distinguished Local Government Leadership Award recognizes local government professionals who exemplify and promote excellence in government financial management and who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in enhancing sound financial management legislation, regulations, practices, policies and systems.

Excellence in Government Leadership Award recognizes state or local government professionals who exemplify and promote excellence in government financial management, outstanding leadership, high ethical standards and innovative management procedures.

William R. Snodgrass Distinguished Leadership Award recognizes state government professionals who exemplify and promote excellence in government financial management and who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in enhancing sound financial management legislation, regulations, practices, policies and systems.

Awards Committee Announcement

Public Sector Leadership Awards

Andy Barr Award recognizes financial executives in the private sector who exemplify and promote excellence in the federal government, outstanding leadership, high ethical standards, and innovative management techniques.

Private Sector Financial Excellence Award recognizes financial executives in the private sector who exemplify and promote excellence in state or local government financial management, outstanding leadership, high ethical standards and innovative management techniques.

For detailed award eligibility and evaluation criteria, visit our National Leadership Training Awards page here:

[https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Washington-DC-Chapter/Our-Chapter/Chapter-News/National-Leadership-Training-\(NLT\)-Awards.aspx](https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Washington-DC-Chapter/Our-Chapter/Chapter-News/National-Leadership-Training-(NLT)-Awards.aspx)

Nomination submission or questions can be directed to Thomas Chin at t.chin@cncsoig.gov or Julia Duquette at Julia.duquette@us.gt.com.

Cloud Computing

by Kawoanna Wiggins

Cloud Computing, the practice of using a network of remote servers hosted on the Internet to store, manage, and process data, rather than a local server or a personal computer is becoming increasingly more prevalent in the government. Not only is it reshaping the way the government does business, it also reshapes the associated accounting and reporting.

Accordingly, on May 13, 2019, the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB), issued an Exposure Draft for a Proposed Statement for Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA). In the Proposed Statement, GASB refers to cloud computing and like services as SBITA and defines it as a contract that conveys control of the right to use another party's (a SBITA vendor) hardware, software, or a combination of both, including IT infrastructure (the underlying hardware or software), as specified in the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. Moreover, it states that SBITA provides governments with access to vendors' IT hardware or software for subscription payments without granting governments title or perpetual licenses to the hardware or software. Prior to the issuance of the Statement, there was no accounting or financial reporting guidance specifically for SBITAs.

At the commencement of the subscription term, a government should recognize a subscription liability and an intangible right-to-use asset (a capital asset hereinafter referred to as the subscription asset), except short-term SBITA, which is a SBITA that, at the commencement of the subscription term, has a maximum possible term under the SBITA contract of 12 months (or less), including any options to extend, regardless of their probability of being exercised. For a SBITA that is cancellable by either the government or the SBITA vendor, such as a rolling month-to-month SBITA or a year-to-year SBITA, the maximum possible term is the noncancellable period, including any notice periods.

A government should recognize short-term subscription payments as outflows of resources (for example, expense) based on the payment provisions of the SBITA contract. A government should recognize an asset if subscription payments are made in advance or a liability if subscription payments are to be made subsequent to the reporting period. A government should not recognize an outflow of resources for the period for which the SBITA vendor grants the right to use the underlying hardware or software to the government free of charge (for example, one or more months free).



Cloud Computing

by Kawoanna Wiggins

Recognition and Measurement for SBITAs Other Than Short-Term SBITAs include a Subscription Liability and Subscription Asset measured as follows:

Subscription Liability

A government initially should measure the subscription liability at the present value of subscription payments expected to be made during the subscription term. Measurement of the subscription liability should include the following, if required by a SBITA:

- Fixed payments
- Variable payments that depend on an index or a rate (such as the Consumer Price Index or a market interest rate), initially measured using the index or rate as of the commencement of the subscription term
- Variable payments that are fixed in substance
- Payments for penalties for terminating the SBITA, if the subscription term reflects the government exercising (1) an option to terminate the SBITA or (2) a fiscal funding or cancellation clause
- Any subscription contract incentives receivable from the SBITA vendor
- Any other payments to the SBITA vendor that are reasonably certain of being required based on an assessment of all relevant factors.

Variable payments based on future performance of a government or usage of the underlying hardware or software should not be included in the measurement of the subscription liability. Rather, those variable payments should be recognized as outflows of resources (for example, expense) in the period in which the obligation for those payments is incurred. However, any component of those variable payments that is fixed in substance should be included in the measurement of the subscription liability.

The future subscription payments should be discounted using the interest rate the SBITA vendor charges the government, which may be the interest rate implicit in the SBITA. If the interest rate cannot be readily determined by the government, its estimated incremental borrowing rate (an estimate of the interest rate that would be charged for borrowing the subscription payment amounts during the subscription term) should be used.

In subsequent financial reporting periods, a government should calculate the amortization of the discount on the subscription liability and report that amount as an outflow of resources (for example, interest expense) for the period. Any subscription payments made should be allocated first to the accrued interest liability and then to the subscription liability.

Cloud Computing

by Kowoanna Wiggins

Subscription Asset

A government initially should measure the subscription asset as the sum of the following:

- The amount of the initial measurement of the subscription liability
- Subscription payments made to the SBITA vendor at or before the commencement of the subscription term, less any SBITA vendor incentives received from the SBITA vendor at or before the commencement of the subscription term
- Capitalizable implementation costs

A subscription asset should be amortized in a systematic and rational manner over the shorter of the subscription term or the useful life of the underlying hardware or software. The amortization of the subscription asset should be reported as an outflow of resources (for example, amortization expense), which may be combined with depreciation expense related to other capital assets for financial reporting purposes.

Inside The Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM, CPA

Posting Logic Based on Rules or Principles?

Introduction

Anyone who works with the U.S. Standard General Ledger (USSGL) Transaction Listing knows that it is extensive but not exhaustive. Some who work with the USSGL, particularly auditors, seem to think that the Transaction Listing is a set of rules and that every posting must exactly match the accounts listed. It is clear to me that the transactions are only examples of what is needed to meet the various principles supported by the USSGL.

Missing Accounts

Comparing like transactions often shows variances in the accounts posted for which no reason is given. For example, both C132 and C134 show the postings for an expenditure refund. The difference between the two is that C132 is for refunds for a prior-year expenditure while C134 covers those in the same year. Therefore, the debit budgetary account for C132 is 497200 Downward Adjustments of Prior-Year Paid Delivered Orders - Obligations, Refunds Collected, while that of C134 is 490200 Delivered Orders - Obligations, Paid. What is unexpected is that the list of proprietary credit accounts for C132 includes 640000 Benefit Expense while C134 does not. Does this mean that an agency can only receive a refund for benefits paid the previous year but not the current year? I think the omission was merely an oversight, but no explanation is given. It would be useful for the listings to explain the principle they illustrate, for example, C132 could include a statement that these budgetary accounts are the ones appropriate for a prior-year refund (as none of them are the same as for C134). Then the C132 proprietary entry could include the note "(same as for C134)."

Missing Transactions

The entry to record a completed advance issuance against an existing order is
B308 Debit 141000 Advances and Prepayments

480100 Undelivered Orders - Obligations, Unpaid

Credit 101000 Fund Balance with Treasury

480200 Undelivered Orders - Obligations, Prepaid/Advanced

While the entry to record an advance where the disbursement has not yet taken place is

B410 Debit 141000 Advances and Prepayments

Credit 212000 Disbursements in Transit

Obviously the entry to post when confirming the prepayment schedule is B308 less B410 or

Debit 212000 Disbursements in Transit

480100 Undelivered Orders - Obligations, Unpaid

Credit 101000 Fund Balance with Treasury

480200 Undelivered Orders - Obligations, Prepaid/Advanced

However, no such transaction exists in the listing. The only normal transaction that posts a debit to 212000 is B110 which shows the budgetary accounts as 490100 / 490200, which are expenditures. Entry B410 could include a note that it is intended to show that 212000 does not always have to be accompanied by 490100 Delivered Orders - Obligations, Unpaid. Under a principles-based approach, the missing entry isn't needed because it is clear what one needs to go from point A (entry B410) to B (entry B308). However, under the rules-based approach many auditors prefer, it leaves a hole that needs filling.

Conclusion

I think that a rules-based approach to the USSGL is unattainable. There are simply too many variations to cover each one, and a lot of time would be wasted trying. But if we are to interpret the Transaction Listing as principles-based guidance, it would be nice to have the principles more explicitly spelled out.



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. The Officers and Directors page is available [here](#).

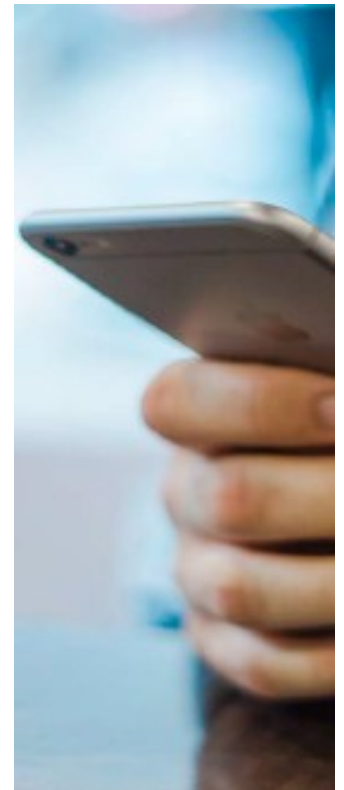
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Watkins Government Services LLC (WGS) is a woman owned small business consulting firm in metropolitan Washington, DC that serves the government sector; delivering financial management, grants management and business process re-engineering services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



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Allmond & Company is a certified public accounting firm which began operations in May, 1985. For more than thirty years, our firm has been committed to assisting the federal government to improve financial management, ensure accountability, and strive for transparency.



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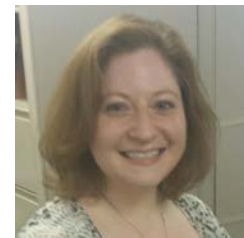
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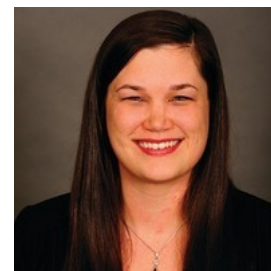
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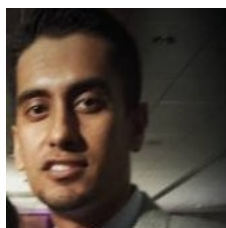
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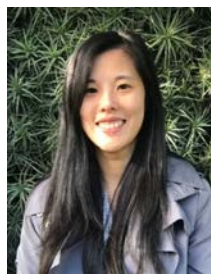
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Co-Director, Awards Gala



Diane Rudnick
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Shawn Syed
Director, CGFM



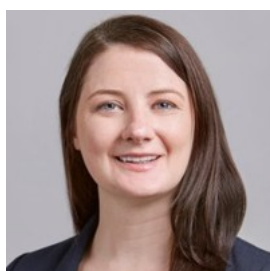
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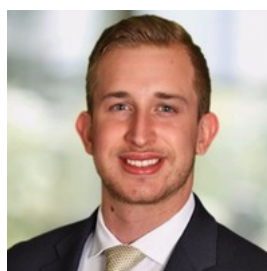
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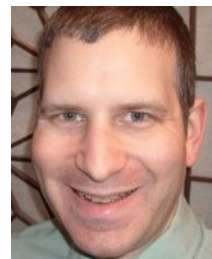
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Co-Director, Programs



Frank Peterson
Co-Director, Programs



Gary Wong
Director, Newsletter



Simcha Kuritzky
Director, Publications



Lal Harter
Director, Strategic Direction



Heidi Williams
Director, Social Media



Alex Yow
Director, Webmaster