



THE WASHINGTON CONNECTION



Washington DC Chapter • P.O. Box 423 • Washington, D.C. 20044-0423 • (703) 758-4080 • January 2000

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Upcoming Events:

- January 27-28, 2000: AGA's Eleventh Annual Federal Leadership Conference, Washington, DC
- February 9, 2000: Monthly Luncheon meeting featuring Karla Corcoran, IG, USPS
- March 2, 2000: Monthly Luncheon meeting featuring Richard L. Gregg, Commissioner, FMS
- April 11, 2000: Monthly Luncheon meeting featuring David Walker, Comptroller General of the U.S.
- April 18, 2000: Special Evening Meeting featuring Valerie Holt, CFO DC Government
- May 4, 2000: Monthly Luncheon meeting featuring Edward A. Powell, Assistant Secretary/CFO, Veterans Affairs



Nancy Killefer, Assistant Secretary (Management) and CFO, Treasury

Luncheon Speaker

Nancy Killefer was appointed by President Clinton and confirmed by the U.S. Senate for the dual post of Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer of the Treasury Department. She was sworn in on September 30, 1997.

She reports to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary on all matters involving the financial and internal management of the Department. Ms. Killefer is responsible for the Department's budget and also oversees all management, personnel and procurement policies within the Department.

Before joining the Treasury, Ms. Killefer worked as a director at the management consulting firm of McKinsey & Company

in Washington, D.C. At McKinsey, where she had worked since 1979, Ms. Killefer specialized in developing market strategies and improving organizational effectiveness.

1999/2000 AGA Washington DC Chapter Monthly Luncheon and CPE Session

Thursday, January 6, 2000
Grand Hyatt Hotel
1000 H Street, NW (At Metro Center - 11th Street Exit)

11:30 to 12:00	Social
12:00 to 1:10 pm	Luncheon Meeting (1 CPE):
<i>Announcements</i>	
<i>Lunch</i>	
<i>Luncheon Speaker</i>	
1:15 to 4:00 pm	Afternoon Session (3 CPEs):
<i>1:15 to 2:30 pm</i>	<i>CPE Session</i>
<i>2:30 to 2:45 pm</i>	<i>Break</i>
<i>2:45 to 4:00 pm</i>	<i>CPE Session</i>

Costs:		
Luncheon:	Members	\$19.00
	Non-members	\$30.00
Luncheon & Afternoon CPE Session:	Members	\$40.00
	Non-members	\$50.00
Afternoon CPE Session Only:	Members	\$30.00
	Non-members	\$40.00

For reservations, please call the AGA Washington DC Chapter voice mail line at (703) 758-4080 and select option 1. If you prefer, you can register by email to cdavis@gt.com or you can register at our homepage: www.agadc.org. Please forward your name, agency/company, and telephone number.

President's Message

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*Regional Vice-President-Elect
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Welcome to the New Millennium! After years of anticipating and speculating as to what the Year 2000 would bring, we are now experiencing it!

Federal Financial Management in the 21st Century will depend, in part, on the focus and leadership of the Government-wide Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Council. There is no doubt that the CFO Council has had profound influence and impact on federal financial management since its inception with the CFO Act of 1990. Collaborating with OMB to develop and implement the Five-Year Plan, alone has brought many improvements and results for financial management in all agencies.

The Council's work enabled a totally new and progressive approach toward the procurement of financial systems that meet core financial system standards. Improvement in the financial statement opinions for the departments can be directly related to the active participation by the Council in not only their work on FASAB standard-setting and reporting, but also in their efforts to build relationships with the Inspectors General and GAO who perform the financial audits. Finally, the Council has furthered the implementation of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) by their very proactive focus on strategic plan development and outcome-based performance measurement throughout the agencies.

We will have the opportunity to hear a key member of the CFO Council reflect

on the challenges and opportunities for federal financial management in the 21st Century at our January 6th meeting. Nancy Killefer, CFO for the Treasury Department, has focused on a wide range of financial reform at the Treasury Department during her tenure there. Her private sector experience in advising corporate CFOs has only increased her effectiveness at Treasury and as part of the CFO Council. Please join us in January to learn her perspective on financial management in the new millennium.

Our luncheon seminar on January 6 will be a demonstration of ABC software (see page 10 for more details). This is really a "must" for anyone in government who wants to learn what tools are available to help federal managers comply with FASAB Statement #4 and GPRA requirements. Managing cost is becoming an essential element of all financial responsibilities today.

It's not too early to plan now to attend our next training event on February 28 and 29, 2000 at the Mayflower Hotel, which will focus on performance measurement (see page 5 for more details). With the full GPRA reporting on performance measurement due this year, this topic will be of critical importance to many. We will also have an event later in the spring on financial systems that you should all look for in our communications in the future. All-in-all, many great learning opportunities exist for us all!

Vincette

The Chapter has earned 6,735 points in the Chapter Recognition Program as of December 1999.

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Understanding systems integration is one thing.
Understanding the system is another.

Our years of experience learning the ins and outs of the federal government make us a leading systems integrator for today's most complex systems.

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It's time for clarity.

January Luncheon Speaker: Nancy Killefer, Assistant Secretary (Management) and CFO, Treasury



Nancy Killefer, Assistant Secretary (Management) and CFO, Treasury

Nancy Killefer was appointed by President Clinton and confirmed by the U.S. Senate for the dual post of Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer of the Treasury Department. She was sworn in on September 30, 1997.

She reports to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary on all matters involving the financial

and internal management of the Department. Ms. Killefer is responsible for the Department's budget and also oversees

all management, personnel and procurement policies within the Department.

Before joining the Treasury, Ms. Killefer worked as a director at the management consulting firm of McKinsey & Company in Washington, D.C. At McKinsey, where she had worked since 1979, Ms. Killefer specialized in developing market strategies and improving organizational effectiveness.

Ms. Killefer received a master's degree in science management in 1979 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a bachelor's in economics in 1975 from Vassar College.

Ms. Killefer lives in Washington, D.C. with her husband, Robert Cumby, and her children, Robert Cumby, Jr. and Jamie Cumby. She was born on November 16, 1953 in Key West, Florida.

The Year 2038 Problem

The year 2000 problem is understood by most people these days because of the large amount of media attention it is receiving.

Most programs written in the C programming language are relatively immune to the Y2K problem, but suffer instead from the Year 2038 Problem. The problem arises because most C programs use a library of routines called the standard time library (time.h). This library establishes a standard 4-byte format for the storage of time values, and also provides a number of functions for converting, displaying, and calculating time values.

The standard 4-byte format assumes that the beginning of time is January 1, 1970 at 12:00:00 am. This value is zero. Any time/date value is expressed as the number of seconds following that zero value. So the value 919642718 is 919,642,718 seconds past 12:00:00 am on January 1, 1970, which is Sunday, February 21, 1999 at 16:18:38 pacific time (U.S.). This is a convenient format because you can subtract any two values and you get a number of seconds that is the time difference between them. Then you can use other functions in the library to determine how many minutes/hours/days/months/years have passed between the two times.

A signed 4-byte integer has a maximum value of 2,147,483,648, and this is where the Year 2038 Problem comes from. The maximum value of time before it rolls over to a negative (and invalid) value is 2,147,483,648.

This value translates into January 19, 2038. On this date, any C programs that use the standard time library will start to have problems with date calculations.

This problem is somewhat easier to fix than the Y2K problem on mainframes, fortunately. Well-written programs can simply be recompiled with a new version of the library that uses, for example, 8-byte values for the storage format. This is possible because the library encapsulates the whole time activity with its own time types and functions (unlike most mainframe programs, which did not standardize their date formats or calculations). So the Year 2038 Problem should not be nearly so hard to fix as the Y2K problem has been.

Reprinted from *Capital Ideas*, the newsletter of the AGA New York Capital Chapter, November/December 1999 issue.

The Next Washington Chapter Two-Day Seminar

Scheduled for February 28 and 29, 2000

The Topic is Performance Measurement

The second of three scheduled Washington Chapter seminars will be held on Monday and Tuesday, February 28th and 29th at the Mayflower Hotel on Connecticut Avenue, NW. The program committee is now finalizing the agenda and a program will be in the mail and on our homepage by the middle of January 2000, six weeks before the seminar.

Presenters at this two day seminar will provide a wide variety of viewpoints, ideas, and specific tools that will help government financial managers meet GPRA and other pressing requirements. Please look in your mailboxes and on our homepage: www.agadc.org early in January for more details on this informative educational event.

From the AGADC.org Webmaster: How to Get On (and Off) the Washington DC Chapter Mailing List

The Chapter’s website has been up and running for a couple of months now, and we would like to remind you of the Association of Government Accountant’s Washington DC Chapter Mailing List Server on the site. By being added to the mailing list, members or any other interested persons will receive emails from the Washington DC Chapter updating them on upcoming chapter educational events and other activities.

We also make *The Washington Connection* available through this same service. One can subscribe by going to the main web site (<http://www.agadc.org>) and clicking on the mail-list button and choosing the subscribe option. You will be asked to enter your email address. Enter your address and click the subscribe button.

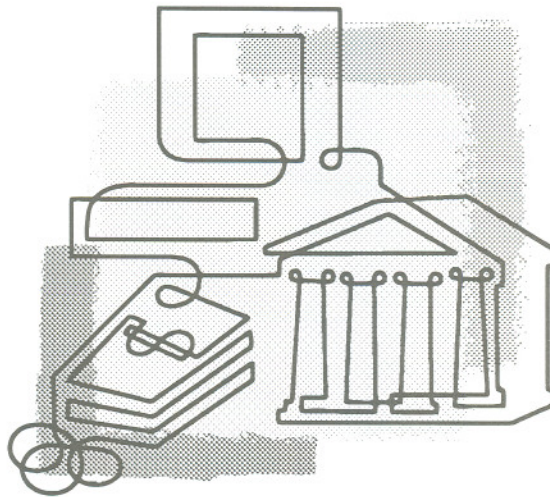
As a chapter member, you may already have been added to the mailing list. If you wish to remove yourself from the mailing list, you can unsubscribe by going to the web site and clicking on the mail-list button and choosing the unsubscribe option. You will be asked to enter your email address. Be sure to enter the email address that you wish to unsubscribe. Finally, click the unsubscribe button.

If you know of other members or non-members who would be interested in receiving emails from the Washington DC Chapter, please inform them of the new mail-list feature on the web site.

If you have any questions or comments, please e-mail the webmaster at webmaster@agadc.org or go the web site (<http://www.agadc.org>) and click on the e-mail button.

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Highlights of the November 17, 1999 Executive Committee Meeting

Membership

Miguel Castillo stated that Chapter was meeting its goals for new members and retention however, due to “suspended” members, growth targets are not being met. About five new members are added each month and the membership section of the Chapters homepage () gets about one hit per day. Miguel is going to start a campaign to increase the reinstatement rate.

Programs

Joe Donlon stated that the first full-day CPE training course (on FACTS II) for the program year was a big success, drawing 185 participants and grossing over \$25,000. The October luncheon was attended by 117, the November, 80.

Joe reiterated that the CPEs are targeted for the working-level professionals, and not necessarily the executive level. Joe stated that perhaps the chapter should add another social event to the program year, between the Toys-for-Tots holiday luncheon in December and the Awards event in April, and is asking for suggestions for both the added social event as well as CPE sessions. Joe will submit a proposal for an added social event for the January Executive Committee meeting.

The April 11 luncheon with David Walker, the US Comptroller General will be a joint event with the Northern Virginia and Montgomery/Prince Georges County chapters, and hosted by the Washington, DC Chapter.

The issue was raised of whether there should be a cut-off time for those attending the luncheons. A noon start-time is advertised yet attendees arrive as late as 12:45. It was decided a cut-off time is not a good idea, however late arrivers disrupt the speakers so it was decided to use a different entrance after the speaker has started.

Communications

David Fitz gave a webpage update, stating that there are 170 hits per month, and 800 subscriber to the Chapter listserve. It was decided that the Chapter should continue to market use of the Homepage and listserve, including highlighting in the newsletter that the newsletter is available sooner online and that event reminders are available through the listserve. Vincette stated that these email event reminders are useful as they can be forwarded to non-members and non-listserve subscribers interested in the topics.

Budget and Finance

Bob Biancucci stated the audits are completed for 1997 and 1998, and that the 1999 has started. The 1999 A/R ending balance will be reconciled so that the 2000 audit will be simpler.

The Chapter is trying encourage use of Agency credit cards instead of training forms for methods of payments for the events, and Bob has called at least one Agency to encourage this.

Bob distributed the proposed \$146,000 program year budget to the Committee stating that Lucy Lomax, Vincette, and he would like the Committee to email them with their agreement (or disagreement) to the proposed budget prior to the December 16 holiday reception, so that the budget for the year can be finalized.

Community Outreach

Joe gave an update on community outreach stating that the next big event is the Toys-for-Tots holiday reception December 16. Bob proposed that the Chapter donate \$500 to both Project Harvest and the Central Union Mission (14th St. NW, DC) both passed unanimously.

Awards

Warren Cottingham stated planning for the April 18 Chapter awards program is continuing and that the Chapter nominated one member each for the Elmer Staats and Andy Barr Awards and two for the Distinguished Federal Leadership.

Chapter Awards Program

It was stated that Germaine Rowley is keeping the program on-track by contacting Committee members to ensure timely submission of information.

Officers Present

Vincette Goerl
Cameron Weber
Robert Biancucci

Directors Present

Eleanor Long
Warren Cottingham
Joe Donlon
David Fitz
Miguel Castillo
Simcha Kuritzky

Opportunities with the CFO Council

The CFO Council is looking for potential candidates (GS-13/14/15) from Federal government agencies to be CFOC Fellows for a one year developmental assignment. The CFOC Fellows is designed to groom future senior executives in the financial management community.

The deadline for applying is February 7, 2000. For more information, please contact John Amey, (202) 314-3408.

50th Anniversary Corner

Chapter Membership

AGA's predecessor organization, the Federal Government Accountants Association (FGAA) began in Washington, D.C. in 1950 with fifty-nine charter members. Membership grew to about 400 by 1952. In 1953, charters were issued to form association chapters outside the Washington, DC area. On July 1, 1956, a national organization was established, with the Washington Chapter, then having a membership of 600, being chartered as one of its affiliates.

Membership growth continued rapidly and by the mid-1960's about 2,500 financial managers claimed membership in the Washington Chapter. With the formation of two local area groups, the Montgomery/Prince Georges and Northern Virginia Chapters, in 1968, Washington Chapter membership briefly declined and then rose to its former level. As with many organizations, chapter membership declined during the 1980's to about 1,100. During the past decade membership increased some; currently, about 1,600 financial managers belong to the chapter. As part of AGA National's campaign to achieve 20,000 members by the year 2000, our chapter goal is to achieve 2,000 by year 2000.

Admittance Qualifications Extended

Early membership of the organization was restricted to only upper grade federal employees with accounting responsibilities. Gradually, admission guidelines were changed to admit all federal employees in accounting and auditing positions and those individuals with relevant qualifications who were not in the federal workforce.

In 1972, the admission requirements were further liberalized to admit state and local financial officials. Currently, the chapter membership includes a mix of federal, local, and foreign government financial managers, plus representatives from the private sector.

Distinguished Members Abound

In addition to its charter members, a long list of men and women have made great contributions to the chapter while maintaining

outstanding working careers. Several Comptrollers General and numerous Assistant Secretaries, Inspectors General, Chief Accountants, Chief Auditors, Chief Financial Officers

and other important financial managers have served the chapter over the years. Further, many Washington Chapter Presidents have gone on to serve as national President or committee chairpersons. It would be impossible to mention all the distinguished members of the Washington Chapter in the space we have available.

Fifty Years of Service

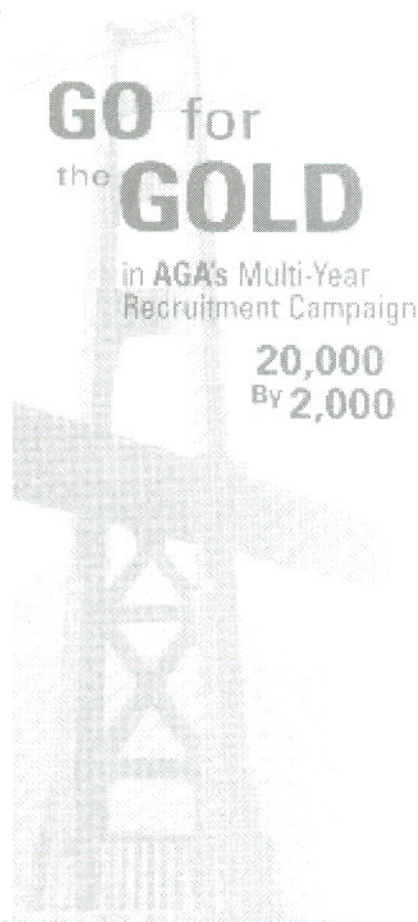
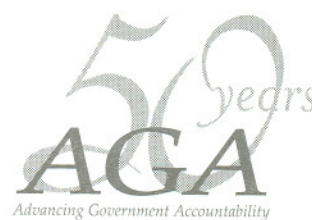
Two charter members and former Presidents of the Washington Chapter are members still today. They are:

- Raymond Einhorn, and
- T. Jack Gary

They have supported the chapter during its fifty years of existence. Both are still active members of the chapter, keeping themselves abreast of chapter happenings and current government financial management issues. They still attend the chapter's annual awards dinner and recognition of past Presidents. Both served as national Presidents and have distinguished themselves in their careers as they made positive contributions to better government. In 1998 the chapter named its most prestigious award after Messrs. Einhorn and Gary. A wonderful article about these two gentlemen, documenting recent inter-

views of them, appears in the current issue of *The Government Accountants Journal*.

The chapter has prospered and grown because of the contributions of Raymond Einhorn and Jack Gary, many other distinguished officers and directors who have served the chapter over the years, and many others just as dedicated who believed in the need for a viable organization for government financial managers.



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Positions Available at the United States Department of Agriculture

USDA is seeking applicants for a Supervisory Systems Accountant position, GS-510-14, salary range \$68,570 - \$89,142 (1999 Locality Pay for Washington, D.C. area). More than one position may be filled. The position is in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Financial Systems, Reporting, and Analysis Division, Washington, D.C.

The director of the division reports through the Deputy Chief Financial Officer to the Chief Financial Officer and has departmentwide responsibility for consolidated financial statements, cost accounting, financial and accounting standards, financial management budgets, and financial systems. The individual selected will serve as a team leader and be responsible for participating in Governmentwide efforts to develop accounting policies, requirements, and standards that are suitable for the Department; maintaining a current strategic plan for cost accounting in the Department; leading the design, development, and oversight of the implementation of the Department's cost accounting policies, programs, standards, and systems; providing guidance and assistance to the Departments' decision makers regarding the concept, value, and use of cost information; and ensuring that those decision makers are provided information that is consistent, reliable, timely, and useful.

The announcement number is OCFO-9-24; it closes on January 12, 2000.

CONTACT: Personnel Office, (202) 720-5781
USDA-DA-HRM-HRSD
Stop 9708, Room 2-W, JLW Federal Bldg.
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
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Registration refunds, less a \$25 administrative fee, will be issued on written requests received two weeks prior to the event. To receive a refund, you must have written verification from the National Office Registrar that your cancellation was received within the required time frame. "No Shows" will be charged the full amount. Telephone cancellations will not be accepted. Substitutes will be accepted if authorized in writing by the registrant.



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Chapter Officers, Directors, and National Representatives



President, Vincette L. Goerl, CGFM

USDA/Forest Service (202) 205-1784

Email: goerl_vincette/wo@fs.fed.us

President-Elect, Zack E. Gaddy, CGFM

DOD/DFAS (703) 607-1427

Email: zack.gaddy@dfas.mil

Immediate Past President, Eva J. Williams, CGFM

Treasury/IRS (202) 535-9701 Ext. 408

Email: eva_williams@cfomail.fin.irs.gov

Secretary, Cameron M. Weber, CGFM

USAID (202) 712-1972

Email: cameron@usaid.gov

Assistant Secretary/Webmaster, David A. Fitz, CGFM

KPMG (202) 224-3666

Email: dfitz@kpmg.com

Treasurer, Robert J. Biancucci, CGFM

Grant Thornton (703) 761-7768

Email: rbiancucci@gt.com

DIRECTORS

Administration, Germaine P. Rowley, CGFM

Treasury/Customs (202) 927-0451

Email: germaine.p.rowley@customs.treas.gov

Agency Liaison, Jolene Romanyshyn, CGFM

GSA (202) 501-1084

Email: jolene.romanyshyn@gsa.gov

Awards, Warren J. Cottingham, CGFM

Treasury/FMS (202) 874-9584

Email: warren.cottingham@fms.sprint.com

Budget & Finance, Margaret L. (Lucy) Lomax, CGFM

FASAB (202) 512-7359

Email: lomaxm.fasab@gao.gov

Community Outreach, Kathryn Healy, CPA

Urbach Kahn & Werlin PC (202) 296-2020

Email: khealy8834@aol.com

Education, Eleanor Long, CGFM

Ernst & Young (202) 327-5903

Email: eleanor.long@ey.com

Membership, Miguel A. Castillo, CGFM

U.S. Postal Service/IG (703) 248-4579

Email: mcastillo@uspsoig.gov

Monthly Programs, Joseph J. Donlon, CGFM

Grant Thornton (703) 847-7663

Email: jdonlon@gt.com

Prof. Services/Research, Simcha L. Kuritzky, CGFM

American Management Systems, Inc. (703) 227-5796

Email: simcha_kuritzky@amsinc.com

Publications/Newsletter Editor, Robert L. Buchanan, CGFM

Anteon Corporation (703) 246-0298

Email: rbuchanan@anteon.com

Assistant Newsletter Editor, Michael D. Sciortino, CPA

Interior/National Business Center (703) 648-7251

Email: michael_d_sciortino@nbc.gov

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Section Representative, Evelyn A. Brown, CGFM

National Archives (301) 713-6405 x 230

Email: evelyn.brown@arch2.nara.gov

Capital Region Vice-President, Carol A. Christian, CGFM

Grant Thornton (703) 847-7636

Email: cstagg@gt.com

Regional Vice-President-Elect, William J. Anderson, CGFM

GAO (202) 512 9319

Email: andersonw.aimd@gao.gov



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