

# The Washington Connection

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS  
WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER

DECEMBER 2004 ISSUE

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Would you like to receive email reminders of our monthly meetings and conferences? If so, please go to <http://www.agadc.org> to sign up for our mailing list in the Member Services section of the website.

## *Holiday Get-Together*

**Don't miss out on our  
"Informal Holiday Get - Together."  
We'll meet at the Old Ebbitt Grill - Corner Bar  
on Thursday December 9, 2004 from  
5:00 p.m to 7:00 p.m. and ring in  
and toast the holiday season.**

**Complimentary  
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# President's Message

by Karen Alderman, President



Ms. Karen Alderman, President

Dear Chapter Members,

The Winter solstice is rapidly approaching, along with the halfway mark of the DC Chapter year. All but two major agencies met the November 15 reporting deadline and Treasury is working hard to produce the Financial Statement of the U. S Government in December — using the new consolidation process for the first time. This is just more evidence of our theme --“Financial Management in Transition”. Notwithstanding the hectic pace of Federal

financial management efforts, our members find time to engage and advance our Chapter goals of providing quality professional education through our luncheon meetings, engaging the next generation through an active Early Career program, and giving back to the community.

**Professional Development.** On behalf of the DC Chapter, I would like to thank Representative Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) for sharing some of her valuable time addressing our Chapter. Her comments emphasized that Congress plans to actively pursue an agenda to consolidate and institutionalize government financial management reforms of the past decade. Representative Blackburn made it clear that, past efforts notwithstanding, Congress is demanding more improvement in financial management information in order to assure greater accountability to the taxpayer for program results.

**Early Careers.** Attracting new talent and giving them the tools to manage in the future is imperative for the future. I want to thank Leslie Casson Stevens, for sharing her perspectives on Federal financial management careers with our Early Career “brown bag” lunch bunch. She shared her career experience in private sector and public sector and how she made that career journey. Among other experience, she served as the Chief Financial Officer of the Smithsonian, and she currently holds the position of Federal Industry Director for Public Services for SAP. One of her comments was the value placed on **Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM)** certification by prospective employers, particularly in the private sector. The next Early Career brown bag lunch will be on February 15. Our thanks to Laura Glass, our Early Career Chair, for making these events possible.

On the topic supporting the next generation of leaders, I am delighted to announce an exciting training opportunity for AGA members in the early stages of their careers. On March 15-17 and 22-24, 2005, the DC Chapter will sponsor a comprehensive training program that helps prepare participants to successfully complete the CGFM examinations.

This program, offered AT NO COST to qualified enrollees from all the regional Chapters, will address three key components that align with the CGFM: the governmental environment: government accounting, financial reporting and budgeting, and government financial management and control. Our instructor will be Virginia Robinson, one of the preeminent educators of prospective CGFMs throughout the United States. The training will be held at the facilities of Treasury Agency Services, which is at the 3rd floor of 1990 K Street, NW, Washington DC. We are most appreciative of the support of Bob Evans and Karl Boettcher for making training space available. This program provides a wonderful opportunity for our members in the early stage of their careers to dramatically increase their knowledge of government financial management, and prepare to acquire a critically important professional certification that will enhance their value to their organizations and promote their long-term career aspirations. Grant Thornton's Ken Bresnahan serves as our Chair for the CGFM program and has done a marvelous job in orchestrating this opportunity for our members, including those who join AGA in the next few months. Keep your eyes on the [AGADC website](#) for more information.

**Community Service.** I am so proud of our Chapter's efforts on behalf of the Community. In October we continued our long-standing participation in annual ALS (October 10, 2004) walk as members of “Joan's Wayward Walker's” led by our captain. Andy Kilgore. To date we have collected \$1,675 for ALS. Also in November we supported Project Harvest—a coalition of groups and organizations throughout the metropolitan region that collect nonperishable food items to distribute to needy families in the Washington, DC metropolitan region. AGA DC donated \$124 in cash and a large box of nonperishable food to this effort. Your generosity will help others celebrate the season. Our hats off to Tonya Allen-Shaw and Lloyd Farmer for organizing and executing our Chapter's community service program.

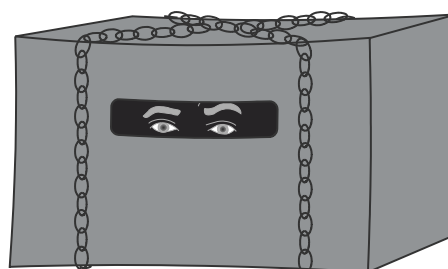
**'Tis the Season.** In December, will not have a luncheon meeting. However, we hope that you will join us on December 9, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the AGA Get - Together at the Old Ebbitt Grill, 675 15th Street, N.W, to celebrate the season. This is a real low-key enjoyable time. Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank our 2004-2005 corporate sponsors of the meeting series including Savantage Solutions, Kearney & Company, Grant Thornton, and PriceWaterhouseCoopers for their generous support and invite other organizations that would like to contribute to some aspect of our Chapter. Support from our corporate sponsors is enabling our Chapter to present a robust program for our current members, to build human capital capacity for the future, and to support our community. Best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,  
Karen Cleary Alderman  
Chapter President



# Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA



## Anticipated/Non-Apportioned Authority Update

### Backout and Redo

The Standard General Ledger (SGL) for FY 2005 has two new accounts to be used with authority that is not subject to apportionment: 4690 and 4720. This brings to three the number of accounts for this type of authority, these being:

- 4620 Unobligated Funds Exempt from Apportionment
- 4690 Anticipated Resources - Programs Exempt from Apportionment
- 4720 Commitments - Programs Exempt from Apportionment

In most respects, they are treated the same as their more common counterparts for authority subject to apportionment, which are:

- 4610 Allotments - Realized Resources
- 4590 Apportionments - Anticipated Resources - Programs Subject to Apportionment
- 4700 Commitments - Programs Subject to Apportionment

### Posting Anticipated Amounts

There are 10 main SGL entries for anticipated amounts using 11 different accounts. In the interests of brevity, I will just list the transaction number and resource (normally debit) GL account number: A102 4120, A114, 4215, A138 4310, A140 4060 or 4070, A176 4032, A178 4034, A204 4165, A242 or A244 4160 or 4180, A302 4210. All of these entries show the status (normally credit) posting either to 4450 Unapportioned Authority, 4620 Unobligated Funds Exempt from Apportionment, or 4630 Funds Not Available for Commitment/Obligation.

Next are a pair of entries to transfer these amounts to anticipated status, then back to available status when the resources are realized. These can be shown in the following table:

Apportion?	Starting Acct	Entry	Anticipated Acct	Entry	Available Acct
Subject to	4450	A118	4590	A122	4610 (or 4510)
Exempt from	4620	A119	4690	A123	4620

Until FY 2005, the authority that was exempt from apportionment always sat in 4620, even if it was anticipated, so entries A119 and A123 did not exist. This three-stage approach is natural for authority subject to apportionment, since it starts in 4450 unapportioned, is apportioned as anticipated into 4590, then is realized into 4510 (or 4610 if allotted). However, there are really only two stages for exempt authority. The original entries (A102 etc.) should really post to 4690 and not 4620, since they are only for anticipated authority, thus eliminating the need for A119. Then those entries which realize the authority (and there are many of them) can continue to use A123 to move the authority to 4620.

It is not at all clear to me why some of the anticipated entries post to 4630 and other post to 4590 or 4690. Since account 4630 is only used for anticipated amounts, why not just use 4590 (if apportioned) and 4690 (if non-apportioned)? Perhaps this account was used to prevent non-apportioned authority from going into 4620 when it was not actually available, but now that is no longer a concern.

### Posting Non-Apportioned Amounts

The use of account 4720 is very straightforward. While entry B202 records commitments by moving balances from 4610 to 4700, B203 moves them from 4620 to 4720. The reason for this is also clear: under the old Statement of Budgetary Resources (see below), commitments didn't affect apportioned funds, since available (4610) and committed (4700) were both reported on line 9A1, but commitments would move non-apportioned funds between line 9B (where 4620 is reported) and line 9A1. Now, commitments will not affect the report, regardless of whether the authority is subject to apportionment.

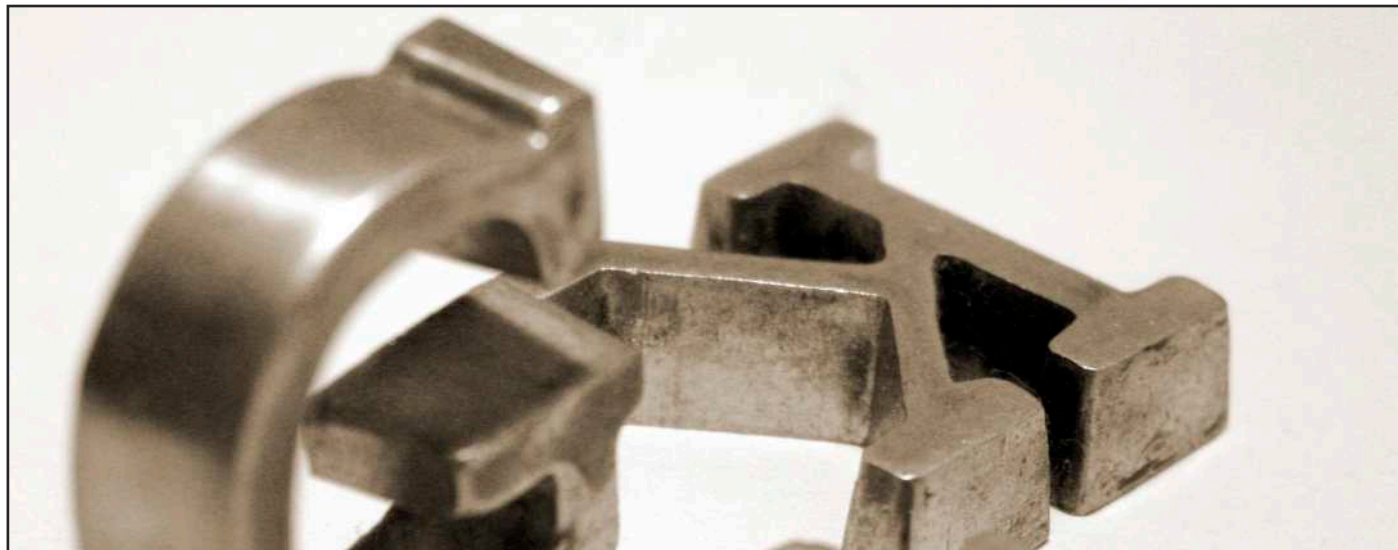
**Anticipated/Non-Apportioned Authority Update, continued on page 4.**

## Anticipated/Non-Apportioned Authority Update, (continued from page 3)

### Reporting on Statement of Budgetary Resources (SBR or SF-133)

All authority not subject to apportionment is now reported on line 9B (accounts 4620, 4690, and 4720). Available and committed amounts that had been apportioned are on line 9A1, while those merely anticipated are on 9A2. I would think that whether funds are anticipated would be of more interest to OMB than whether they are subject to apportionment (i.e., shouldn't 4690 be reported on 9A2 together with 4590?), but that is their call. Account 4630, also used for some kinds of anticipated authority, is reported on line 10C along with unapportioned (4450) and expired (4650) authority. I don't understand why these anticipated amounts are not on line 9A2, but again, that is up to OMB.

Comments, suggestions, and critiques are welcome. Send them to [Simcha.Kuritzky@cgi-ams.com](mailto:Simcha.Kuritzky@cgi-ams.com), and not to the AGA.



## Stop the press...

To better inform our members and foster closer ties among our colleagues within the Federal financial community, we would like to add a few new columns to the *Washington Connection* newsletter.

**Spotlight** will focus on noteworthy accomplishments by our members. Such accomplishments might include recognition from agencies, firms, or community organizations, honor awards, promotions into management positions, retirements, publications, or major speaking engagements—anything our members might do that would warrant praise from their peers. Digital photos are welcome. Please send us your accomplishments, and let us know if someone else in the Chapter deserves recognition for something he or she has done—but please make sure that individual doesn't mind us including the item in the newsletter!!!

**Workplace Wire** will highlight what's new, exciting, and different at the Federal, State, and local agencies and private sector firms where our members work. *Wire* items could include rollouts of new systems or programs, establishment of new offices or reorganizations, appointments of new senior leaders, such as CFOs, new contract awards, or employment opportunities. All we ask is that you obtain any necessary internal clearances before you send us information.

**Endnotes** will include interesting and perhaps even offbeat items that involve our members. This column could be used to share unique travel experiences or assignments. For example, years ago, when I edited *Frontline*, the Inspector General community newsletter, we featured a story about an auditor who participated in an expedition to climb Mount McKinley. Hopefully none of our members were caught up in the recent spate of hurricanes, but how to work under disaster conditions might be useful information. If we have members who are serving (or who have served) in Iraq or Afghanistan, perhaps they would be willing to share their experiences with us. Reviews of recently published books related to financial management would be interesting.

Obviously, we will need your help to gather this information—we can't print what we don't know! Please send your items to [kshaffer@lmi.org](mailto:kshaffer@lmi.org). Feel free to call me on 301.802.2912 or 703.917.7174 if you have any questions or you would like to discuss a possible item or article. Thank you in advance for your participation!!!

# Chinese New Year Dinner

Member Services in conjunction with Mr. Samuel T. Mok (CFO, Department of Labor) is sponsoring a Chinese New Year Dinner at the China Garden Restaurant on Saturday, January 15, starting at 6 p.m. Come and enjoy a wide variety of delicious Chinese cuisine. All dinners are 11 courses (2 appetizers, 1 soup, 5 entries, 1 fried rice and 2 desserts). Soft drinks and hot tea are included. We were able to obtain a special price of \$30.00 per person. Cash bar is optional. Plenty of complimentary parking is available in the building. Dress is business casual. The China Garden is located at 1100 Wilson Blvd. in Rosslyn, (Arlington) Virginia.

If you are interested in attending this activity, please contact the Member Services Director - Karl Boettcher at [karl.boettcher@FMS.treas.gov](mailto:karl.boettcher@FMS.treas.gov) - 202.874.6131 by Friday, January 7th. For additional information you can also call the China Garden at 703.525.5317- ask for Peter.

*We would like to thank our corporate sponsor "Savantage Solutions"*

## *Appetizers:*

Grilled Jumbo Scallops w/Spicy Salt  
Deluxe Cold Cut Platters

## *Soup:*

Mixed Seafood & Asparagus Soup

## *Entrees:*

Braised Mushrooms & Snow Peas Tips  
Roasted Chicken Cantonese Style  
Fresh Lobster w/Scallions & Ginger Sauce  
Filet Mignon House Special  
Pork Chops Kingdom Style  
Young Chow Fried Rice

## *Desserts:*

Crispy Chow Fried Rice  
Tapioca & Taro w/Coconut Milk

# Congratulations!

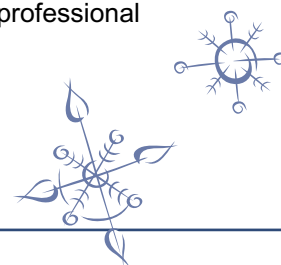
Six of our members have distinguished themselves by earning the **CGFM (Certified Government Financial Manager)** designation in 2004. The CGFM is a mark of distinction. The six who have joined the distinguished group of individuals who have made a commitment to excellence in government financial management are:

Teresa Barth  
 Cynthia DePerio Simpson  
 John D. Bruce  
 Theresa Beck  
 Robert Weidert  
 Curt Woller

The CGFM program is marked by academic achievement and experience in government financial management; adherence to AGA's Code of Ethics; three required exams; continuing professional education (CPE) requirements; and an annual renewal process.

**Congratulations to each of you. "We wish you the best in your careers."**

— Marguerite Nealon



## *US Naval Observatory Tour*

Just a reminder for those who have registered, on Monday, December 13th, join us from 8:30-10 pm for this special opportunity. The Observatory is located at Massachusetts Ave and 34th Street NW. Tours will include a presentation of the mission and history, a view of the Time Services and (weather permitting) viewing of celestial objects with the 12-inch Alvan Clark refractor with an Astronomer. There is no charge for this Tour.

## Northern Virginia “After Work Good - Time Events”

### “After Work Good - Time and CPE Events”

It’s time for a brand-new year of “After Work Good-Time and CPE Events.” Join your colleagues and friends from 5:15 pm until 7:00 pm (registration 5:15 pm, meeting 6 pm) at the Alexandria Embassy Suites located directly across from the King Street Metro on the 3rd Thursday of each month (unless otherwise stated). Details in table at right.

### USMC Reserve Toys for Tots

Special from <http://www.toysfortots.org>

At our December 16th meeting, we will collect Toys for Tots.

The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

The primary goal of Toys for Tots is to deliver, through a shiny new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to needy youngsters that will motivate them to grow into responsible, productive, patriotic citizens and community leaders.

The objectives of Toys for Tots are to help needy children throughout the United States experience the joy of Christmas; to play an active role in the development of one of our nation’s most valuable natural resources - our children; to unite all members of local communities in a common cause for three months each year during the annual toy collection and distribution campaign; and to contribute to better communities in the future.

Date	Type	Event
Tues, Dec 14	Half-Day Educational Event – GASB	Service Efforts & Accomplishments (SEA) Jay Fountain CGFM, GASB Wilson Campbell CGFM, GASB 1-5 pm - Held at KPMG in DC – Details Page 17
Thurs, Dec 16	Dinner Meeting	Auditing in Iraq – 1 CPE Don Bloomer CIA, DODIG Anita Bales CGFM CPA CISA, USAAA
Thurs, Jan 13 (2nd Thursday)	Dinner Meeting	Implementing the Improper Payment Information Act of 2002 - 1 CPE Wendy Morris, Assurance Director, PricewaterhouseCoopers
Thurs, Feb 17	Dinner Meeting	1 CPE – Sarbanes - Oxley Federal vs Private Sector Issues
Thurs, Mar 17	Educational	All-Day Spring Educational Event
Thurs, Apr 21	Dinner Meeting	1 CPE – Defense Comptrollership Issues
Thurs, May 19	Awards Dinner	Awards Banquet Embassy Suites

[www.novaga.org](http://www.novaga.org)

## Montgomery/Prince George’s County Chapter Events

### Montgomery/PG County Chapter Events

Doreen Shute, President of the Montgomery/PG County Chapter, would like to invite you to join them for a fun and exciting program year, which includes a variety of speakers for their dinners, community activities, workshops and hopefully a corporate sponsored networking happy hour.

Visit the Montgomery/Prince Georges chapter’s website at [www.marylandaga.com](http://www.marylandaga.com) Their dinner meetings are on Wednesdays in Rockville. Details in table at right.

### December Community Service Event: Holiday Party

The Montgomery/PG County chapter will sponsor a community service project in December. They have volunteered to host a holiday party for children in the Glenmont area.

**Time:** December 13th 6:00 p.m. (arrive to set up); event should end by 8:30 p.m.

**Items Needed:** Holiday music; arts & crafts projects; goody bags for 28 kids (various ages); and side dishes (salads, etc.) -- To assist with bringing something for the Holiday Party, please contact Willa Tolmachoff at 202.442.8277 or [Willadene.Tolmachoff@dc.gov](mailto:Willadene.Tolmachoff@dc.gov).

**Location:** Montgomery Hills Baptist Church (next to Glenmont Metro), 12525 Georgia Ave. Glenmont, Md.

Date	Type	Event
Wed, Jan 12	Dinner Meeting	First Annual Networking Event & January Dinner Meeting. Speaker will be AGA’s Executive Director, Relmond Van Daniker, DBA, CPA, on ‘What AGA Can Do for You.’
Wed, Feb 9	Dinner Meeting	Steve Berkowitz, Senior Manager, Bearing Point
Wed, Mar 9	Dinner Meeting	‘The Mission & Accomplishments of the President’s Information Advisory Council’ by Patricia Evans, Member of PITAC & CEO of Global Systems Consulting Corp.
Wed, Apr 20	Dinner Meeting	Larry Bedker, Director of Financial Management Services, PSC
Wed, May 18	Awards Dinner	AGA National President Bobby Derrick

[www.marylandaga.com](http://www.marylandaga.com)

## AGA Washington Chapter Membership Services Events 2004-2005

To provide our membership with a variety of social activities, Member Services is scheduling the following events for the coming membership year. We will again attempt to partner our activities with local AGA chapters and other professional organizations. Also, watch for our participation in additional partnership activities being planned by other regional AGA chapters and by our own Community Service and Early Careers.

2004	Event	Partnership
December 13	U.S. Naval Observatory Tour	NOVAGA/Montgomery/PG Chapters
2005	Event	Partnership
January 15	Chinese New Year Dinner	Dept of Labor CFO - Sam Mok NOVAGA/Montgomery/PG Chapters
February	Skiing at Liberty in PA	NOVAGA/Montgomery/PG Chapters Baltimore Chapter
March	Tour of National Cathedral	NOVAGA/Montgomery/PG Chapters
April	Mt. Vernon Tour	NOVAGA/Montgomery/PG Chapters
May	Wolf Trap Event	NOVAGA/Montgomery/PG Chapters
May/June	Attend Baltimore Orioles or Northern Virginia Cannons Baseball Game	Baltimore Chapter NOVAGA/Montgomery/PG Chapters
June	Play in Golf Tournament	ASMC/KPMG NOVAGA/Montgomery/PG Chapters

Additional event information will be provided as the activity draws near and more information becomes available. Some of the activities may be subject to change due to our partnership with the GWSCPA, ASMC, and the AGA NOVAGA, Montgomery/PG, and Baltimore chapters. Please check our newsletter, website, or agency liaison for the latest event update. Due to advance notification requirements and space limitations, most activities will have a response cut off date. If you are interested in an activity, please let us know as soon as possible. Send your responses or direct any questions to our chapter Member Services Director - Karl Boettcher - [karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov](mailto:karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov) - 202.874.6131.

## 2004-2005 Recruitment Campaign - Leadership for the Future

Special from AGA Topics  
Volume 43: Issue 23, November 22, 2004

AGA National President Bobby A. Derrick, CGFM, is challenging every member to recruit at least one new AGA member before the close of the membership year, April 30, 2005. And he is challenging AGA leaders to do even more—to recruit five new members each before the close of the membership year, 5 by 5. This leadership group includes the National Executive Committee, Regional Vice Presidents and Elects, Regional Coordinators, national board and committee members, chapter presidents and chapter membership chairs.

Are you up to the challenge?

NOVAGA Programs Co-Chair Bill Hughes is! Congratulations and THANK YOU for recruiting 5 new AGA members already this year! As such, Bill's name has already been entered into a drawing for the Grand Prize: A 4-day/3-night Napa Valley retreat! This package includes roundtrip airline tickets for two, accommodations at the Silverado Resort in Napa Valley, CA, VIP wine tasting at William Hill Winery, and more!

Go to <http://www.agacgfm.org/publications/topics/112204/memberrecruit.aspx> to read more about the fabulous prizes offered to top recruiters and to view a listing of this year's current top recruiters. Prizes include AGA Dollars, plaques, PDC registration, and chances to win dinner for two at an ultra exclusive restaurant in Orlando during the 2005 PDC, as well as the Napa Valley trip.

Chapters with highest overall growth percentages will also receive a plaque and a complimentary AGA meeting registration.



## EARLY CAREERS

AGA Washington Chapter, Early Careers "Brown Bag" Lunch Series  
 JFMIP Board Room, 1990 K Street (20th and K)  
 Washington, DC

**Cost:** Free, bring your own lunch.

**Time:** 11:30-1:00

**Dates:** February 15, 2005

The AGA Washington Chapter will host brown bag lunch sessions for Early Career Members to learn about career growth opportunities in government. Early Career Members are those chapter members with less than five years of experience in the government accounting/accountability field. Each session will feature a speaker that will present perspectives on careers in governmental accounting and accountability, as well as a time for questions and answers.

Please contact Donna Tebeau at [donna.tebeau@gsa.gov](mailto:donna.tebeau@gsa.gov) or 202.219.0526 to register for these sessions.

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## Treasury Department, Treasury Agency Services, Washington, DC Recruiting for two Accountants at the GS-11/12 Level

Opening date: Nov 29, 2004 Systems Accountant

Vacancy Ann.#: AS-05-004

Who May Apply: US Citizens and Status Candidates

Pay Plan: GS-0510-11/12

Appointment Term: Permanent

Job Status: Full Time

Closing Date: 12/29/2004

Salary: From 50,593.00 to 78,826.00 USD per year

Treasury, Financial Management Service US-DC-Washington

<http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?JobID=25488914&AVSDM=2004%2D11%2D30+13%3A43%3A54&Logo=0&col=dltc&cy=&brd=3876&lid=&fn=&q=AS%2D05%2D004>

Opening date: Nov 29, 2004 Accountant

Vacancy Ann.#: AS-05-006

Who May Apply: US Citizens and Status Candidates

Pay Plan: GS-0510-11/12

Appointment Term: Permanent

Job Status: Full Time

Closing Date: 12/29/2004

Salary: From 50,593.00 to 78,826.00 USD per year

Treasury, Financial Management Service US-DC-Washington

<http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?JobID=25489257&AVSDM=2004%2D11%2D29+17%3A42%3A27&Logo=0&col=dltc&cy=&brd=3876&lid=&fn=&q=AS%2D05%2D006>



## 2004-2005 Luncheon Speaker Series

The theme of this year's series is "Federal Financial Management in Transition," appropriate given the pending election and inevitable change in key leadership positions throughout the Federal government, regardless of the election's outcome. The series kicked off on September 9, when Andrew Maner, Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, discussed lessons learned and best practices used by the Department during its first full year of operation. Throughout the year, distinguished speakers from the public and private sectors, as well as Capitol Hill, will provide their insight on a variety of financial management issues.

The luncheons will be held between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at the Marvin Center at George Washington University, 21st St. and H Street (one block from the Foggy Bottom blue/orange line Metro).

Thursday, January 13, 2005	Thursday, March 17, 2005
Thursday, February 10, 2005	Thursday, May 12, 2005

Special events are planned for Thursday December 9, when we will have our informal holiday get-together, and April, when we will hold our awards dinner. In addition, the chapter will hold education events and conferences.

Watch the [Washington Connection](#) for more details! We hope that you all plan to join us.




# Innovation

**Technology only helps if you know how to put it to work.**

And we should know. We've been helping our clients harness the power of technology since 1985. In that time, we've seen trends come and go. But we've remained steadfast in our commitment to helping our clients harness the power of technology, and best practices, so they can run more efficiently and more profitably than ever.

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## Representative Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) Addresses DC Chapter Luncheon

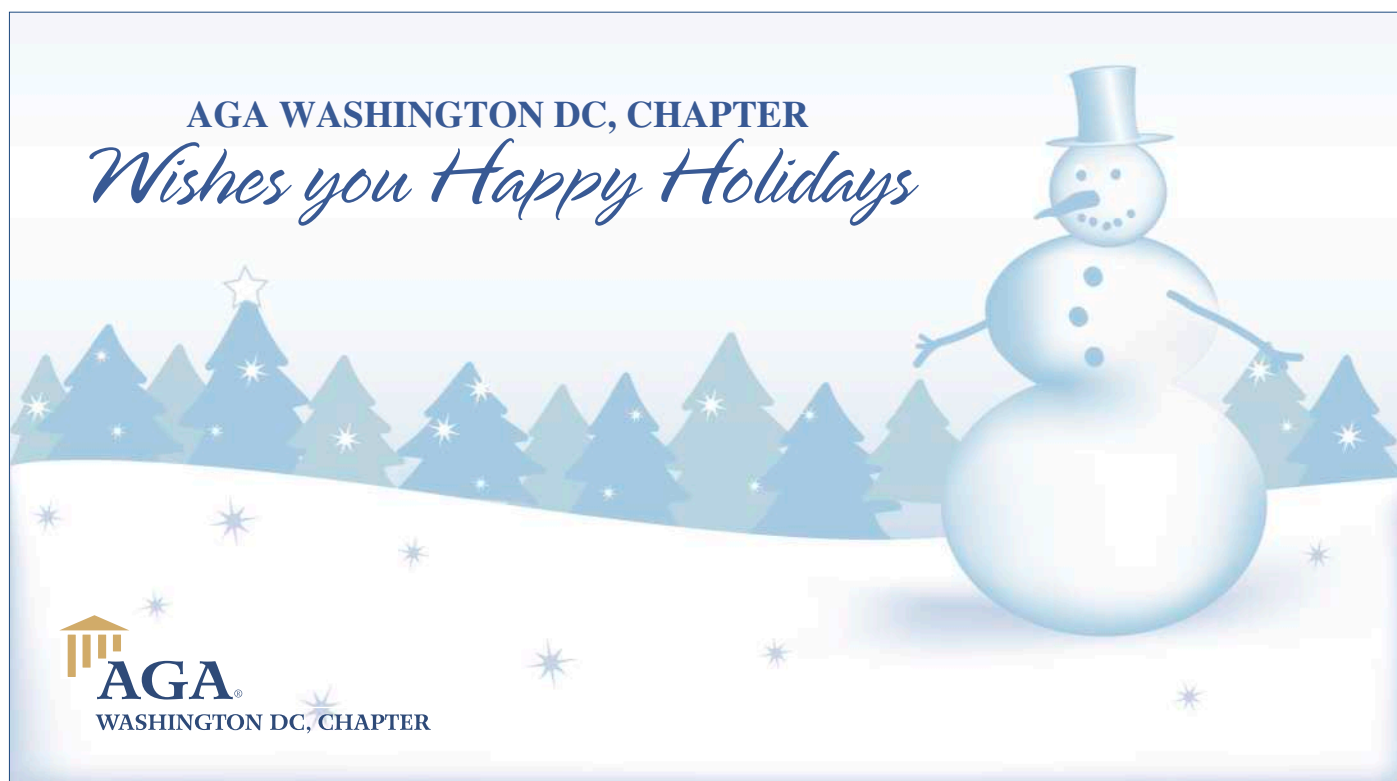
By Simcha Kuritzky

The DC Chapter welcomed Representative Marsha Blackburn to its November luncheon meeting. She serves on the Government Reform Committee and chairs the Efficiency Subcommittee (among other assignments).

Representative Blackburn noted that Congress is working to make government more accountable, productive, and oriented toward providing services. Section 9, Article 1 of the Constitution requires the publication of finances. The Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in 1982 established the baseline of accountability, which was enhanced by the Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Act, the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), the Government Management Reform Act, and the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act. This put a structure in place to allow analysis as well as accountability. The CFO Act has had the most impact, although it took 5 years of debate before it was passed. The Act started a number of management reforms, including regular audits. Each CFO reports directly to his or her agency head, and is a strategist and not just a steward. Accounting used to be a backroom process, just getting the bills paid, and its reporting was neither timely nor useful. Systems tracked appropriations, and did not support decisions. Today we are moving from data entry to analysis, developing cost information, preparing financial statements in every agency according to accounting standards, and integrating systems to eliminate redundancy and facilitate analysis. In the FY 1996 financial statements, only six agencies were timely and received clean audit opinions. Now nearly all get clean opinions. This is a starting point to cleaning up accounting systems. Top-notch year-round financial management, not heroic efforts, naturally yields clean audit opinions. Congress and the agencies need to analyze costs and benefits, and establish the congressional stake in management. Congress can reform agencies' policies, procedures, and processes based on accounting and performance information. Federal managers have learned that they can wait out the latest fad in budget reform (such as ZBB and PBB), but the latest are taking hold because they are based in law.

Ten years after GPRA, strategic reports are more in line with the original intention. The President's Management Agenda (PMA) supports citizen-centered government and not bureaucracy for its own sake, a customer service model, and market-based solutions. The financial section is the "quiet", but necessary, part of PMA. Originally only the National Science Foundation (NSF) had green for financial management, now six agencies do: the Departments of Education, Energy, and Labor, the Environmental Protection Agency, NSF, and the Social Security Administration. A major piece is evaluation of each program's results, leading to reform of Congressional budgeting process; OMB's Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) is a major tool for evaluating programs as it empowers leaders to make timely decisions for employment of resources. PART has shown how managers can achieve outcomes more efficiently, and the extent to which incentives support the original intention of legislation.

The proposed Program Assessment and Results Act, which would amend GPRA, requires OMB program reviews every 5 years. Financial systems need to support day-to-day decision support as well as integrate program and budget. The number of agencies with inadequate financial systems has remained fairly constant over the last decade, despite systems support from the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program.



## Community Service Plan 2004-2005 Washington DC Chapter

December	Toys-for-Tots
January	Baby shower and luncheon to benefit St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home. Website: <a href="http://www.saint-anns.com">http://www.saint-anns.com</a>
February	Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
March	Dress for Success Suit Drive
April	Christmas In April
May	Used Eyeglass Collection for Lions Club ***
June	Used Cell Phone collection for HopeLine sponsored by Verizon Wireless ***
	*** Ongoing Community Service Projects to conclude in May and June.

### Email Reminders?

Would you like to receive email reminders of our monthly meetings and conferences? If so, please go to <http://www.agadc.org> to sign up for our mailing list in the Member Services section of the website.

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## 2004-2005 Meeting Schedule of the DC Chapter's Directors and Officers

Meetings will be held at noon at JFMIP, 1990 K St., 4th floor, on the following Tuesdays:

Tuesday, December 7, 2004	Tuesday, March 8, 2005
Tuesday, January 11, 2005	Tuesday, April 5, 2005
Tuesday, February 8, 2005	Tuesday, May 10, 2005

All members are invited to participate. For November Meeting Minutes see this issue, page 15.

### Newsletter Comments or Suggestions?

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter? Do you have an article you'd like to see in print? The deadline for submitting articles to appear in the January 2005 issue is December 20, 2004. Please send your comments and contributions to the newsletter editor, Karen Shaffer, at [kshaffer@lmi.org](mailto:kshaffer@lmi.org).

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# AGA - Washington Chapter, Executive Board Minutes - November 2, 2004

Eighteen Board members participated.

## • Awards (Judy Ochs, Director)

- a. Awards Director Judy Ochs presented a slate of nominees for awards to be presented at the AGA National Leadership Conference.
- b. Nominations are being sought for the DC Chapter Awards and the AGA National Awards to be presented at the Professional Development Conference (PDC).

## • Education (Susan Johnson, Director)

- a. Susan Johnson presented details for the Spring Education Conference to be held at the George Washington University Cafritz Center on May 3 and 4, 2005. The registration fees will be the same as the 2004 conference.
- b. Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) training will be held for Early Career members in March for up to 40 prospective CGFMs. Application procedures and eligibility information will be provided soon.
- c. There will not be a December luncheon; however the Chapter is hosting a Holiday Social at the Old Ebbitt Grill on Thursday, December 9, 2004 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Samplers from the shrimp and raw bar will be provided.

## • Community Service – (Tonya Allen-Shaw, Director)

- a. Tonya Allen-Shaw announced future activities to include Toys for Tots in December, Baby Shower for Saint Ann's in January, Volunteers in Tax Assistance (VITA) in February, Dress For Success Clothing Drive in March, and continuing the eyeglasses and cell phone collection throughout the year.

The next Director's Meeting will be held at JFMIP on December 7, 2004.

If anyone has questions regarding the proceedings of the Board please contact the Chapter Secretary, Dan Christovich at [dchristovich@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:dchristovich@comdt.uscg.mil).



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# GAO Answers the Question: What's in a Name?

By David M. Walker  
Comptroller General of the United State

After 83 years, the General Accounting Office has changed its name to the Government Accountability Office. Some might wonder why GAO felt a need to tinker with an institutional identity so strongly associated with government economy, efficiency, and effectiveness. But our old name, as familiar and reassuring as it was, had not kept pace with GAO's evolving role in government. The truth is that "accounting" has never been our chief mission.

Stereotypes, however, can be hard to shake. Some college students we were trying to recruit mistakenly assumed that you needed an accounting degree to work at GAO. New members of Congress, cabinet-level officials, and prominent journalists have, because of our name, thought that GAO's main job was to keep the government's books. In fact, a recent crossword puzzle in *The Washington Post* asked for a three-letter term describing a GAO employee; the answer was "CPA."

In fairness, GAO did primarily scrutinize government vouchers and receipts in its early years. The days of accountants in green eyeshades, however, are long gone. Although GAO does serve as the lead auditor of the U.S. government's consolidated financial statements, financial audits are only about 15 percent of GAO's current workload. Most of the agency's work involves program evaluations, policy analyses, and legal opinions and decisions on a broad range of government programs and activities both at home and abroad. The scope of GAO's work today includes virtually everything the federal government is doing or thinking about doing anywhere in the world. For example, GAO staff have been in Iraq recently, looking at everything from military logistics to contracting costs to the U.N.'s oil-for-food program. GAO has become a modern, multidisciplinary professional services organization whose 3,200 employees include economists, social scientists, engineers, attorneys, actuaries, and computer experts as well as specialists in areas from health care to homeland security.

Today, most GAO blue-cover reports go beyond the question of whether federal funds are being spent appropriately to ask whether federal programs and policies are meeting their objectives and the needs of society. GAO looks at the results that departments and agencies are getting with the taxpayer dollars they receive. As a strong advocate for truth and transparency in government operations, GAO is committed to ensuring that recent accountability failures, such as Enron and Worldcom, are not repeated in the public sector. To that end, public reporting of our work is vital; virtually every GAO report and congressional testimony is posted on the Internet on the day that it is issued.

The modern GAO believes it is important to provide the public with an accurate, fair, and balanced picture of government today. Beyond simply pointing out what is wrong with government, GAO also reports on federal programs and policies that are working well and acknowledges progress and improvements. GAO regularly consults with lawmakers and agency heads on ways to make government work better, from adopting best practices to consolidating or eliminating redundant federal programs.

In a city full of interest groups with competing agendas, GAO's strength is its ability to provide Congress with professional, objective, fact-based, nonpartisan, and nonideological information when it is needed. At GAO, our independence and integrity is crucial. To begin with, our location in the legislative branch gives us some distance from the executive branch agencies we audit and oversee. Moreover, the head of GAO serves a 15-year term, which gives the agency a continuity of leadership that is rare in the federal government. As a result, GAO and its chief, the Comptroller General, can afford to take a long-term view and address a range of complex and sometimes controversial issues. GAO's independence is further safeguarded by the fact that its workforce consists of career civil servants hired on the basis of their knowledge, skill, and ability.

Although much of our work reviews the effectiveness of day-to-day government operations, GAO also alerts policymakers and the public to emerging problems with serious national implications—before they reach crisis proportions. GAO is now keeping a close eye on several long-term challenges whose impact has yet to be fully felt, including the government's worsening financial situation and the mounting challenges from Social Security, health care, and the war on terrorism. GAO takes seriously its responsibility to speak out on these issues.

Today's GAO is committed to leading by example, so holding itself accountable for results is essential. Since 2000, GAO has issued an annual report that explains what the agency has accomplished with its resources and what it expects to achieve in the coming year. For example, our work last year generated \$35.4 billion in measurable financial benefits—a \$78 return on every dollar invested in GAO.

We also reported significant non-financial accomplishments, such as strengthening security at federal buildings and improving the quality of care at the nation's nursing homes. Last year, we made more than 2,000 specific recommendations to improve government operations. In recent years, about four out of five GAO recommendations have been implemented within four years. In our view, this type of straightforward agency performance measurement and cost/benefit reporting needs to become standard throughout government.

A name change is a small step, but it does speak to a larger issue: the need to transform what the federal government does and how it does business to ensure its relevance for the 21st century. At today's GAO, measuring the government's performance and holding it accountable for results is central to who we are and what we do. We continue to believe that the public deserves the facts on all aspects of government operations—from spending to policy making. After all, representative government depends on an informed electorate.

I am not suggesting that agencies need to change their names—but most of them do need to come to grips with the fact that some of their most basic policies, processes, and procedures are years out of date. We at GAO have a proud history, but we are not defined solely by our past. We will still be known as GAO, but our new name will make clear that our first priority is to improve the performance of the federal government and ensure its accountability to Congress and the American people.

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# Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA) and Performance Reporting Efforts

December 14, 2004 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.  
KPMG LLP 2001 M Street, Washington, DC

## Featured Speakers:

**Jay Fountain, CGFM**  
Former Assistant Director of Research  
Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB)

**Wilson Campbell, CGFM**  
Project Director, SEA Program  
Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB)

This course describes AGA's Program to encourage regular issuance of high-quality service efforts and accomplishments (SEA) reports and help state and local governments effectively communicate performance to the public

Topics include:

- Conceptual basis for use and reporting of performance measures "Managing for results" – what is it?
- Characteristics of successful performance measures.
- Reporting performance information: suggested criteria for effective communication
- What is the GASB doing and where it is going with performance measures?

The Program includes an overview of AGA's new SEA Program designed to help state and local governments produce and improve performance reports, and includes:

- Draft Review Guidelines
- Charter participating governments
- Opportunities to serve as a program reviewer

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Copies of GASB's Special Report on Suggested Criteria for Reporting Performance Information and the special report summary will be made available at no charge.

**Reservations: There is no charge for this event; however, space is limited. Please reply by December 10, 2004 to KPMG, 2001 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20036 Attention: Latisha Marshall (202) 533-5666 or [ljones@kpmg.com](mailto:ljones@kpmg.com)**

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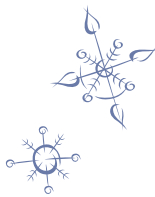
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Directions: KPMG's office is conveniently located on 20th Street, NW between M and N: two blocks from the DuPont Circle Metro stop on the Red Line, and four blocks from the Farragut West Metro stop on the Orange Line. Please register at the Guard's Desk and proceed to the 6th floor conference room.

*The GASB visits are underwritten by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. If you would like more information about The National Center for Civic Innovation's Sloan Foundation funded grants designed to encourage state and local governments to apply the GASB's suggested performance reporting, visit [gpr@nationalcenterforcivicinnovation.org](mailto:gpr@nationalcenterforcivicinnovation.org)*



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# Improving Government Performance: Financial Managers Take Center Stage

February 7 - 8, 2005, in Washington, DC

Sound financial management is more important than ever. Governments are grappling with a growing list of homeland security issues - how to keep our cities and our nation safe, and how to pay for it. In this environment, financial managers will take center stage, confronting these challenges and the difficulties of balancing the many competing demands on taxpayers' money. At the same time, governments are focusing more intently on performance to ensure that every dollar is spent wisely, and can be accounted for later. These developments are bringing financial managers into the spotlight.

The National Leadership Conference will bring together the top leaders in federal, state and local government financial management, all of whom are struggling to make ends meet while providing an unprecedented level of services to the citizens they serve. This conference is a must for top government leaders-chief financial officers, inspectors general, state auditors, state comptrollers, state treasurers, city auditors, city finance directors and those who work with these top leaders to keep our governments fiscally sound.

*Don't miss this chance to network with your peers and share solutions to common challenges. We look forward to seeing you.*

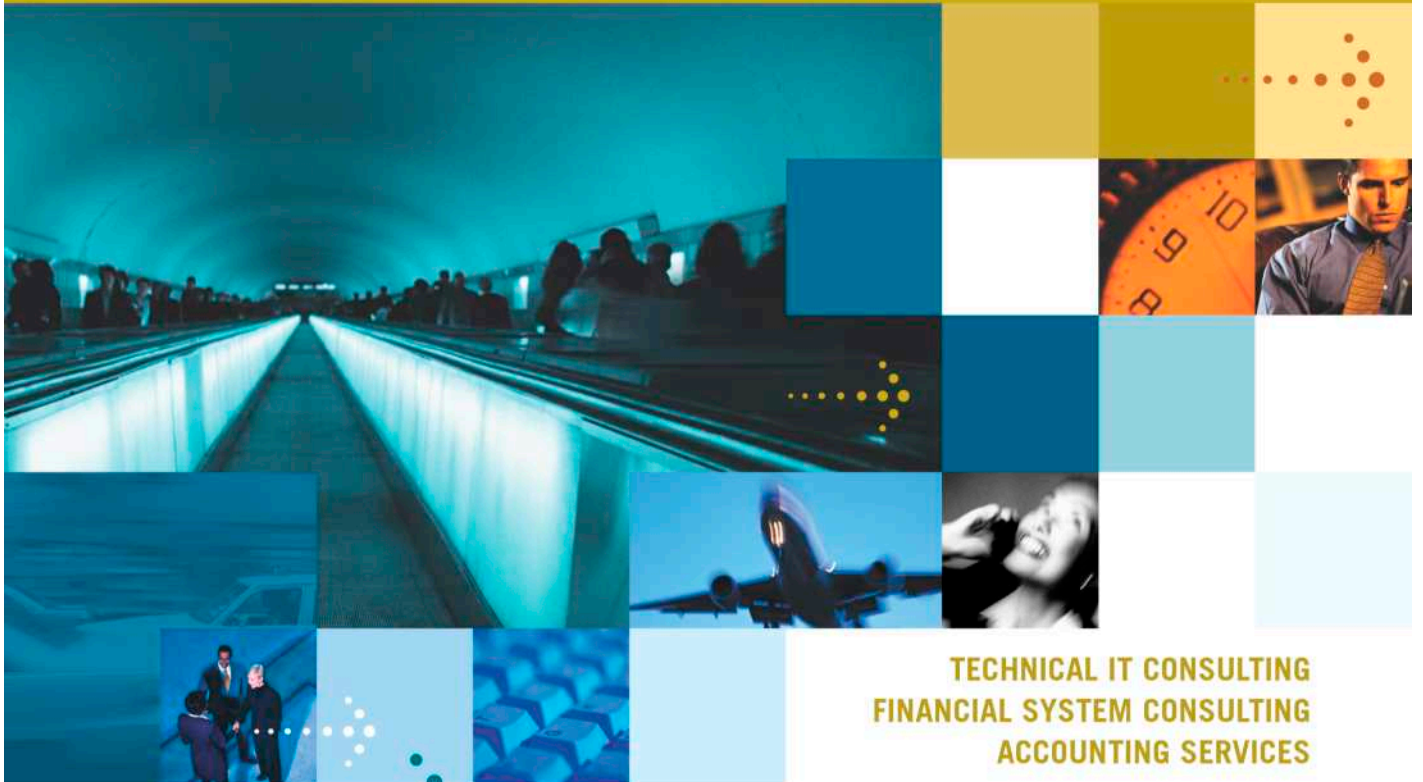
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Your conference registration includes entrance to all education sessions and the Exhibit Hall, 2 continental breakfasts, 4 refreshment breaks, 2 luncheons, a registration tote bag and the ability to earn up to 14 CPE hours.

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