

ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS

THE WASHINGTON CONNECTION

Washington Chapter • P.O. Box 423 • Washington, D.C. 20044-0423 • (703) 758-4080 • December 1994

WASHINGTON CHAPTER LUNCHEON MEETING - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1994
The Program, Education, and Member Services Committees have worked together to bring us this special program. Please join us.

LUNCHEON DETAILS

Touchdown Club
2000 L Street, N.W.
(Near Farragut West Metro Stop)

Social: Since this will be our last function prior to the New Year, we will be offering wine, soft drinks, cheese and crackers. Please join us at 11:30 to start off the Holiday season festivities!

Luncheon: 12:00 Noon

Cost:

Special Associates	\$ 8.00
Associate Members	\$10.00
Retired Members	\$12.00
Full Members	\$16.00
Nonchapter Members	\$18.00

New Members - your first luncheon meeting is free!

- Reservations are urged
- Call (703) 758-4080 by November 29, 1994
- Request sign language interpreter by November 28, 1994
- Non-Members are welcome

LUNCHEON SPEAKERS

Mr. B. Preston Rich National Science Foundation	Ms. Linda Hoogeveen Office of Management and Budget
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Preston Rich and Linda Hoogeveen have coordinated the FinanceNet development activities through co-chairing the FinanceNet Core Team, a group of interested representatives from financial management organizations. They have been the guiding spirits that have brought FinanceNet to us. They will give a presentation on why FinanceNet is important and why we should learn it. They will discuss how participation in FinanceNet is a career-enhancing activity for everyone in the Federal financial community. See page 3 for photographs and biographic information of Ms. Hoogeveen and Mr. Rich.

HOW TO ACCESS THE INTERNET

Our luncheon session will continue, from about 1:00 to 2:00, in small breakout groups. Americans Communicating Electronically and the Government Systems Operators will provide speakers to talk to small groups on the different levels of connectivity, from most simple to most sophisticated: e-mail, file transfer, gopher, mosaic, World Wide Web, and SLIP and PPP. An internet list of the hardware, addresses for free software, resource books and lists of service providers will be available. In order that we may have the right number of speakers, please leave a message on the AGA voice mail line, (703) 758-4080, option #4, or send an internet message to long@esusda.gov by November 28 to let us know if you will be staying for the breakout sessions.

JANUARY LUNCHEON MEETING

The January meeting is scheduled for January 12--a week later than usual, in recognition that many of our members are likely to be on leave during the first week of January. Our speaker, Mr. Edward DeSeve, a Washington Chapter member, was nominated by the President as Controller of the Office of Management and Budget on October 12, 1994. Mr. DeSeve will be discussing early impressions and challenges in his new position. Location and Time: Touchdown Club, 11:30 a.m.

The President's Message



Pat Wensel, President

Our program year is moving at a very rapid pace. We just completed our second educational event of the year, "Workshop on Government Auditing." In addition to the latest on the most important issues in federal government auditing, we learned the latest on the impact of the recently enacted Government Management Reform Act of 1994 on annual financial reports. I thank Dan Murrin and his education committee and Doris Chew, chapter member and chair of the DCICPA Governmental Accounting and Auditing Committee, cosponsor, for the great job done putting the workshop together.

Russ Morris and his Program committee had another great speaker, Stephen Barr, for our November general meeting. Mr. Barr gave us a media perspective on the issues facing federal financial management professionals. We received positive feedback about our new pricing structure for luncheons; three new members took advantage of our free lunch offer. I ask each of you to get out there and recruit your friends and coworkers and bring them for a *free lunch*. This month's program has something for

everyone with FinanceNet, your gateway to what's happening in financial management in the federal sector, state and local, and internationally.

I'd like to draw your attention to one of the early careers initiatives that we are undertaking this year - a mentoring program. In doing this I'd like to share with you what mentoring means to me and give you my perspective of what I believe mentoring can do for you as a mentor and/or as a recipient of mentoring. According to Webster's, a mentor is a "trusted counselor or guide; a tutor, coach." For this discussion, I've developed a list of questions about mentoring and my responses to those questions.

What does a mentor do? A mentor is a source of information, an advisor, a teacher, a confidant, a friend, one who offers encouragement and understanding. A mentor serves as a resource for someone who is less experienced in a particular field or function. Mentors help their students by offering advice on a wide variety of topics from where to locate information to how to improve one's SF-171 or resume. Mentors serve as sounding boards for ideas and sources of constructive criticism. A mentor takes time to explain the issues in easy to understand terminology, and puts things in perspective. Mentors are usually from outside of the student's chain of command so that information can flow freely and unimpeded by organizational culture and rules.

How do I mentor someone? Volunteer to be a Washington Chapter mentor to a fellow chapter member. Mentoring can take many forms. It can be done in person (I recommend AGA chapter meetings as a good place to meet), by telephone, or by e-mail, to name a few. By whatever means, introduce yourself to your student. Get to know the person. Help determine his or her strengths and weaknesses; help capitalize on the strengths and coach how to overcome the weaknesses. Give the advantage of your vast experiences in the field. Be patient, accessible, honest, and helpful.

Where do I find a mentor? Submit a request to our Early Careers committee co-chaired by Missy Johnston and Anthony Marasco. They will try to match your needs with the experience of a mentor in the desired field. But you have responsibilities too. You must be considerate of your mentor's time and not make frivolous requests. You too must be honest in your assessment of your strengths and weaknesses and have realistic expectations of what you want from a mentor. Develop a clear understanding of your expectations as you build a relationship with your mentor. If your expectations and those of your mentor differ, either change your expectations or find another mentor who will be compatible.

Who needs a mentor? Just about everyone needs a mentor at one time or another, whether you are a GS-5 entry

level person or a GM-15 entering a new position or taking on new responsibilities. Needs and expectations differ depending on where you are at the time.

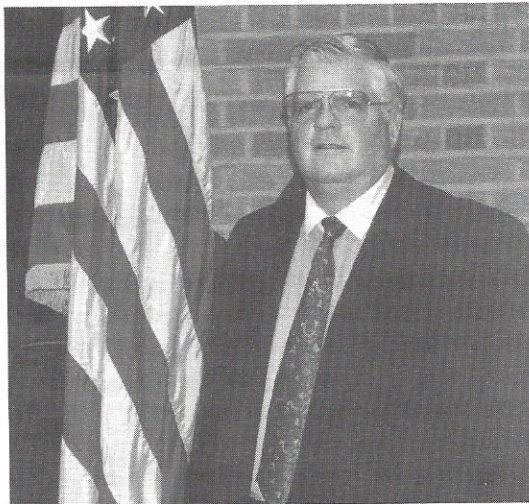
How much time does it take? It all depends on expectations. Determine what you can offer and how you will accomplish it. You may have only the two hours you would spend each month at our monthly meetings. Or you may be available for telephone consultation. Set the ground rules early in your relationship.

What are the benefits? As a mentor, you are able to help someone enhance their career and find their way through the maze of the federal bureaucracy. You get to know the talents and capabilities of that person and may be able to use that individual in your own organization or recommend the person for positions in their current or other organizations. You have helped them acquire the skills and knowledge that they need. As a student, you get an opportunity to benefit from the experience of your counselor. They can open doors for you that you didn't even know existed.

I hope each and every one of you will consider asking to be matched with a mentor or volunteer to serve as one. Please see any officer, board member, or Early Careers committee member if you have any questions.

Happy Holidays to One and All! It's the time of year when I take time to count my blessings and thank all who have helped make this such a wonderful year. This includes my husband, Don, for his patience and understanding; my supervisor, Eldon Stoehr, for his support and encouragement; chapter officers and board members for all the work each has done to make this year the success it has been and will continue to be; and finally, all chapter members who have actively supported the events we've sponsored. Your support is crucial to the success of our many initiatives.

Pat Wensel



B. Preston Rich

Preston Rich is Branch Chief for Accounting Operations at the National Science Foundation. In addition to serving as FinanceNet Core Team Co-Chair, Preston serves on the FASAB Capital Expenditures Task Force and the CFO Council Operations Group. Before coming to the NSF and after a short stint at Treasury, he was CEO of CMI Corporation, an international financial services company. Preston attended Duke and Loyola Universities, holding both BA and MBA degrees, and has authored numerous financial management publications. He is active in civic and community affairs in Baltimore and Washington, DC.



Linda L. Hoogeveen

Linda Hoogeveen is a policy analyst in the Office of Federal Financial Management at OMB. She chairs the Federal Interagency Real Property Appraisal Committee and serves on the FASAB Revenue Recognition Task Force, in addition to Co-Chairing the FinanceNet Core Team. Previously, in the private sector she worked at a Big Six firm and more recently was Vice President of Commercial and Real Estate Credit Administration of a leading Florida Bank. Linda is a CPA and has MBA and BBA degrees from the University of North Florida, where she also served on the Alumni Board of Directors.

SUMMARY OF OCTOBER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING by Cis Kuennen, Secretary

VITA information will be available soon from the IRS. The Chapter has collected donations for Project Harvest; volunteers may assist with food collection and basket preparation at the Anthony Bowen YMCA from November 21st through 23rd, and on November 23rd from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. with monetary and food collection at the Old Post Office Pavilion.

The October luncheon meeting at which Treasury Assistant Secretary for Management George Muñoz was the guest speaker recorded an outstanding attendance of 106. A handy reference list for this year's monthly luncheon programs was included in the October Newsletter. President Wensel will be meeting with other local Chapters to discuss program schedules.

In recognition of membership increases, National has awarded the Chapter three free registrations for the 1995 Professional Development Conference. Eva Williams, Membership Chair, will prepare options to further increase membership.

The newsletter is accepting advertisements; Peter Ben Ezra, Publications Chair, will call potential advertisers.

. REENGINEERING THE FEDERAL MANAGER'S FINANCIAL INTEGRITY ACT

The Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA), the foundation for many of the management control programs in the Federal government, is undergoing an exercise in reengineering. What is the inspiration for changing FMFIA and what might a revamped FMFIA look like? What new challenges to Federal managers and auditors will these changes pose? Though the answers to these questions may be some time in coming, early indications point to the general direction the Federal management community is headed in this area.

Background

The principle goals of the FMFIA are to (i) prevent fraud, waste, and abuse, (ii) improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Federal programs and operations, and (iii) improve government accountability through the development and review of management controls. To guide managers on how best to achieve these goals, the Office of Management and Budget issued two circulars on the subjects of internal controls and financial systems. Federal agencies responded to these circulars by implementing FMFIA programs with detailed procedures. These procedures included such activities as segmentation, risk assessment, management control review, corrective action planning, and reporting. The results of the FMFIA programs, over time, became both the basis for demonstrating compliance with FMFIA and the focus of attention by auditors involved in assessing compliance.

The National Performance Review

The report on the Vice President's National Performance Review (NPR) addressed the subject of management controls directly. Programs set forth under FMFIA were

seen as paper intensive with only limited value. The report included several recommendations to streamline management controls in order to achieve greater efficiency in agency operations. It also advocated replacing the traditional management approach within the Federal government of adherence to policies and procedures. In its place, management practices should be driven by agency mission and accomplishments. To reorient our approach from rules to results, the report concluded, will require greater accountability from managers than has ever been expected.

The New FMFIA

The two themes of efficiency and accountability bear importantly on FMFIA implementation. A growing consensus within the Federal management community is emerging on how to redirect FMFIA. Three points appear to be in common.

First, the traditional view that the goals of FMFIA are achieved through the implementation of a free standing FMFIA program is obsolete. Satisfying the goals of FMFIA should now be viewed as a function of the agencies' routine operational procedures. That is, the manner by which the agency operates should embody the principles of FMFIA. Managers are encouraged to develop appropriate strategies to achieve the goals of FMFIA and in so doing be relieved of the formal FMFIA program requirements traditionally called for in the OMB Circulars.

Second, Federal managers are encouraged to rely on other ongoing management control activities to avoid duplication of efforts. The Chief Financial Officers Act

WHAT'S NEW IN FINANCENET

A number of topics and features were added to FinanceNet during September and October 1994. FinanceNet says "Come visit our newly reorganized and simplified gopher library architecture and the new additions."

- In /Welcome to FinanceNet - endorsement letters from Vice President Gore and OMB Deputy Director for Management John Koskinen
- In /Happenings in Public Financial Management/Federal :
 - FASAB August 1994 meeting minutes
 - FASAB October 1994 newsletter
 - JFMIP Fall 1994 Supplement of Courses
 - FinanceNet Library Task Force October 1994 minutes
 - DC AGA October and November "Washington Connection" newsletters
 - New employment opportunities at Marvel.Loc
- In /Documents, Publications and Standards/Federal :
 - FASAB's Entity and Display exposure draft.
 - Complete GSA Federal Acquisition Regulations (searchable)
 - GSA On-Line Schedules System. In /Central Agencies and Task Forces - GSA's "Contracts for Financial Systems, 9/94"
 - Complete access to GPO electronic documents via Seattle COIN (searchable)
 - Government Management Reform Act of 1994 (S. 2107)
 - Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 (S. 1587)
 - NIST FIPS Pub 161-1 on EFT for States and Localities
 - New directory for Cross-Posting by Topic
- In /Closely Related Networks - a seminal directory for SectorNet and a newly enhanced library for BudgetNet
 - The Electronic Commerce Acquisition Team will be using FinanceNet servers to post new documents, and news and announcements of interest to that related community
 - FinanceNet has also added a new listserver for "Procurement"
- Under /Government Asset Sales :
 - SBA's Acquired Assets for Resale
 - SBA's MUFFIN Asset Sales Site
- Other newly discovered research sites have been added as recommended by "net surfers" reporting from around the globe
- The New York City Comptroller's office (NYCComptNet) is now posting regularly on FinanceNet
- TravelNet is now posting on FinanceNet
- The first FinanceNet Usenet newsgroup "financenet" is now available for your dialog. Point your newsreaders to news.financenet.gov
- New comments added under /Evaluation and Comments

PLEASE SEE REVERSE--CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGER PROGRAM



**WHAT ARE YOU
WAITING FOR?**



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**CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT
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The Association of Government Accountants is currently accepting applications for the new **CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGER** program. The CGFM program is a critical need for government financial managers with professional qualifications and credentials. AGA urges government financial managers to have your proficiency certification under this program.



ment Accountants is currently accepting applications for the new **CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGER** (CGFM) program. The CGFM program is specially designed to meet the increased emphasis on the professional stature of government financial managers. You can further enhance your financial manager by choosing a program recognized through professional certification.

Applicants must meet basic program requirements, including:

- ☐ A bachelor's degree and at least 24 credit hours of financial management study.
- ☐ At least six years of experience in government financial management.
- ☐ Adhering to AGA's strict Code of Ethics.
- ☐ At least 80 hours biennially of CPE in government financial management topics.

**For more information, call the National Office:
(703) 684-6931 • (800) AGA-7211**

(CFO), in particular, is viewed as a corollary to FMFIA. The financial management improvements implemented under the CFO, along with the related audits, constitute important FMFIA contributions. Other ongoing contributions such as management studies and OIG audits and evaluations likewise should be utilized for their inherent FMFIA value.

Third, the information gathered and reported under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) is expected to serve as a critical indicator of programmatic effectiveness. Under GPRA, agencies are required to develop specific programmatic goals, objectives, and related measurements and to regularly report their success in achieving them. The performance measurements reported under GPRA are expected to convey the adequacy of the underlying systems of control in place to support program operations. As such, GPRA reporting will become an important means to demonstrate both control adequacy and management accountability.

Challenges

Abandoning the traditional approach to FMFIA implementation through the operation of a separate program very well may introduce new challenges to managers and auditors. Managers must now derive a comprehensive implementation approach from the organization's array of operational procedures and management initiatives. Formalizing such a plan, and supporting it with adequate documents, will be a formidable effort. Equally challenging to Federal auditors will be the task of reviewing the plan and its implementation and advising the agency head at year end on whether to report that the organization is in full compliance. Despite these concerns, the Federal management and audit communities support the changes underway in this area. If they succeed in infusing greater efficiency and accountability into FMFIA, the long term goal of NPR to create a government that works better and costs less could be meaningfully advanced.

Daniel Devlin, CPA

Reprinted from the October 1994 issue of "The Baltimore Ledger," Baltimore Chapter, AGA

A CALL TO SERVICE by Larry Wilson

We need you to serve again! That is the heart and soul of the letter I sent to all Past Washington Chapter Presidents several days ago. I sent them the letter in my capacity as Chair of the recently established Past Presidents Council. The letter invites the Past Presidents to meet with me to explore together how best we can assist the Chapter and its members to achieve their common and individual goals.

We in the financial management community are in a period of golden opportunities and daunting challenges. The President, the Congress, the Public, and the organizations that employ many of us demand better financial management throughout the Federal Government. The members of our Chapter and our Association have a vital role to play in satisfying those demands. That role is totally consistent with our Chapter goals of professional development, mutual support, and striving for excellence.

The opportunities flow in large measure from three sources: recent legislation including the Chief Financial Officers (CFO), Government Performance and Results, and Government Management Reform Acts; the many initiatives that flow from the National Performance Review, and; a reenergized CFO Council.

Our challenges lie in delivering needed improvements in all aspects of financial management during a period of shrinking budgets, government streamlining with heavy emphasis on targeting groups from which many of our members are drawn, and accelerating technological change.

A learned man once said that wisdom is pursuing the best ends by the best means. I agree with President Wensel that, at a time of opportunities and challenges, we can benefit greatly from the wisdom of our Past Presidents in being the best that we can be. I am confident that they will be generous with their time and energy.

Larry Wilson is the Washington Chapter's immediate Past President. He was recently appointed Chief Operating Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

SUMMARY OF LUNCHEON SPEAKER'S REMARKS by *Cis Kuennen, Secretary*

Mr. Stephen Barr, staff writer and editor for The Washington Post, was the guest speaker at the Washington Chapter's November luncheon meeting. Mr. Barr, who writes about federal government operations and management, shared his journalist's eye view of a "town dominated by the federal budget and numbers."

Mr. Barr related that the last two years has been an exciting time in federal government financial circles with application of private sector business modeling and the National Performance Review initiative. Ironically, it appears that recent reform measures are calling for significant resource cuts and streamlining in control structures while adding additional responsibilities and accountability. By promoting flexibility, innovation, and the use of electronic technology, the government hopes to become more responsive and effective while simultaneously going through a period of significant personnel downsizing. Mr. Barr said that in spite of the immense political and public pressures to downsize, with the mandate of the CFO Act, the Government Management Reform Act of 1994, and Congress' regard for the role of the IG, it is hard to predict what will happen, though he does anticipate we will end up with a smaller federal government.

Mr. Barr limited his prepared remarks to give luncheon guests an opportunity to ask questions. Responding to government "buyouts" questions, he commented that Congress and OMB will probably control the process closer due to the experience at the Postal Service where too many people in vital categories were allowed to go, ultimately resulting in additional hiring. In FY 95 OMB will try to ensure buyouts are offered to GS-13's and above to meet established employee/management ratios, but Congress has warned that there cannot be any "backfill" hiring. Because of this there may be a hardship in employee expectations as the buyouts may not be offered wide enough. With the huge DoD drawdown and decrease in defense spending, he expects that DoD will contribute the largest portion to the downsizing effort and that most other federal agencies will be able to meet their personnel targets through such measures as hiring freezes.

When questioned about his view of the NPR and its image outside of Washington, Mr. Barr commented that he feels the Administration has not been effective in promoting the NPR outside of Washington, that "it doesn't play outside the Beltway". The proposed reduction of 252,000 federal employees has been offered as the answer to government streamlining, but it appears there is no sound methodology behind this number. While reducing government makes

for a good sound byte, how serious the government is about making government work better can be called into question. It appears the Administration has focused on Health Care to the detriment of other efforts. Mr. Barr sees no clear legislative strategy for reinventing government or a successful "energizing of the troops" between the Administration and Congress. It may be up to the agencies to promote reinvention efforts and you can see good elements evolving, such as an increased emphasis on customer service and the use of business modeling. It is important to remember that there is still resentment from some members of Congress about the CFO Act and new financial programs and that the successful implementation of these can be shut down by the politics of appropriations.

Finally, in response to a question about how to get more positive government news coverage, Mr. Barr said that unfortunately the Press tends to focus on "conflict, drama, and tension". There is also a reluctance in the government to draw attention to programs, even though he believes there are a lot of wonderful success stories that could be told. He said many times the Press doesn't know who to believe and may not get the full context correct. He suggested that agencies carefully map out their news releases with their Public Affairs Offices and try to ensure that reporters receive an understanding of the long and serious history behind much of the subject matter. Mr. Barr said that according to a recent survey, 71% of society feels that the Press gets in the way of solving problems. Therefore, reporters may need to restructure what they report and why. However, as reporters still too frequently don't know what the public wants, there is a tendency to concentrate on "waste, fraud, abuse, and politics".



L to R: Pat Wensel, Stephen Barr, Russ Morris

NEW MEMBERS *By Eva Williams, Membership Chair*

On behalf of the entire Chapter, I welcome the following people to our membership rolls:

Oswaldo Espada	Federal Aviation Administration	Melissa A. R. Krause	Deloitte and Touche
Stephen J. Diotte	Environmental Protection Agency	C. Morgan Kinghorn	Internal Revenue Service
Joanne Dant	Farm Credit Administration	Ashish Saluja	MCI Communications Corporation
Queen E. Cox	International Trade Commission	Robin Schulman	Department of State
Meritt Burnett	General Services Administration	Lawrence Williams	Federal Emergency Mgmt. Agency
Glenn C. Bingham	Federal Software, Incorporated	Douglas O'Brien	IMRS
Camilla Acord	General Services Administration	Johanna Noble	Financial Management Service
George Strader	Dept. of Health & Human Services	Regina M. Meade	Department of State
Robert A. Smith	Department of Education	Megan A. Mayor-Yost	ICF Information Technology
Kathleen M. Rodgers	Environmental Protection Agency	Matthew Gogarty	Drug Enforcement Administration
Karen Robinson-Jeter	Internal Revenue Service	Larry Farmer	Coopers and Lybrand
Don C. Rim	Coopers and Lybrand	Deborah Davenport	Financial Management Service
Raisa Otero-Cesario	Department of Transportation	Patrice Dionne Clement	KPMG Peat Marwick
Nancy J. Nevin	Farm Credit Administration	Shyrl Coker	Department of State
Robin Myaing	Student, University of Maryland	Donald Devane	Department of Treasury
John M. McWilliam	Coopers and Lybrand		

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Center for Applied Financial Management

The Treasury FMS Center offers financial management training courses on a range of topics. December courses are:

December 1 - 2 **Dollars and Sense: Making Sense of Treasury's Central Accounting Requirements** introduces the Federal Budget process and the Department of Treasury's financial reporting requirements. (16 CPEs, \$295).

December 8 - 9 **Implications of Federal Appropriations Law** interprets frequently cited appropriations laws and the Comptroller General decisions that control them. (16 CPEs, \$305).

December 13 - 14 **The SF 1219/SF 1220 Course** examines and explains the SF 1219, Statement of Accountability, and the SF 1220, Statement of Transactions, used to report monthly transactions by agencies with disbursing authority. (16 CPEs, \$295).

December 15 **Fundamentals of Cash Management** presents a variety of mechanisms available to Federal program managers for deposit and disbursement transactions. (8 CPEs, \$145).

To receive a copy of the Fall-Winter Catalog, or to register for training, please contact the Registrar at (202)874-9560.

Internal Auditing in Government Conference

This Conference, **Emerging Issues: Are We Meeting the Challenge?**, is sponsored by the Institute of Internal Auditors and the IIA's Washington, D.C. Chapter. A variety of issues will be addressed, including:

- Who Needs Auditors?,
- What Auditors Need to Know About Environmental Laws,
- On the Cutting Edge of Contract Auditing,
- Auditing and Medical Fraud, and
- Future for Auditors -- Are We Part of the Solution?

The Conference will be held March 7 - 8, 1995 at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, Virginia across the street from the Crystal City Metro stop, 5 minutes from downtown. The cost is \$350 for IIA members; \$400 for non-members, if received before February 3.

For a brochure, contact Judith Johnson at (202) 434-2357, or Carroll Little at (202) 358-2549. You can also fax your request to Judith Johnson at (202) 434-2377.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Tichenour & Associates, CPAs, is looking for audit managers, seniors, and staff auditors. Managers and seniors must have heavy government contract experience. Travel required! Call Jon Crowder on Metro Line (703) 352-1417 for further information or write the firm at 12531 Clipper Drive, Suite 202, Woodbridge, VA 22192.

**AGA WASHINGTON CHAPTER
CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
FOR 1994/1995**

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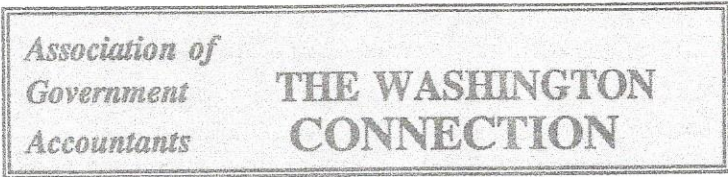
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The Chapter Executive Council meets monthly, normally at 11:30 a.m. on the last Wednesday, at the National Press Building. For information about a particular meeting, please call the AGA voice mail line at (703) 758-4080 and press option 3.



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