

ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS

THE WASHINGTON CONNECTION

Washington Chapter • P.O. Box 423 • Washington, D.C. 20044-0423 • (703) 758-4080 • January 1995

WASHINGTON CHAPTER LUNCHEON MEETING

THURSDAY
JANUARY 12, 1995

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

Social: 11:30

Luncheon: 12:00 Noon

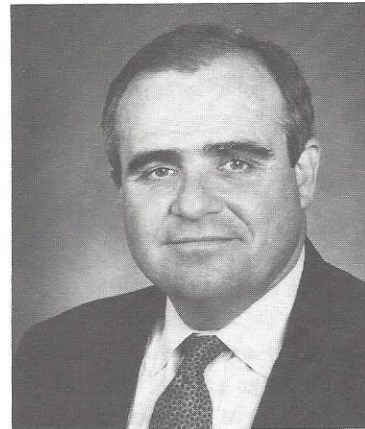
Cost:

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 January 10, 1995
- Request sign language interpreter by January 9, 1995
- Non-Members are welcome

LUNCHEON SPEAKER



Mr. G. Edward DeSeve

On October 12, 1994 President Clinton nominated Mr. G. Edward DeSeve for the position of Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, OMB. In anticipation of his confirmation, Mr. DeSeve is on detail to OMB and is serving as Assistant to the Director for Management Initiatives. Mr. DeSeve will speak to us on his early impressions and challenges in his new position.

Mr. DeSeve served as CFO at the Department of Housing and Urban Development since he was appointed by the President in 1993. Prior to joining the Administration, he was Director of Drexel Partnership Interests - B Corporation, and a senior lecturer at the Fels Center of Government at the University of Pennsylvania. A graduate of Cornell University in Labor Economics, Mr. DeSeve also received a masters degree in Government Administration in Public Finance from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Please note that this meeting is a week later than usual as many of our members will be on leave during the first week of January.

..... FEBRUARY LUNCHEON MEETING

The February speaker will be Mr. Donald Wurtz, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Education. Mr. Wurtz chairs a committee of the Chief Financial Officers Council that is charged with identifying National Performance Review (NPR) initiatives that fall under the CFO's Council responsibilities, and ensuring that these initiatives become operationalized. Mr. Wurtz will talk about the CFO/NPR linkage.

The luncheon meeting will be held on February 2, 1995 at the Touchdown Club. Social at 11:30 a.m.; luncheon at 12:00.

The President's Message



Pat Wensel, President

I wish each and everyone of you a **HAPPY and HEALTHY NEW YEAR.**

As we begin the new year I encourage all our members to become active in one of our many and diverse community service efforts. Jeff Williams and his committee will be glad to share their vision with you and sign you up for projects that hold interest for you. Jeff's phone number is listed on the last page of this newsletter.

One of my favorite community service projects is VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance). Now is the time of year to become a VITA volunteer. I've participated in VITA for quite of a number of years and have felt good that my small efforts were able to help so many people. There is no special expertise required and you can spend as much time as you want or have available. IRS conducts training classes and refresher courses for volunteers. These classes have a twofold benefit - you learn how to help others complete their tax returns and you keep up to date on the latest changes in the tax code.

For the past several years I have volunteered at the Martin Luther King library site. I can only volunteer a few hours a day for one or two evenings a week from the end of January through April 15. The site also operates on Saturday and Sunday if that is more convenient for you. I can assure you that the time I have spent helping people file their tax returns has been very gratifying. There are so many low income and elderly individuals in our area who need assistance with their tax returns but they cannot afford to pay for the service. Most of the returns are relatively simple for financial managers like you and me but they are very threatening for someone who does not understand the tax codes. At the library, we often have people who wait for hours and sometimes days for assistance. Then they are so grateful for the time you spend with them. Often they just want some reassurance that they have filled out the proper forms and put the numbers in the right places.

But you are not alone. There are a lot of experienced veterans out there who can help new volunteers. The site manager can answer the more difficult questions for you and will be glad to verify that you have covered all the relevant areas (particularly when tax credits are involved). The site has all the relevant tax forms and most of the supplies needed. But you are the vital link needed to make our efforts a success. See the article on page 7 for all the details. Remember that you can make a difference in the life of those less fortunate than yourself.

I believe that we have an exciting year before us. With the new majority in the incoming Congress and the administration's National Performance Review initiatives, we can expect some significant changes in our agencies and in the way we do business. We must be ready to take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves. We are getting the new year off to a marvelous start with this month's speaker, Ed DeSeve. See you at the Touchdown Club and bring all your new members for a free lunch.

Pat Wensel

Don't forget about these two upcoming, top quality financial management conferences

The Sixth Annual Federal Leadership Conference

February 21 - 22, 1995; Hyatt Regency - Capitol Hill;
"Leading in a Changing Environment: Challenges & Opportunities"

The First Annual International Government Financial managers Conference

March 5 - 8, 1995; Orlando, Florida; "Engineering Government for the 21st Century"

If you need a registration form call National AGA at (703) 684-6931 or any Washington Chapter Officer or Director.

..... HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOVEMBER 23rd EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

- The Council voted to use the three free San Diego PDC admissions, awarded to the Chapter in recognition of membership increases, to continue to promote membership and meeting attendance. One admission will be awarded as a prize for a members' drawing to be held at the January, February, and March luncheon meetings.
- Over 60 people attended the Workshop on Government Auditing and the Government Performance and Results Act held at George Washington University on November 8th.
- Executive Council members Jeff Williams, Larry Wilson, Karl Boettcher, and Peter Ben Ezra represented the Chapter in additional Project Harvest activities by collecting monetary donations at the Old Post Office. See story and photos on page 7.
- A research project on training available from the federal government for entry level financial professionals has been proposed by Chapter member Karen Holmcrans. The project will be coordinated with Bob Clark, Research Chairman. Results will be published in the newsletter.
- The Education Committee will begin investigating the feasibility of sponsoring a workshop on the future course of government finance following the recent Congressional elections.

Cis Kuennen, Secretary

PAST PRESIDENTS COUNCIL MEETS by Larry Wilson, Chairperson

In this time of historic opportunities and challenges, President Wensel is tapping the wisdom of past Washington, DC Chapter Presidents to make certain that the Chapter's services and programs are the best that they can be. Some of the Chapter's past Presidents have also been National Presidents of the Association of Government Accountants.

President Wensel has recently reestablished the Washington Chapter Past Presidents Council (PPC) to draw upon the knowledge and experience of the past Presidents to aid the Chapter and its members in achieving their common and individual goals. We are looking forward to the participation of our past Presidents.

The first meeting of the PPC was held at the National

Press Club on December 9, 1994. The past Presidents attending included Gerald Murphy (1973), Susumu Uyeda (1977), Thomas Mundell (1978), Jim Hickey (1980), Kenneth Winne (1983), Gary Palmquist (1986), Diane Bray (1988), Doris Chew (1989), Sam Mok (1991), and myself.

At the first meeting the PPC decided to meet periodically and provide support and guidance to the current Chapter President on implementing new plans and initiatives. Another role of the PPC will be to brief the President-Elect on lessons learned and emerging issues. The immediate Past President will serve as chairperson.

At the next meeting the PPC will further refine its charter, objectives, goals, and strategies.

..... RONALD J. LYNCH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Washington Chapter will be soliciting applications for the Ronald J. Lynch Memorial Scholarship during February. The award will be granted to a Washington Chapter member for the furtherance of professional education. Accredited university undergraduate and graduate courses, CPA review programs, and other professional development programs are covered by the scholarship. The scholarship award is \$1,000.

Specific information on how to apply and the process for this award will appear in the February newsletter. Questions may be referred to Ms. Lydia Moschkin at (703) 607-0831.

Our Chapter has earned 7,343 points in the Chapter Recognition Program through November 1994.

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

The December meeting of the Washington Chapter featured Mr. B. Preston Rich, from the National Science Foundation, and Ms. Linda Hoogeveen, from the Office of Management and Budget, who presented an overview of the government financial information electronic network, FinanceNet, and its career enhancing aspects. Preston and Linda were instrumental in the development of FinanceNet and serve as co-chairs of the FinanceNet Core Team. Following Preston's and Linda's presentations, Ms. Glynis Long and associates from Americans Communicating Electronically (ACE) and Government Systems Operators organizations presented breakout sessions on Internet, the communications link used to access FinanceNet.

FinanceNet was sparked by the National Performance Review. It started as a grass roots effort with five volunteers approximately one year ago. The FinanceNet Core Team has now grown to almost 100 people divided over eight task forces representing OMB; GAO; Treasury; JFMIP; AGA; FEI; the CFO, Small Agency, and Private Sector Councils; PCIE; FPMC; FMA and others. FinanceNet access, operations, infrastructure and services are provided by the National Science Foundation. FinanceNet serves to function, in association with the JFMIP, as the electronic clearinghouse for all government financial information. The CFO Council sponsors FinanceNet and recently voted additional financial support.

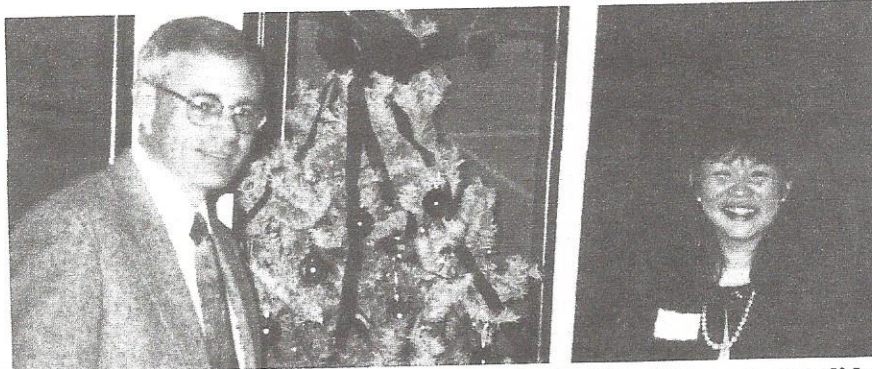
FinanceNet's goals are to provide rapid access to information electronically; establish communication links between financial professionals and promote the sharing of information and ideas; and provide one central clearinghouse for financial information. Services available through FinanceNet include private internet mailing networks, public distribution lists, Internet Gopher and World Wide Web libraries, news group

discussion forums, and on line, real-time electronic virtual meetings. News, calendars of events, announcements, job vacancies, and minutes from various financial, professional, and government organizations, such as the CFO Council, FASAB, JFMIP, AGA, and similar organizations are also available through FinanceNet. FinanceNet currently contains over 160,000 publications, including the GAO Yellow Book, the entire TFM, FAR, SGL, Federal Register, and the Congressional Record. This past October, GSA and SBA began listing real property in FinanceNet. Future initiatives are planned to list HUD's government-owned real estate and Treasury's seized assets. In the future, FinanceNet may become the point for "one-stop" shopping for government assets. Efforts are presently underway to cross-reference all information in FinanceNet by topic or category.

To use FinanceNet you must first be connected to Internet. Preston and Linda reported that approximately 80-90% of all CFOs have Internet connections. In examining the potential user community, they've found its primarily been financial staff who still do not have Internet connections. Preston and Linda encouraged everyone to get connected to Internet and to become involved with FinanceNet. They suggested three things that people could do to move in this direction: first, check for Internet connectivity in your home organization; second, share the information provided on FinanceNet; and third, help identify and obtain documents and information to put in FinanceNet. For additional information, interested parties may contact Frank Kramer at JFMIP (202) 512-9236, or send an e-mail message to Preston at preston.rich@nsf.gov or to Linda at hoogeveen_l@al.eop.gov



Luncheon speakers Linda Hoogeveen and Preston Rich, at left, and Glynis Long, at right, with President Pat Wensel at the December meeting



Gary Amlin, Member Services Chair, and Lydia Moschkin, extend holiday greetings to guests and serve complimentary beverages before the luncheon

COAST GUARD IMPROVES FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES

Once again, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) called on The Center for Applied Financial Management (The Center), Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury, for assistance. This time, The Center compared documentation for a new USCG inventory system to Federal financial management standards. The review was designed to determine if, according to the design documentation, the USCG's Aviation Maintenance Management Information System (AMMIS) meets Federal financial management standards. Previously, The Center performed a limited review of USCG's financial improvement initiatives, reconciliation module, and financial statements.

This recent project consisted of three phases: (1) an initial assessment to determine if the documentation was sufficient for the review; (2) development of conformance questionnaires; and (3) documentation review and completion of the questionnaires.

The project team compared AMMIS user manuals and subsystem specifications to:

- Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars A-127, A-123, A-125, and A-130;
- the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program (JFMIP) CORE Financial System Requirements;
- OMB standards on inventory and selected assets and liabilities;
- the U.S. Government Standard General Ledger;
- the Treasury Financial Manual;
- the GAO Title 2;
- cost accounting standards; and
- applicable USCG and Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations.

For each standard, the team determined whether AMMIS conformed to the standard completely, partially, or not at

all. The team supplemented the documentation with discussions with USCG officials familiar with AMMIS. Currently, the USCG is conducting operating tests of AMMIS.

The project team reviewed AMMIS against the standards under which it was designed in addition to more recent standards. Although AMMIS is not a CORE financial management system, it has significant financial aspects and is classified as a mixed system for purposes of OMB Circular A-127. AMMIS is not required to meet all the JFMIP Core Financial System Requirements.

The project was a joint effort between the USCG and The Center. In this project, The Center contributed skills related to Federal financial standards, OMB and Treasury requirements, and extensive experience in working with other agencies. The USCG members contributed knowledge of AMMIS and internal USCG and DOT regulations.

The Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA) requires agencies to report annually as to whether their accounting systems conform to prescribed standards. OMB Circular A-127 prescribes requirements for financial management systems and conformance reviews. The Center commends the U.S. Coast Guard for undertaking this project in an effort to ensure sound financial management.

The Center for Applied Financial Management assists agencies in all areas of financial management. For additional information about financial system reviews or other financial management services; financial system products and services; or financial training provided by The Center, call (202) 874-9550.

*by Warren Cottingham
The Center for Applied Financial Management*

CONGRATULATIONS TO CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGER AWARDEES

William R. Allan	Doris Chew	Thomas R. Greiner	Joseph H. Mertes	Virginia B. Robinson
William E. Anderson	Kenneth F. Clarke	Austin B. Groom, Jr.	William J. Mills	Raymond L. Sexton
Wm. J. Anderson, Jr.	Jo E. Cohen-Langlois	Gordon W. Harvey	Samuel T. Mok	Richard P. Solloway
Steven O. App	Warren J. Cottingham	Linda L. Hoogveen	Everett L. Mosely	Henry J. Steininger
Joseph S. Banks	Frank D. Derville	Carol M. Israel	John E. Murphy	David E. Suing
Vicki L. Beck	Donald P. Devane	Ernest M. Keeling	Jagdish C. Narang	Frances E. Tafer
Allen M. Bloom	Mary S. Ellis	William L. Kendig	David O. Nelleman	Stanley A.
Karl L. Boettcher	Richard C. Faulstick	William E. Kuntz	Richard A. Knoll	Underwood
Gordon W. Brenne	Richard L.	Mitchell L. Laine	Robert A. Pewanick	Winslow O. Vickerie
W.A. Broadus, Jr.	Fontenrose	Margaret L. Lomax	Dale C. Rinker	Richard B. Willett
Mary Kate Buckley	Gregory H. Friedman	David Lowe	Dee W. Ritchie, Jr.	Theodore Woronka

NEW FINANCENET LIBRARY POSTINGS DURING NOVEMBER 1994

FinanceNet's World Wide Web Home Page was the November 22, 1994 subject of a very favorable review by Jim Crawley, editor of the WEBster. Some of his more pertinent comments were:

"...check out this Web site. FinanceNet is truly one of the best and most comprehensive Web sites on the Net."

"...FinanceNet's real attraction is the vast array of Web sites that are listed and linked via the FinanceNet's pages. And, the topics go much further than just economics. Government servers from the White House to the CIA to local governments are accessible with a click or two."

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just economics. Government servers from the White House to the CIA to local governments are accessible with a click or two."

"...Plus, the pages include an excellent set of Gopher links to supplement the Web pages. And, the FinanceNet doesn't rely on links to government servers only. Many of the links are to servers maintained at universities and nonprofit organizations...And, for an added treat, the server has links to FTP sites from which to download Net software. Quite a collection."

"The introduction describes FinanceNet as a "one-stop" shop for its users. No kidding! This server should be high on anyone's hotlist. In fact, it could substitute for many hotlists. WEBster says: "Charge it!"

New Under /Happenings in Financial

Management: FinanceNet Asset Sales Task Force, November '94 Minutes; DC AGA "Washington Connection" Newsletter, December '94

New Under /Documents, Publications and Standards: NYC Comptroller, Follow-up of Audit of Summer Youth Program; Tax and Administrative Offset Procedures for Ag, EPA, DoL, OPM, PBGC, FCIC, Farm Credit and Education; Debt Collection Act Amendments of 1993

New Under /Closely Related Networks: Report from Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform (BudgetNet); Many new documents and notices in SectorNet; Pointer to GrantsNet at DHHS

New Under /Internet Resource, Search and Help Tools: One Location Search Tools for Gopher, WWW, Finger, WAIS and Listservers

FMS AND OPM ENTER INTO PARTNERSHIP by Eleanor Kelly

On November 30, 1994, the Financial Management Service (FMS) and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) signed a partnership agreement to provide governmentwide financial management training. FMS hosted the signing ceremony. FMS Commissioner Russell D. Morris and Assistant Commissioner Walter L. Jordan signed the agreement on behalf of FMS; OPM Human Resources Development Group (HRDG) Director Carol Okin and Deputy Assistant Director Don Mizaur signed for OPM.

In addition to brief remarks by each of the signers, Bob Stone, Project Director of the National Performance Review (NPR) praised FMS, Treasury, and OPM for their leadership in reinventing government. He stated that this cross-agency partnership is an example of many of NPR's principles in action.

FMS' Center for Applied Financial Management (The Center) and HRDG will combine their programs and training expertise to create a well documented, validated financial management curriculum to aid Federal managers in tackling today's fiscal challenges.

Treasury Deputy Secretary Frank Newman said, "This financial management training partnership will enable Federal agencies to better meet the requirements of the Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Act, the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), and other emerging initiatives for improving Federal financial management. This partnership embodies the principles of shared use of resources, innovation, and entrepreneurship which are essential tools for streamlining our government."

The CFO Act of 1990 and the GPRA of 1993 emphasize the need for a structured curriculum that requires financial managers in the Federal government to obtain the knowledge and skills to perform their responsibilities effectively and efficiently.

"This partnership combines the strength of both parties to create a financial curriculum that will meet or exceed customers' needs," said OPM Director Jim King. "I believe this partnership will create a training program that will become the 'Trainer of Choice' for not only the Federal financial management community, but for our counterparts in state and local governments."

To learn more about the affordable cost and timesaving benefits of these training services, call The Center on (202) 874-9560.

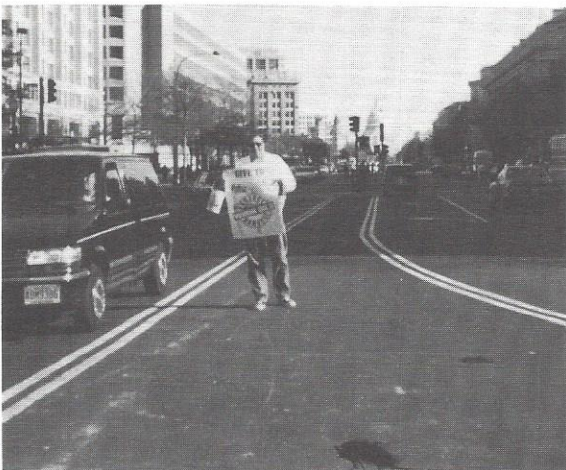
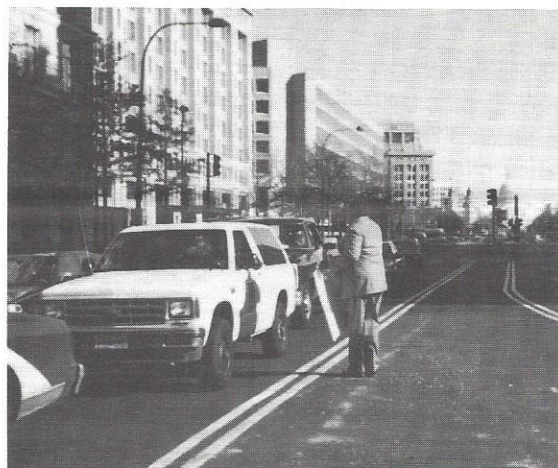
COMMUNITY OUTREACH by Peter Ben Ezra and John Emery

The Chapter participated in Project Harvest on November 23, 1994 at the Old Post Office Pavilion in downtown Washington, DC. Project Harvest feeds many disadvantaged people during the Thanksgiving holiday season. Other sponsors included Safeway Stores, PEPCO, WHUR-FM, WHMM-TV, WRC-TV, the WIZ, Coca Cola, and Riggs Bank. The Chapter made a cash contribution to project Harvest at the November luncheon meeting. In addition, members and associates solicited contributions.

Project Harvest is just one of many community outreach events planned by Jeff Williams, Chapter Community Outreach Director. Joining Jeff in the Project Harvest effort were Larry Wilson (Past President), Peter Ben Ezra (Publications Director), Renee Barry, Jody Firmani, Arthur Holmes, Mary Slay, Paul Dorsey, and Karl Boettcher. The participants distinguished themselves by wearing AGA sweatshirts.

The next community outreach event is the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) sponsored by the IRS. The program involves volunteers in the preparation of tax returns for low income, elderly, disabled, and non-English speaking taxpayers. The IRS provides instructors and training materials free of charge for volunteer tax preparers. We are asking AGA members for their time and support. A four-day basic training course will be held in January, from 9:00 a.m - 5:00 p.m., on each of the four consecutive Saturdays--January 7, 14, 21, and 28, 1995. For those who have already had the basic training and need only updated tax law, a refresher course will be held on January 14. The training will be held at the IRS building located at 1111 Constitution Avenue.

If you are interested in volunteering for VITA, please contact John Emery at (202) 720-0835. Please contact Jeff Williams at (202) 254-8385 if you would like to participate in other future community outreach events.



AGA Washington Chapter Project Harvest Participants Busy at Work in Downtown Washington, DC

AGA WASHINGTON CHAPTER
CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
FOR 1994/1995

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REGIONAL V.P.

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

OGDEN Government Services (703) 246-0808

William Anderson

Jeff Williams

Daniel Murrin

Gary Amlin

Jerry Hinton

Eva Williams

Russell Morris

James Naughton

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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.

Association of
Government
Accountants

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P. O. Box 423
Washington, D.C. 20044-0423

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