

The Washington Connection

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS
WASHINGTON D.C. CHAPTER



Issue 7 • May 2009

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Snapshots



MAY

LUNCHEON SERIES

Kathleen M. McGettigan

Deputy Associate Director,
Center for Retirement and Insurance Services

Topic: Retirement System Modernization

Location: Army & Navy Club

Date: May 20th, 2009

Time: 11:45 to 1:45

*\$10 Early Sign-up Special
for Federal Employees
for May Luncheon*

[See Bio](#)



Announcements

CGFM - Intensive Review Course

Saturday, June 20th - Sunday, June 21st

• 8:30- 11:30 a.m.

• 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. • 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.

[Read More](#) | University of New Orleans, Kirschman Hall,
located at 2000 Lakeshore Drive, New Orleans, LA 70148

Save The Date: Spring Conference

REGISTER ONLINE NOW FOR SPRING CONFERENCE!

Registration ends on May 6 for the Association of Government Accountants Washington, DC Chapter annual spring conference, "Financial Management in Challenging Times," co-hosted by the Greater Washington Society of CPA's.

Dates: Tuesday, May 12 and Wednesday, May 13, 2009
Time: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Location: Ronald Reagan Building
Continuing Education: 15 CPE

[Read More](#) |

SAVE THE DATE! REGISTER TODAY!

AGA Washington, DC Chapter Annual Awards Dinner

- Saturday, June 6, 2009 6:00 p.m. - Midnight. Black Tie Optional
- Grand Hyatt Washington 1000 H St., NW Washington, DC 20001
- Call 202-637-4900 to inquire about room availability.
- Tickets: Early Registration - \$25 ea. Before May 10, \$35 ea. thereafter
- Seating is limited, so please register today at

http://agadc.org/page.php?name=gala_registration

Click here to sign up to get newsletter and meeting notices automatically e-mailed <http://agadc.org/mlistsubscribe.php>

Cover photos by Christian and Barbara Escobar
[Contact](#)

Note From the Editor

by *Leon Fleischer, Editor*

I hope everyone enjoyed our previous April issue. This month our chapter is hosting our annual spring conference- "Financial Management in Challenging Times". This 2 day conference will address emerging issues related to federal financial management and systems. I encourage everyone to attend-it promises as always to be an exciting, informative conference-and a great way to see one another. On June 21-24, AGA will be hosting its 58th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC) in the "Big Easy"-this is the premier education and networking event of the year. At the PDC, you can hear from dynamic speakers, make new contacts, and experience all the culture that New Orleans has to offer. I encourage everyone to take a look at attending one or both of these outstanding conferences. These are very exciting teams to serve in the federal government-and in particular to be associated with federal financial management. The TARP program and the recent Recovery Act are crucial to the well being of the country, and the federal financial community is being put to the test to implement efficiently and properly these huge programs. Being an AGA member and staying abreast of the developments in our community will help us meet these upcoming challenges.



This newsletter is only made possible because of the contribution of articles from the chapter's members. Thank you for all who submitted articles-these articles reflected the depth of knowledge and experience in this group, and the newsletter team is fortunate enough to review and publish these articles. We hope that you enjoy the newsletter and find it helpful for keeping up to date on events in the chapter and in AGA. Our team strives to produce a high quality newsletter notifying AGA D.C. members of Chapter and National events and services. And, if you are not already a member, we encourage you to join the AGA D.C. Chapter and enjoy the many benefits it offer, in particular the high quality luncheon series, learning opportunities, and conferences.

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter? Do you have an article you would like to see printed? Have you developed a time-saving process or procedure on the job? Have you traveled to any interesting locations? The Washington Connection requests that you submit any and all items of interest to our federal, state, and local members including: reviews of recently published books related to financial management; unique travel experiences or assignments; lessons learned on roll-outs of new systems; appointments or promotions; employment opportunities; and noteworthy accomplishments by our members. We also welcome digital photos that accompany your submission. Your articles, comments, and ideas are what make this newsletter go and we welcome all input!

The deadline for submitting articles to appear in the June 2009 issue is May 22, 2009. Please send your comments and contributions to Leon Fleischer, the newsletter editor at leon.fleischer@sba.gov.

Leon Fleischer

Leon Fleischer



Newsletter Team

Leon Fleischer, Editor

Jorge Asef-Sargent, Assistant Editor

Erwin Solbach, Graphics

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President's Message



by **Ann Davis**

As we begin to wind down the Chapter year, we want to make sure that you fulfill your CPE requirements. Join us for our AGA-DC/GWSCPA Annual Conference - "Financial Management in Challenging Times" which will be held at the Ronald Reagan Building, Washington, DC, 8 AM-4:30 PM. This one gets you 15 CPEs! Be sure to also make room in your calendar for the Happy Hour event to follow at the Smithsonian Jazz Café. We had a great time last year and would love to see you there. Stay tuned for details.

Save the Dates:

May 20, 2009 - Marks our last monthly luncheon of the year, 11:45am - 1:45pm back at the Army Navy Club. Kathy McGettigan will speak on OPM's Retirement System Modernization. Please join us for a fun, educational experience while earning one CPE and bring your food and monetary donations for So Others Might Eat.

June 6, 2009 - If you missed it last year, you missed an incredible event. Last year's Awards Dinner not only honored the best but also provided the best in food and entertainment. Each year, we only do it better. Our event will be held at Hyatt Hotel in Washington, DC. Details are soon to follow.

Also, in the works is our ever popular Nationals Game and Tailgate. Look for details in an upcoming email announcement.

Please refer to our website at www.agadc.org for details.

Ann Davis

Ann Davis

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Request for Newsletter Submissions, Comments, or Suggestions

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter? Do you have an article you would like to see in print? Have you developed a time-saving process or procedure on the job? Have you traveled to any interesting locations? The Washington Connection requests that you submit any and all items of interest to our federal, state, and local members including: reviews of recently published books related to financial management; unique travel experiences or assignments; lessons learned on roll-outs of new systems; appointments or promotions; employment opportunities; and noteworthy accomplishments by our members. We also welcome digital photos that accompany your submission.

The Washington Connection will not be issued in July or August. The deadline for submitting articles to appear in the **June 2009** issue is **May 22, 2009**. Please send your comments and contributions to **Leon Fleischer**, the newsletter editor for the **2009-2010** program year, at leon.fleischer@sba.gov.



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Who is Boris Lyubovitsky?



Name: Boris Lyubovitsky

AGA Position: CGFM
(Certified Government
Financial Manager)
Coordinator/Director,
DC Chapter

Agency: U.S. Department of
Agriculture (USDA), OCFO

Title: Staff Accountant

Background: I am currently an Accountant in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Agriculture. In this role, I work very closely with USDA agencies trying to reconcile and consolidate Annual and Quarterly Financial Statements at the Department Level. I actively participate in governmentwide efforts to improve financial reporting. I also have an opportunity to serve as Department Representative at the US Standard General Ledger meetings trying to identify and resolve the specific USDA Agencies' and governmentwide issues.

Prior to joining the Department of Agriculture, I was an Accountant at the Department of Treasury, Financial Management Service where I had started as an intern after being selected for two-year Federal Career Intern Program (FCIP). In order to complete the program, I relocated to Washington DC area from New York City. During the two year program I rotated throughout the Government Wide Accounting Area. This valuable experience gave me an opportunity to apply accounting/financial management standards within the Department of the Treasury. Later I was assigned to Cash Forecasting Division (CFD) where I gained knowledge and experience related to commercial and Federal Reserve banking functions.

I obtained my education from Bernard M. Baruch College in NYC earning a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accountancy. I am a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Virginia, and currently pursuing my CGFM certification. I am an active member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; serve as current events' chair of the Government Accounting and Auditing Committee of the Greater Washington Society of CPAs (GWSCPAs) and serve as CGFM Coordinator/Director of the DC Chapter of AGA. Last year I provided Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) for low income families in Montgomery County. I appreciate that experience and look forward to continuing it in the future.

How long have you been a member of AGA? Although I had joined AGA DC Chapter in 2004, I became an active member in 2006. Since then I have started to get more involved in AGA activities, events and programs. Each year is bringing new experiences, friends and professional growth.

How has AGA helped you with your career? Being a fairly new CPA, I wanted to know more about the career opportunities existing in the federal government. I decided to take advantage of the chapter's mentoring program. The mentoring program has been an ideal vehicle for learning about various opportunities in accounting, budgeting and other government financial management areas. The membership team of AGA DC Chapter assigned several mentors to me with whom I continue the mentoring relationships. They were all filled with the great ideas of using my accounting background and utilizing my knowledge as a CPA in new and challenging accounting opportunities.

Over the years I have had the opportunity to meet exceptional members and enhance my existing relationships through active participation at AGA events-luncheons, presentations, dinners, conferences, and training events. I find it much easier talking and sharing your own ideas in a friendly/unofficial atmosphere. I am also taking advantage of the numerous educational programs that are continuously provided by AGA. It really helps me to keep up to date with the current and emerging issues, that impact not only my work but the government overall. I believe that continuous networking, good advice, educational opportunities, luncheons, dinners and conferences have all made and continue making positive differences in my career.

What advice do you have for someone thinking of joining the AGA? To advance in government or any type of career, you need to become an active member of the professional organizations. AGA is offering numerous opportunities for members' interaction, keeping up-to-date on current issues, staying abreast of the latest Technologies and Financial Systems, providing professional guidance and certification. In order to get the most benefits, one must become an active part of the organization. Invest your time, enthusiasm and great ideas by taking an active part on a committee, attending regular professional meetings, keeping up with your friends and colleagues at the social events, and volunteering at community service events. Over time you will see rewards/benefits that will come out of it. It could be advancing in your current career, taking a different career level or simply making new friends.

What is the best thing about working in government service? Every day I enjoy the gratification of knowing that the services I provide have an impact on my family, friends, colleagues, employers, neighbors, and ultimately all taxpayers. While working for the government, I received some of the best training in my career. Taking classes during my intern program and applying knowledge directly on the job helped me understand the role, functions and responsibilities of the government.

Who is Boris Lyubovitsky? (Cont'd.)

Knowledge that I acquired in my training and job experience for over six years helped me with suggesting and later implementing new processes to be used in the government. Also, I helped to streamline the existed processes that made overall improvements to Federal Government. I am always looking for new ways and opportunities in making changes which would result in more efficient and improved Federal financial management. Knowledge that I acquired in my training and job experience for over six years helped me with suggesting and later implementing new processes to be used in the government. Also, I helped to streamline the existed processes that made overall improvements to Federal Government. I am always looking for new ways and opportunities in making changes which would result in more efficient and improved Federal financial management.

What has been the biggest obstacle in getting where you are today? Everyone has a fair amount of obstacles in their life. I have had a fair amount of obstacles in mine too including relocating to new country, and learning a new language and culture. However, instead of concentrating on obstacles I tried to analyze the situation and see if I was following my goals/plans. Whenever I was faced with new obstacles on my way, I was finding new friends, acquiring new skills and knowledge and/or simply changing the way I thought about my problems. All along the way I knew that failure was not an option for me. I try not to let limiting thoughts enter into my mind. I try to have a big and very clear vision for my future and hope that nothing is going to hold me back.

What is your favorite hobby or outside activity? I love traveling, walking, hiking, and playing chess. My dream is to travel around the world in as many days as it takes. Two years ago my wife (then girlfriend) and I visited Grand Canyon. It is nearly impossible to describe in words the gratification that we both received from that travel. We were also brave enough to try walking down the trail to Colorado River in the middle of the day. We almost reached the second stop, and that was a little short of the half way to the river. My goal is to hike down to Colorado River and camp there for a night. Then, on the following day I will be hiking back up to the top of the mountain. If anyone is interested in joining me, please let me know. I want to accomplish this in the next two to three years. I also enjoy walking around the Mall Area in Washington, DC. I enjoy nature in the parks of DC and watching tourists rush to get into as many museums as possible in one day. I enjoy playing chess with my older nephew David. He is only six but he has a big potential to become a great chess master.

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream? This might be considered a difficult question, taking into consideration that my first job in this country was serving ice cream at Baskin Robbins in the Bronx, NY. During my initial interview my manager told me that I could only have one scoop of ice cream each day I was working. To ensure it was happening as told, I was closely monitored by the surveillance camera. Back then my favorite ice cream was Jamoca Almond Fudge. Nowadays I prefer Ben & Jerry's Mango and Berry Extraordinary Sorbet. It tastes fantastic.

Anything else that you would like to highlight? AGA DC Chapter is one of the greatest chapters to be involved in. I recently assumed responsibilities of CGFM Coordinator/Director and looking forward to taking CGFM to another level. I continue receiving support and recommendations from my friends and colleagues at AGA. I am always open for new ideas and recommendation to improve the current program.

Boris Lyubovitsky
Boris Lyubovitsky

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WANT TO HELP?

If you're interested in being a liaison or joining the mentor program, as either a mentor or mentee, please contact Ruthie Apelt: ruth.apelt@thomson.com

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Accountability

AGA serves government accountability professionals by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

Click on the link below to view a short AGA video:
<http://www.agacgfm.org/downloads/agaweb.wmv>

AGA-DC and GWSCPA 8th Annual Conference “Financial Management in Challenging Times”

Tuesday, May 12, 2009		Wednesday, May 13, 2009	
7:30 a.m.	Registration/Breakfast with Exhibitors	7:30 a.m.	Breakfast with Exhibitors
8:00 a.m.	Welcoming Comments	8:00 a.m.	Welcoming Comments
8:10 a.m.	GAO Update	8:10 a.m.	TBD
9:00 a.m.	Break	9:00 a.m.	Break
9:10 a.m.	Developments in Accounting Standards	9:10 a.m.	Financial Management Update
10:00 a.m.	Break with Exhibitors	10:25 a.m.	Break with Exhibitors
10:15 a.m.	Breakout 1 - IT Security	10:45 a.m.	Breakout 1 - TBD
10:15 a.m.	Breakout 2 - Ethics for CPAs	10:45 a.m.	Breakout 2 - Improper Payments: A Fraud Perspective During a Recession
12:05 p.m.	Break	11:35 a.m.	Break
12:15 p.m.	Lunch	11:50 a.m.	Lunch
1:05 p.m.	Auditability in the Intelligence Community	12:40 p.m.	Administration Transition – What’s a CFO to Do?
1:55 p.m.	Break	1:30 p.m.	Break
2:05 p.m.	Reforming Government	1:40 p.m.	Enterprise Risk Management
3:20 p.m.	Break with Exhibitors	2:55 p.m.	Break with Exhibitors
3:40 p.m.	Intragovernmental Transactions	3:15 p.m.	Does the Shared Service Model Work?
4:30 p.m.	End of First Day	4:30 p.m.	Conference Adjourns



AGA-DC/GWSCPA 8th Annual Conference

Financial Management in Challenging Times

May 12-13, 2009

Highlights

Join us for our annual spring conference. This year's theme focuses on the challenging financial times faced by the federal government and how the federal financial management community can respond to these challenges.

Conference Information

CPE credits: 15 hours CPE credit (recommended) for each paid attendee
Length : 2 days (from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Registration

AGA/GWSCPA members: \$375 early registration fee by April 24 (\$425 after April 24)
Non-members: \$425 early registration fee by April 24 (\$475 after April 24)
Group discount: 5 percent for three or more. 10 percent for six or more
Registration deadline: Wednesday, May 6, 2009. Space is limited, so register early.

Location

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, Pavilion Ballroom
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Suggested Attendees

Government financial management professionals, accounting, audit, and other professionals who deal with government financial management professionals.

For more information and to register, visit: <http://www.agadc.org>



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Want to Make a Difference?

Consider a Career in Government Financial Management

Are you, or someone from your chapter planning to attend a career fair, or an event for college students? AGA now has an eye-catching brochure that offers information about government financial management careers and answers questions for aspiring government financial managers regarding the qualifications and skills needed to get started. It also includes a bookmark for students that directs them to the Tomorrow's Professionals website for more information. To order free copies of the brochure, please submit the collateral order form found in the Members Only section or contact Jessica Jones.

Benefits of the AGA D.C. Mentoring Program

By: The Membership/Liaison Committee
with

Evelyn Brown, Chuck McAndrew, Boris Lyubovitsky, and Ding-Lynn Ledgard

The Mentoring Program is proving to be a valuable benefit of AGA D. C. membership according to a recent survey conducted by the Membership/Liaison Committee.

For Mentors, the program is an excellent way to contribute to the career development of government accountability professionals including those involved in accounting, auditing, budgeting and other financial management related jobs. For Mentees, the program is an open door to explore ideas and aspirations with accomplished and experienced individuals.

Want to get in on the action? Please submit your resume to Membership/Liaison Committee Co-Directors: Marguerite Nealon, email: wnealon01@aol.com and Ruth Apelt, email: ruth.apelt@thomsonreuters.com. The program is open to all AGA. D. C. members.

Here are just a few comments from the recent survey:

What was most satisfying about the mentor program?

"The learning experience is on both sides. Mentee learned some things and so did I. It actually helped me with keeping abreast of changes and activities in the workplace." (Evelyn Brown, Mentor)

"Giving advice based on my career." (Chuck McAndrew, Mentor)

Did you enjoy being part of this program?

"I joined the AGA DC Chapter in September 2008 so that I could participate in the Mentor Program. I know that having a mentor will help me surmount challenges and advance my career progression." (Ding-Lynn Ledgard, Mentee)

What did you learn from your mentor?

"I learned many things from my mentor. For instance, she introduced me to many of her former colleagues at several CPA societies/organizations, at her former job (networking). I believe that I am continuously learning from my mentor by addressing various questions. Some of those questions relate to work, AGA, or simply wisdom of life." (Boris Lyubovitsky, (Mentee)

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DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE
& EXPOSITION

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Best Practices in Government Accountability

June 21-24, 2009 | New Orleans Marriott Hotel and Sheraton New Orleans | New Orleans, LA



Welcome!

Join us in the “Big Easy” June 21–24, 2009, for AGA’s 58th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC)—the premier education and networking event of the year.

The PDC is the authoritative source for the knowledge and contacts you need to succeed in today’s constantly changing environment. Hear from top-notch speakers, make new contacts, learn about the latest research, discover innovative management techniques and see the technological tools that can aid efficiency and improve effectiveness.

AGA has been a leader in providing the best training for more than 58 years, and this is the place where it all comes together. Offering 24 CPE hours, timely topics and an impressive line-up of speakers, PDC 2009 promises to be one of the Association's best.

From the practical to the theoretical, sessions will help attendees hone their skills to bring greater efficiency and effectiveness to government operations. Exhibitors are also available to demonstrate the newest products, tools and techniques to help your agency achieve its mission.

In addition to an excellent technical education program, the PDC is packed with opportunities to network with colleagues from around the country and make new friends. While you’re here, please be sure to experience all the music, culture, history and fine dining New Orleans has to offer.

Laissez Les Bon Temps Roulez—register today!

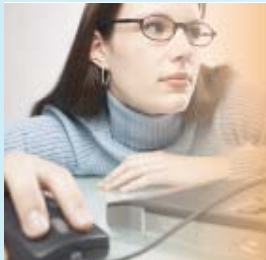
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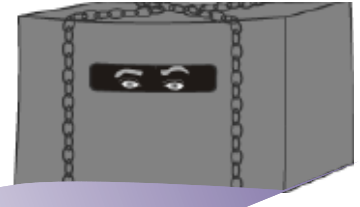
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[AICPA Home Page](#)



Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA



Writing Off Bad Debts Related to Revenue

FASAB's Standard 7 discusses accruing and writing off bad debts. The commercial GAAP model is to accrue bad debts by debiting bad debts expenses and crediting receivables using an Allowance for Doubtful Accounts contra account. The bad debt is written off by reducing both the receivable and the allowance account. By recording an expense, the entity recognizes that bad debts are an expense of doing business, and also matches expenses against the risky revenue. FASAB 7 said that the commercial GAAP model was appropriate only when the receivable was incurred for exchange revenue and the loss was due to credit problems with the debtor.

Write-Off Entries in the SGL

Using fines and administrative fees as an example (since they can be exchange or nonexchange, based on circumstance), the proprietary SGL postings for exchange transactions are [additional accounts for custodial revenue are in brackets]:

Recognize revenue:	dr.	1360 Penalties, Fines and Administrative Fees Receivable
[C404]		[5991 Accrued Collections for Others]
C402, C420, or C422	cr.	5320 Penalties, Fines, and Administrative Fees Revenue
		[2980 Custodial Liability]

Allow for bad debts:	dr.	6720 Bad Debt Expense
[D422]		[2980 Custodial Liability]
D420	cr.	1369 Allowance for Loss on P/F/Admin Fees Receivable
		[6190 Contra Bad Debts Expense Incurred for Others]

Write off bad debts:	dr.	1369 Allowance for Loss on P/F/Admin Fees Receivable
D406	cr.	1360 Penalties, Fines and Administrative Fees Receivable

If all these entries are made the same year for the same amount, the net effect is to debit bad debts expense and credit revenue (custodial funds will also debit the revenue contra-account and credit the expense contra-account).

When nonexchange revenue is used, the entries are essentially identical, except that the allowance for bad debts entry posts to a contra-revenue, and not an expense account. The net impact of all three entries would therefore be to credit revenue and debit a contra-revenue (whether or not the activity is custodial).

Allow for bad debts:	dr.	5329 Contra Revenue for Penalties and Fines
[C404 reversed]		[2980 Custodial Liability]
D402 or D424	cr.	1369 Allowance for Loss on P/F/Admin Fees Receivable
		[5991 Accrued Collections for Others]

Inside the Black Box (Cont'd.)

Write-Offs of Reimbursable Revenue

That is the SGL model in a nutshell. What the SGL does not discuss is funding, since receivables from the public are supposed to be unfunded. However, a large and increasing number of federal agencies perform reimbursable work to supplement their appropriations. In many cases, the reimbursable work is in the same Treasury Symbol as the direct appropriation, and the expenditures have to be allocated between the agency's internal use and clients. If a client successfully disputes an amount billed, the "write off" is really a transfer of the original expenditure from reimbursable to direct authority. This wouldn't be run through the Allowance for Doubtful Accounts, because it has nothing to do with credit problems. The entry would have to reverse the original receivable and revenue, show appropriations used, and restore the reimbursable agreement amount, as follows:

A714 reversed	dr.	5200 Revenue from Services Provided
B134		3107 Unexpended Appropriations - Used
		4221 Unfilled Customer Orders Without Advance
	cr.	1310 Accounts Receivable
		5700 Expended Appropriations
		4251 Reimbursements and Other Income Earned - Receivable

If an advance had been applied, use 4222 Unfilled Customer Orders With Advance, 2310 Liability for Advances and Prepayments, and 4252 Reimbursements and Other Income Earned - Collected (transaction A710) instead of 4221, 1310, and 4251 above. If the client had paid and now receives a refund, use 4221, 1010 Fund Balance With Treasury, and 4252 instead (transactions A706 and A708 combined).

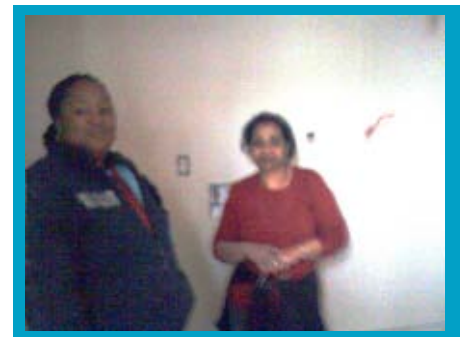
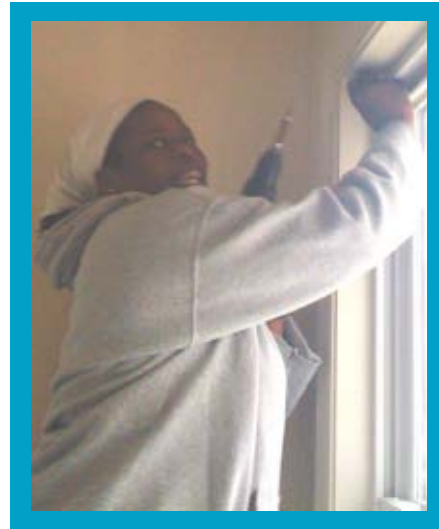
Comments and critiques, as well as specific questions or suggestions for future topics, are always welcome. Send them to Simcha.Kuritzky@CGIFederal.com, and not to the AGA.

This column is provided as part of a free exchange of ideas in federal accounting, and is not reviewed substantively before publication.

Simcha Kuritzky
 Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA

Snapshots

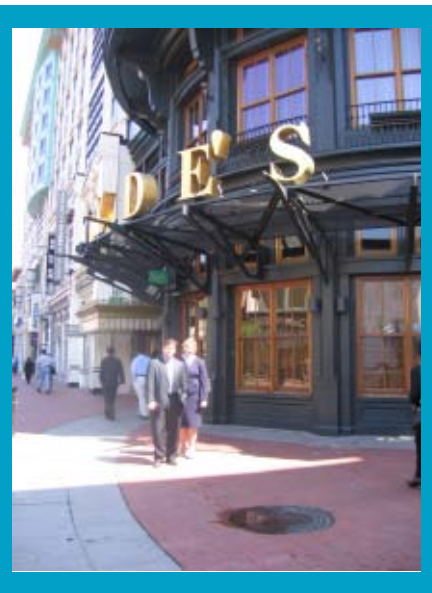
HABITAT FOR HUMANITIES PROJECT



LUNCHEON AT CLYDE'S



LUNCHEON AT GLYDE'S (Cont'd)



APRIL BOARD MEETING



Federal News Article

Getting it Right

By Mrk Abramson
April 15, 2009

No matter what the nation's challenges are, the public expects government to work. In addition to carrying out its many existing programs, the stimulus bill and the financial bailout have added new promises the executive branch must deliver on. All the more reason the new administration must find the appropriate balance between the civil service and contractors to get the job done right.

Early indications are the Obama administration is leaning toward hiring more civil servants to carry out many of its new initiatives. But there is little doubt that government will continue to rely on contractors. The choice between civil servants and contractors is critical in deciding how best to deliver services to the public.

To determine where more civil servants are needed, the administration must decide which agencies need more boots on the ground, which positions are understaffed, and whether to hire employees on a full-time, part-time, temporary or term basis.

If agencies are considering hiring contractors, here are some questions they should ask:

- Do we have a temporary or a long-term need? Is an agency facing a short-term backlog problem, such as processing benefit claims, or does it have a need for ongoing support in back-office functions such as finance, personnel or call centers. If so, then contractor support is the most accessible source of people power. If the need is long-term, then the agency has to decide whether this is a core government function that needs to be supplied by civil servants, or whether it is a noncore competency in which long-term contractor support is most appropriate.
- Which type of contract is most appropriate for our specific need? The Obama administration has made clear its preference for fixed-price contracts, in which an agency and a vendor agree to a price up front for the service to be delivered. But agencies also should consider performance-based contracts, which provide the contractor bonuses for meeting specified milestones, making them more accountable for the quality of their work.

- How long should the contract term be, and what type of management structure is needed? There has been a trend toward longer-term contracts with options to renew, which are appropriate when government has a continuing need for functions such as back-office support. These contracts can include several companies or multiple agreements, which must be coordinated. In these cases, a lead systems integrator might be needed to manage the contract. That role can be performed either by an agency or by a contractor.
- Do we have enough well-trained staff to manage or oversee the contract? Agencies must determine the adequacy of their contracting staff. Many contract problems can be traced to poor federal oversight. Years of downsizing have depleted the acquisition workforce, prompting calls to hire more procurement officers and provide them the training they need.

Time is of the essence as agencies scramble to deliver on new initiatives. While the Obama administration is committed to hiring more civil servants to accomplish its goals, contractors will continue to play a formidable role. But ensuring quality services will require smarter contracting techniques and a larger, more skilled, acquisition workforce.

Mark A. Abramson is president of Leadership Inc. He has served as executive director of the IBM Center for the Business of Government and as president of the Council for Excellence in Government. His e-mail is mark.abramson@thoughtleadershipinc.com.

CGFM

CGFM Exams

Interested in the CGFM certification? Sign up for AGA's special Intensive Review Course and take the CGFM Examinations before the PDC. Don't miss this opportunity to earn your CGFM!

The Intensive Review Course will take place from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 18, and Friday, June 19, 2009. The CGFM Examinations will be offered by appointment only on June 20-21, 2009.

The cost of the course is only \$249 for qualified participants, and it offers 18 CPE hours. Special Bonus: the CGFM Examinations are offered at no cost to course attendees.

This is a special limited enrollment offer for those individuals who have already been studying for the CGFM Examinations and need extra reinforcement of the material. The Intensive Review Course is not a substitute for the three instructor-led training courses. On the contrary, it is designed as a supplement to previous preparation for the CGFM Examinations. Attending previous courses or studying using CGFM Study Guides before participating in this event is strongly encouraged. The cost of this course is not included in the PDC registration fee.

Registration

Registration: To participate in this event, individuals must:

- 1) Apply for the CGFM Program (submitting CGFM application form, fee and college transcript – see Eligibility section below).
- 2) Pre-register for this event by submitting the Intensive Review Course Registration Form and appropriate fee. Walk-ins will not be accepted.

The complete application for the CGFM Program must be submitted BEFORE or TOGETHER with the Intensive Review Course Registration Form. Registrations for this event will not be confirmed until after the CGFM application is accepted.

Cancellations must be received by May 28, 2009; refunds will not be granted after this date.

Deadline: Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first-served basis. Space is limited, so we encourage you to sign up early. Registrations will not be accepted after June 4, 2009.

Location

The Intensive Review Course and the CGFM Examinations will be held at the University of New Orleans, Kirschman Hall, located at 2000 Lakeshore Drive, New Orleans, LA 70148.

Eligibility

To attend the Intensive Review Course and/or take the CGFM Examinations participants must first apply and be accepted into the CGFM Program. Candidates need to submit the CGFM Program application form with \$85 application fee and a copy of a transcript from an accredited college or university. The transcript must show that a degree (bachelor's or higher) was awarded and list at least 24 credit hours of courses in financial management or related topics. Applicant's name and the name of the college or university must appear on all transcripts. Please see www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/start/ for more information.

In addition, those individuals who want to complete their CGFM at this event need to submit a Work Verification Form listing at least two years of professional-level government financial management experience.

Prior attendance of CGFM training course(s) or purchase of the CGFM Study Guides is not required but is strongly encouraged.

If you have already taken a CGFM Examination and did not pass, you must satisfy the waiting period before taking that CGFM Examinations at this event.

Materials

No materials will be provided at the Intensive Review Course. However, participants are encouraged to order CGFM Study Guides at least six weeks before the course date. For more information on study guides visit www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/prepare/studyguide.aspx.

The cost of the study guides is not included in the price of the Intensive Review Course.

Examination Information

Three time slots are available for CGFM Examinations to be held on June 20-21, 2009:

- 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

The actual exam time is limited to 2 hours and 15 minutes.

CGFM (Cont'd.)

Space is limited, so participants are encouraged to send in the registration form indicating their preference for an examination date and time as soon as possible (Intensive Review Course Registration Form). Some of the time slots may fill up and no longer be available. We will confirm your registration and indicate whether we are able to accommodate your request for the particular examination time slot(s).

Individuals who want to take the CGFM Examinations at this event without attending the review course can do so by following the same registration procedures. The fee for taking the three CGFM Examinations is the same as the

Intensive Review Course fee – see Intensive Review Course Registration Form for more details.

The CGFM Examinations are:

- Examination 1—Governmental Environment
- Examination 2— Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting
- Examination 3—Governmental Financial Management and Control

More detailed information on CGFM Examinations content can be found on www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/exams/.

Community Service

Thanks again to everyone who helped make our DC Habitat for Humanity Project a success! On Saturday, March 28th several members of the AGA's Washington DC Chapter and the Montgomery Prince George Chapter's formed a partnership to assist the DC Habitat for Humanity with the building of a new home on 55th & Clay St. NE. The team worked from 8:15 to 4:15 and performed duties like hanging dry wall and window blinds, painting trim, installing a sump pump and other fun tasks.

A special thanks to Michael Kess and AnLih Tung from Montgomery/PG and Evelyn Brown, Lloyd Farmer, AnnMarie Walker, Norman Ingram, Rosanna Alvarez, Paul Dombrowski, Courtney Gaines, Cassie McGraw, Arokiaswamy, Pushparajan (Swami) & Pauline, Natasha Severe, Virginia Robinson from the DC team for their hard work on this project.

Please contact Lloyd A. Farmer 703-294-4473, Tonya Allen Shaw 202-720-5026 or AnnMarie Walker 202 461-6499 if you are interested in helping us with future events.

Win Baseball Tickets at next Luncheon!

There will be a drawing at every monthly luncheon for 2 free tickets to a Washington National's game. Another great incentive to attend the monthly meetings!

Winner!

Shirley Nguyen



Kathleen M. McGettigan

Deputy Associate Director,
Center for Retirement and Insurance Services

Biography

Kathleen McGettigan has held several financial management positions within the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) since joining Federal service in 1991. These included Assistant Director for Financial Management and Chief Financial Officer for the agency from 2000 through 2002.

She joined the Retirement and Insurance Service (RIS) of OPM in 1995 as the Assistant Director of the Office of Systems, Finance and Administration. As the controller for the service, she was responsible for budgeting, accounting and related financial administration of the benefit trust funds. She also managed the Information Technology mainframe resources for the agency and administrative functions of RIS.

Ms. McGettigan was appointed Deputy Associate Director for the Center for Retirement and Insurance Services in 2003. In that capacity, she is responsible for provision of retirement and insurance benefits to over 8.5 million customers, including Federal employees, retirees and their dependents.

Prior to entering the Federal sector, Ms. McGettigan was a senior Accountant at Deloitte, Haskins & Sells, a Senior Examiner at the American Stock Exchange and Vice President and Divisional Controller at Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, the international investment banking firm.

Ms. McGettigan, a Certified Public Accountant in New York State, earned both a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and a Masters of Business Administration degree in Taxation from St. John's University in New York City.

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Montgomery County AGA Events

05/19/09**May Dinner Meeting****Event Description:**

Presentation: Presentation to be given by AGA National President, Sam Mok.

CPEs: You will receive 1 CPE for attending this dinner meeting.

Community Service Activity: Please bring new or used toys to be provided to the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program.

Reception: 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Dinner and Speaker: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (approximate ending time)

Location: Hilton Hotel (formerly the Double Tree Inn) at 1750 Rockville Pike

Cost: \$30 per person - Checks made payable to "AGA".

RSVP: Please RSVP no later than COB on Monday, May 17th.

Metro and Parking: The Doubletree Hotel is located across the street from the Twinbrook Metro Station (Red Line). Self-Parking is complimentary in the hotel garage. Metered parking is available behind and on either side of the hotel.

Contact: [Scott Turnbull](#)

Phone: 301-931-2050

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Calendar of Events — 2008/2009 Program Year

Month	Luncheons	Community Service	Member Service	Education	Early Careers	Membership	Awards	CEC Meetings
August			17-Aug-2008 Washington Nationals Game: Pre-game Tailgate: 11:30 AM at RFK Stadium 1st Pitch: 1:35 PM	20-Aug-2008 Audio Conference: Everything You Wanted to Know About Performance Management and Reporting But Were Afraid to Ask Time: 2-4 PM CPEs: 2				6-Aug-2008 Veterans Administration Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
	17-Sep-2008	17-Sept-2008 American Cancer Society (Raffle) during the Luncheon		3-5 Sept-2008 10-12 Sept 2008 Training: CGFM CPEs: 48	19-Sep-2008 "Explore DC Series" Jazz Location: Sculpture Garden Time: 5:30pm			3 Sep 2008 Veterans Administration Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
September				10-Sep-2008 Audio Conference: Fraud Prevention and Detection Time: 2-4 PM CPEs: 2				
	14-Oct-2008	12-Oct-2008 Walk to D'Feet ALS® Constitution Gardens, Washington, DC	4-Oct-2008 C&O Canal Tour and Lunch	15-Oct-2008 Audio Conference: Results of AGA's Research on Performance Based Management Reporting Time: 2-4 PM CPEs: 2	Date: TBD	22-Oct-2008 Fall Membership Liaison Luncheon: The Value of Certifications Location: Veterans Administration		8-Oct-2008 Veterans Administration Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
October			23-Oct-2008 Haunted Tour of DC Location: 17th and I Exit of the Farragut West Metro Station Time: 7:30pm		23-Oct-2008 Early Careers Happy Hour Location: Chef Geoff's, Washington, DC Time: 5:30pm			
		14-Nov-2008 DC Chapter AGA's Food2Feed Thanksgiving Donation Old Post Office Pavilion, Washington, DC **Collection of donations are accepted until Nov. 14th**	Date: TBD		18-Nov-2008 Happy Hour Kickoff Location: ESPN Zone Time: 6:30pm			5-Nov-2008 Veterans Administration Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
November	10-Dec-2008	10-Dec-2008 Toys for Tots during the Luncheon	15-Dec-2008 AGA DC Holiday Happy Hour Location: Old Ebbitt Grill, Back Bar Time: 4:30 - 6:00pm	10-Dec-2008 Audio Conference: 21st Century Managers: New Mix of Skills and Education Levels Time: 2-4 PM CPEs: 2				
December								

Calendar of Events — 2008/2009 Program Year

	22-Jan-2008	22-Jan-2009	Date: TBD	15-Jan-2009	20-Jan-2009			
January	Luncheon Time: 11:45 - 1:45 Speaker and Location: Ken Carfine, Treasury Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Army Navy Club CPE: 1	Make-a-Wish Foundation during the Luncheon	Chinese New Year	Training: Internal Controls in the Federal Government-- Understanding A-123 Location: Ernst & Young, Washington DC Time: 8AM - 4:30PM CPEs: 8	Happy Hour Location: Buffalo Billiards Dupont Time: 6:30 PM			
				21-Jan-2009				
				Audio Conference: How XBRL Can Enable Improved Financial and Performance Reporting Location: Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC Time: 2-4 PM CPEs: 2				
February	18-Feb-2009	Date: TBD	3-Feb-2009		Date: TBD			
	Luncheon Time: 11:45am - 1:45pm Speaker and Location: Mr. Michael S. Miles, Principal Advisor and Chief Executive of Variplan, Army Navy Club CPE: 1	Volunteer Tax Assistance Program - (Throughout the Month of February)	Chinese New Year - Location: China Garden, Rosslyn, VA Time: 6:30 - 9:00pm		Lucky Strikes Event ***** Explore DC Series			
			25-Feb-2009	Wizards Game - Wizards vs. Philadelphia 76ers Location: Verizon Center, Washington, DC Time: 7pm				
March	19-Mar-2009	19-Mar-2009 / 28-Mar-2009			10-Mar-2009			
	Luncheon Time: 11:45am - 1:45pm Speaker and Location: Larry White, Captain, USCG (retired), CPA, CMA, CFP, CGFM and Executive Director of the Resource Consumption Accounting Institute, Army Navy Club CPE: 1	Dress for Success Suit Drive during the Luncheon ***** DC Habitat for Homeless			Luncheon Speaker Series Location: GAO Building			
					18-Mar-2009	Happy Hour Location: Chef Geoff's, Metro Center		
April	21-Apr-2009	Date: 21-Apr-2009	Date: TBD	8-Apr-2009	10-April-2008 17-April-2008	22-Apr-2009		
	Luncheon Time: 11:45 - 1:45 Speaker: Mike Wood Location: Clyde's CPE: 1	Cell Phones/Eyeglass Donation (Bring Cell Phones & Eyeglasses to Luncheon)	Virginia Vineyards Tour (new vineyards)	Audio Conference: "The Future of Government Auditing-- Which Direction(s) Are We Heading?" Location: Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, DC Time: 2-4 PM CPEs: 2	White House Tour	Spring Luncheon Time: 12:00pm -1:00pm Speaker and Location: TBD CPE: N/A		
May	20-May-2009	20-May-2009	Date: TBD	12 thru 13-May-2009	10-May-2009			
	Luncheon Time: 11:45 - 1:45 Speaker: Kathleen McGettigan Location: Army & Navy Club CPE: 1	Cell Phones/Eyeglass Donation during the Luncheon	Botanical Gardens *****	Training: "AGA-DC/GWSCPA Annual Conference - Financial Management in Challenging Times" Time: 8-4:30 PM Location: Ronald Reagan Building, Washington, DC CPEs: 15	US Capital Tour			
					19-May-2009	Happy Hour Location: Bar Louie, Chinatown		
June		16-Jun-2009	Date: TBD		4-Jun-2009		6-Jun-2009	
		So Others Might Eat (SOME) (Collection and donation will collected during the Luncheon)	Nationals Game and Tailgate		Explore DC Location: Kennedy Center Millenium Stage		Awards Dinner Location: Hyatt Hotel, WDC Time: TBD	
July		15-Jul-2009						
		ASMC/AGA Golf Tournament Contact Daniel Christovich for more details at dan@christovich.us						

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