

THE WASHINGTON CONNECTION

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS, WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER

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Truth in Accounting – What Does it Mean?

October 2, 2003 Luncheon Meeting

Sheila A. Weinberg will be speaking about Truth in Accounting at the October 2, 2003 DC AGA Chapter luncheon. Weinberg founded the Institute for Truth in Accounting in 2002. With the Board of Directors, she is responsible for setting the strategic direction for the organization. For the past ten years, Weinberg has been active with the Concord Coalition, a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to maintaining fiscal responsibility within the Federal government, including the financial security of Social Security and Medicare funding. It was her involvement with the Concord Coalition and her accounting background that led to the founding of the Institute for Truth in Accounting.

In 1998 Weinberg was honored with the Concord Coalition Outstanding Volunteer Award. She coordinated numerous Concord Coalition educational events, some of which were co-sponsored by members of Congress. She also developed Concord's Midwest college outreach program which brought a program of interactive budget exercises called Principles and Priorities into college classrooms across America. Prior to

her involvement with the Institute for Truth in Accounting, Weinberg worked as a certified public accountant for accounting firms and computer consulting companies. Most recently, she was vice president of Pro Consulting, a computer, accounting, and television production consulting company.

Currently, Weinberg serves as an independent legislative advisor to Congressman Mark Kirk for Federal budgeting and accounting issues. She has also assisted Congressman John Porter in helping to educate his constituents about these issues. Her editorials about the Federal budget, Social Security, Medicare and other national issues have appeared in USA Today, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times and Pioneer Press. She has been a guest on national and local television and radio shows and is often engaged to speak on Federal budget issues.

Weinberg earned her Bachelor of Accounting degree from the University of Denver, which she attended on an academic scholarship. She received her certified public accountant credential in 1981.



OCTOBER 2ND LUNCHEON

11:30 - 12:00 Social, 12:00-1:10 Luncheon Meeting
Members \$22.00, Non-Members \$35.00

For reservations, please call the AGA Washington DC Chapter voice mail line at 703.758.4080 and select option 1 or register on-line at the AGA-DC home page: www.agadc.org. Please include your name, agency/company, and telephone number and menu choice. Choices are broiled sole with scallops or sirloin medallions.

Metro stops: Blue/orange/yellow/green lines: L'Enfant Plaza stop. From metro, take Exit for 7th and D, Dept of Transportation. Walk across plaza to your right toward HUD and 7th St. Turn left on 7th St., walk four and a half blocks to I St. Right on I St. at the Riverside Baptist Church. One block to Maine Ave., cross over to Water St. Channel Inn and Pier 7 Restaurant are on your left. (9 minute walk from metro)

Green line: Waterfront/SEU stop. From metro, turn right on M st. Walk one block to 6th St. and at Arena Stage, cross Maine Ave toward waterfront and Gangplank/Odyssey. Turn right on Water St. Channel Inn and Pier 7 Restaurant are one block to your right. (6 minute walk from metro).

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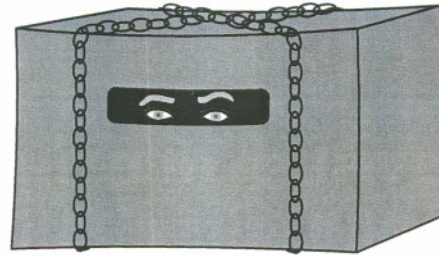
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Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA



Financial Data Conversion

Converting to a New System

Moving to a new system presents all sorts of challenges, not the least of which is how to represent data from the old system. Some agencies convert the old data into an old fiscal year which is then closed, while others load them in as beginning balances to the new year. Loading into an old year more faithfully replicates what had been done in the old system, but having two years open at once may cause confusion and usually taxes the system (i.e., two sets of year-to-date reports have to be run and often there are no beginning balances in the new year until the old year is closed).

Posting Documents in the Beginning Balance

If documents are loaded as beginning balances, care must be taken that no temporal accounts (such as expenses or appropriations used) are posted and no spending adjustments recorded. This special posting logic must be changed to the regular model before recording any activity in the current year (such as cancellations, modifications, or liquidations). Below are a handful of examples of document postings for converting documents into beginning balances:

	Normal posting logic		Beginning balance posting logic	
Appropriation	1010 Cash 4119 Approp'n	3101 App Cap 4450 Available <i>assumes no lower-level budgets will post in old years.</i>	1010 Cash 4201 Resources	3100 App Cap 4650 Available
Old-Year Obligation	4650 Exp Auth	4881 Up Adj Obl	4650 Exp Auth	4801 Undel Ord
Accrual of Appropriated Obligation	6100 Expense 4801 Undel Ord 3107 A/C Used	2190 Accr Liab 4901 Unpd Expd 5701 Expd Appr	3100 Appr Cap 4801 Undel Ord	2190 Accr Liab 4901 Unpd Expd
Vendor Billing	1310 Acct Recv	6790 Unfnd Exp	1310 Acct Recv	3310 Cum Res
Reimbursement Billing	1310 Acct Recv 4251 Reim Recv	5200 Servc Rev 4221 Reim Agr	1310 Acct Recv 4251 Reim Recv	3310 Cum Res 4650 Exp Auth <i>assumes no reimbursable agreements will post in old years.</i>
Advance	1410 Advances 4802 Pd Und Ord	1010 Cash 4801 Undel Ord	1410 Advances 4802 Pd Und Ord	1010 Cash 4801 Undel Ord

Normally, one would never post to accounts like 4201 Total Actual Resources - Collected, 3100 Unexpended Appropriations - Cumulative, or 3310 Cumulative Results of Operations. However, conversion does not record new transactions. It only tries to replicate the balances in the old system, so these postings are proper. Of course, steps must be taken to ensure that these postings are made only to beginning balances.

The views presented in this article are the views of Simcha Kuritzky and do not represent the views of the AGA or AMS. Please send comments, suggestions, and critiques to Simcha.Kuritzky@ams.com.

Visit to ... National Zoological Park

Member Services in partnership with the Northern Virginia and Montgomery/Prince Georges Chapters is sponsoring a "Tour of the Smithsonian's Zoological Park" on Sunday, November 9. We will meet at the visitor's center (Connecticut Avenue entrance) by 1:30 p.m. Animal buildings are open until 4:30 p.m. This will give us three hours to visit with the animals, break for refreshments and browse the gift and bookshops. There should be ample parking in parking lot "A" for a \$5 fee. There is no charge for entrance to the Zoo. Wear comfortable clothes and walking shoes. If you are interested in this activity, please let us know. Send your electronic response or direct any questions to karl.l.boettcher@usdoj.gov (202.874.3611). For more information, you also can contact the Zoo at (202.673.4800).

Webmailing?

Would you like to receive e-mail reminders of our monthly meetings and conferences? If so, please go to www.agadc.org to sign up for our mailing list in the Member Services section of the website.

Oktoberfest

October 25th 6:00pm-11:00pm



The AGA Washington Chapter, Member Services in partnership with the Baltimore Chapter is sponsoring an "Oktoberfest" at Blobs Park on Saturday, October 25, from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m.

Come and enjoy the "Gemutlichkeit" with German food, drink and dancing along with the entertainment provided by the original Bavarian dance club (Schuhplattler Verein) starting at 7 p.m. and the Rheinlanders Polka band starting at 8 p.m. The Blobs Park Pavilion is located in Jessup Maryland just off the Baltimore/Washington Parkway and RT 175E on Blobs Park Road. Admission at the door is \$7.00 per person and \$9.50 for the all you can eat traditional German buffet, including bratwurst, sauerbraten, dumplings, sauerkraut, and red cabbage along with roast beef or ham. Traditional American menu selections also are available. Drinks are extra. The charge for children 12 and under is ½ the price and children under 5 are free. Plenty of complementary parking is available next to the pavilion. Dress is casual.

If you are interested in attending this activity, contact karl.l.boettcher@usdoj.gov (202.874.6131) by Thursday, October 2. For more information you can also contact Blobs Park (410.799.0155).

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Washington DC Chapter AGA Board Meeting Minutes from Tuesday September 2nd, 2003

Fifteen Members of the board participated. The following topics were discussed:

The Treasurer reported all the files have been put in order, the Bank Account is reconciled to 6/30/2003 and deposits are up to date. Next step is to get Accounts Receivable sorted out.

The Meeting Schedule was distributed. The location and details for the Awards Dinner were discussed. Options include Treasury Cash Room, Library of Congress and the Grand Hyatt. Program/Speakers Director Phyllis Hunter announced the speakers for the next several meetings including Sheila Weinberg (Oct), Linda Springer (Nov), Wendy Comes (Jan) and Karen Alderman (Feb).

John Cherbini, Education Chair, announced that he and Susan Johnson would be getting together soon to start planning the two-day educational conference. Bob Reid announced that he has been in discussion with the Washington DC Society of CPA's on a joint training session. More to follow.

President Bob Reid commended the Newsletter Team for a great job. Harris Gofstein asked if it is possible to validate current recipient list. Dan Christovich will contact National to inquire about how records are maintained.

Bob Reid will discuss AGA awards and agency liaisons at the September 9 CFO Council meeting. Karl Boettcher suggested seeking both Government and Private Sector liaisons.

Sponsorship Director John Cherbini reported that six potential sponsors are lined up, although funds have not been sent in. Meeting is scheduled for 9/15 to develop additional details. Bob Reid mentioned that when we have an idea of what sponsor funds we have coming, we can think about what other initiatives we might want to do.

Member Services and Social Events Director Karl Boettcher announced the social hour on Thursday, September 11, and the Octoberfest event on Saturday, October 18 at Blob's Park, Jessup Maryland from 6:00 pm to 11:00pm.

Andy Kilgore has taken over for Cis Kuennen as Community Service Director.

Awards Director, Stu Eisenman distributed AGA National awards information and proposed initial guidelines for Chapter Awards. The program was discussed and will continue to be developed.

Bob welcomed the new CGFM coordinator, Peter Gilmour.

Webmaster, Harris Gofstein, reported everything is going smoothly, the newsletter is out and Jim Swartz is signed on to be the Assistant Webmaster and is coming up to speed.

Bob Reid proposed raising the chapter dues to \$20.00.

PDC Update – the Washington, DC PDC is June 27th – 30th. The basic structure will be a little different than in the past, with various tracks. Pat Wenzel and Eva Williams will get more information for us as to what is expected of as a Host Chapter.

Relmond VanDaniker will be the new National AGA Executive Director effective October 1. Check the AGA Website for Bio. agacgm.org/homepage.aspx

National will be looking for nominations for the National Officers very soon.

The next Director's Meeting will be held at JFMIP on October 7, 2003.



Chapter Meetings, Talk it up and ATTEND!

10/02/03	Luncheon
11/13/03	Breakfast
12/11/03	Holiday Get-together
01/08/04	Luncheon
02/12/04	Luncheon
03/11/04	Luncheon
04/04/04	Awards Dinner
05/13/04	Luncheon



CPE Opportunity - September 30, 2003

"Producing an Excellent Performance and Accountability Report"

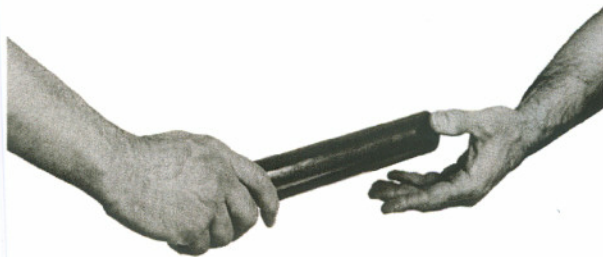
AGA's Annual Performance and Accountability Report Preparer's Training has arrived. AGA's Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) ® Program continues to help agencies improve their Performance and Accountability Reports (PARs). Reserve your spot at this popular event, set for the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C.

Contact Lisa Thatcher, director of the CEAR Program, at 800.AGA.7211, ext. 212, or via e-mail at lthatcher@agacgfm.org. Visit www.agacgfm.org/performance/cear for more detailed program information.

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AGA Washington Chapter Membership Services Events 2003-2004

In an effort to provide our membership with a variety of social activities, Members Services is scheduling the following events for the coming membership year. These events represent some new initiatives and repeats of our most successful prior year's activities. We will again attempt to partner our activities with, local

AGA chapters and other professional organizations. Also, watch for our participation in additional partnership activities being planned by other regional AGA chapters and by our own Community Service and Early Careers.

Date	Event	Partnership
October 25, 2003	Oktoberfest at Blob's Park	NVA/PG/Balt Chapters Early Careers
November 2, 2003	Visit National Zoo	NVA/PG Chapters
December 16, 2003	U.S. Naval Observatory Tour	
January 17, 2004	Chinese New Year Dinner	Sam Mok, CFO, Dept of Labor
March 13, 2004	Tour of the National Cathedral	NVA/PG Chapters
April, 2004	Mt. Vernon Tour	
May 30, 2004	Wolf Trap Event	
May/June, 2004	Attend Baltimore Orioles or Northern Virginia Cannons Baseball Game	NVA/Balt Chapters Early Careers
June, 2004	Golf Tournament	ASMC/KPMG

Additional event information will be provided as the activity draws near and more information becomes available. Some of the activities may be subject to change due to our partnership with the GWSCPA, ASMC and the AGA - NVA, PG and Baltimore chapters. Please check your newsletter, web site or agency liaison for the latest event update. Due to advance notification

requirements and space limitations, most activities will have a response cut off date. If you are interested in an activity please let us know as soon as possible. Send your responses or direct any questions to our chapter Member Services Director, Karl Boettcher at karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov (202.874.6131).

Job Announcements

Job Type	Series	Agency	Announcement Number	Application Close Date	Contact
Staff Accountant	GS-0510-07/09	Bureau of Customs and Border Protection	HHFIN/03-004JDB	10/08/2003	202.927.3295
Accountant	GS-0510-14	National Resources Conservation Service	NRCS 03-604B	10/02/2003	202.720.4264

If your organization would like to list job announcements in the newsletter, please send announcement information to diane.wright@ams.com.

Newsletter Comments or Suggestions?

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter? Do you have an article you'd like to see in print? The deadline for submitting articles to appear in the November 2003 issue is October 14, 2003. Please send your comments and contributions to the newsletter editor, Diane Wright at diane.wright@ams.com.

AGA Supports the Annual Walk to D'Feet ALS

For the fourth consecutive year, AGA's Washington DC chapter is supporting the Walk to D'Feet ALS, in honor of AGA friend Mrs. Joan Killgore. The walk, sponsored by the ALS Association's National Capital Area Chapter, benefits those afflicted with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), more commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's Disease. The walk is held as part of a national effort in support of local patient services and nationally directed research.

ALS is a fatal disease affecting, and eventually restricting, muscle movement. A patient's mind remains unaffected, but the body will become totally paralyzed. About 30,000 Americans currently suffer from ALS. While there is no known cure for this debilitating disease, current experimental treatments that slow its progression are available. However, your support for this research is still needed.

One of our longstanding members, Mr. Andy Killgore, initiated AGA's support of the walk in honor of his wife, Mrs. Joan Killgore. Mrs. Killgore worked with the Department of the Interior before

succumbing to ALS. Our team will walk under the team name, Joan's Wayward Walkers. Mr. Killgore currently works as the Assistant Inspector General for Audits at the Government Printing Office.

The walk by the reflecting pool begins at 10am at the Lincoln Memorial on Sunday, October 19. You are not required to complete the whole 3 mile course—any walking support is welcome. Registration begins at 9am, and the walk begins at 10am. Come join in a truly rewarding experience and show your support for those afflicted with ALS.

You can make contributions online or directly in the team's name even if you do not walk. To register for the team and receive your fundraising guide, please visit the ALS website at www.alsinfo.org/alsinfo/Walk1.html. When you register, please indicate that your team is "Joan's Wayward Walkers" and your team captain is Andy Killgore. We will send information about where to meet shortly before the event!

In need of CPE?

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A New Paradigm for Implementing COTS - Mini Conference Summary

On September 11th Bill Webb and Raj Bartakke from Oracle Federal Civilian Consulting spoke about implementing Commercial-Off-the-Shelf (COTS) solutions. Many federal agencies are implementing or planning implementations of COTS solutions to meet their business processes. Over the past year, Oracle Corporation has been developing an approach for deploying COTS solutions that is aimed at mitigating project risks including cost overruns, schedule slippage and scope creep. This

session described Oracle Consulting's Business Flows Accelerator (BFA) approach which focuses on implementing systems using leading commercial and public sector business flows as opposed to application features and functions. In addition, the session reviewed some of the common issues inherent with traditional, waterfall COTS implementations and highlight the differences involved with following a "flows-based" approach.

Report Says Federal Executives Earn More than Execs at Nonprofits

Federal executives earn more money than most nonprofit executives, according to a new study by the Congressional Budget Office. If nonprofit organizations of all sizes are considered, federal executives on average made about \$40,000 more last year than nonprofit executives, the study, Comparing the Pay of Federal and Nonprofit Executives: An Update concluded. "The median salary for chief financial officers of large nonprofit organizations was about \$98,000 in 2002, far below the

federal median of \$138,200," the report said. Despite that finding, the CBO concluded that "the median salary for chief executive officers at nonprofit organizations with annual budgets of \$25 million or more was about \$176,800 in 2002, whereas the median salary for federal executives was \$138,200.

—Tanya N. Ballard, Government Executive.

Read more at www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0803/080503t1.htm.

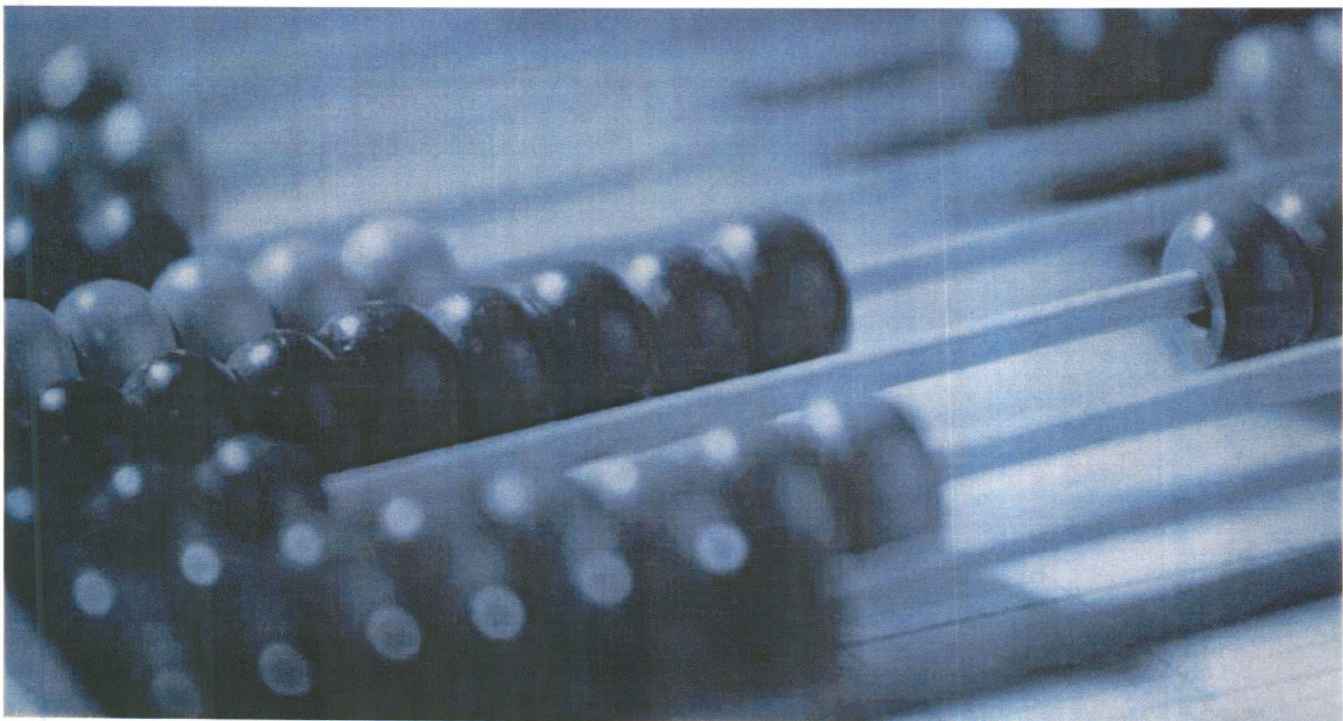
Job Site Slated for Senior Executives

Federal executives and senior-level specialists interested in finding positions inside and outside the government will soon be able to use a new job portal offered by the Senior Executives Association (SEA). SEA is teaming up with Avue Technologies, a public sector work force management company based in Tacoma, WA, to create the web portal, which will begin registering users in September, according to SEA President Carol Bonosaro.

The site will allow SEA's 7,000 members to create an online resume that can be used to apply for multiple positions and be available to employers. Users can also hide their resumes from certain employers and track who has viewed their information in the system. Avue is developing the site at no cost to SEA.

—Tanya N. Ballard, Government Executive.

Read more at www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0803/080803t1.htm.



Report on Top Accounting Firms Details Consolidation, Barriers

The GAO has released a report warning regulators of the risk of sanctions against the remaining Big Four public accounting firms, while also pointing out that they should not feel that they are "too few to fail." The report, *Public Accounting Firms: Mandated Study on Consolidation and Competition*, was developed by the GAO for Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the House Committee on Financial Services. The GAO study points to consolidation in the accounting profession and the demise of Arthur Andersen as leaving the audits of public companies in the hands of just a few firms. "It is important that

regulators and enforcement agencies continue to balance the firms' and the individuals' responsibilities when problems are uncovered and to target sanctions accordingly," the report said. It suggests the possibility of curbing any additional consolidation among the Big Four to preserve competition in the industry. "For example, when appropriate, hold partners and employees rather than the entire firm accountable and consider the implications of sanctions on the audit market."

—AccountingWeb.

Read more at www.accountingweb.com/item/97903.

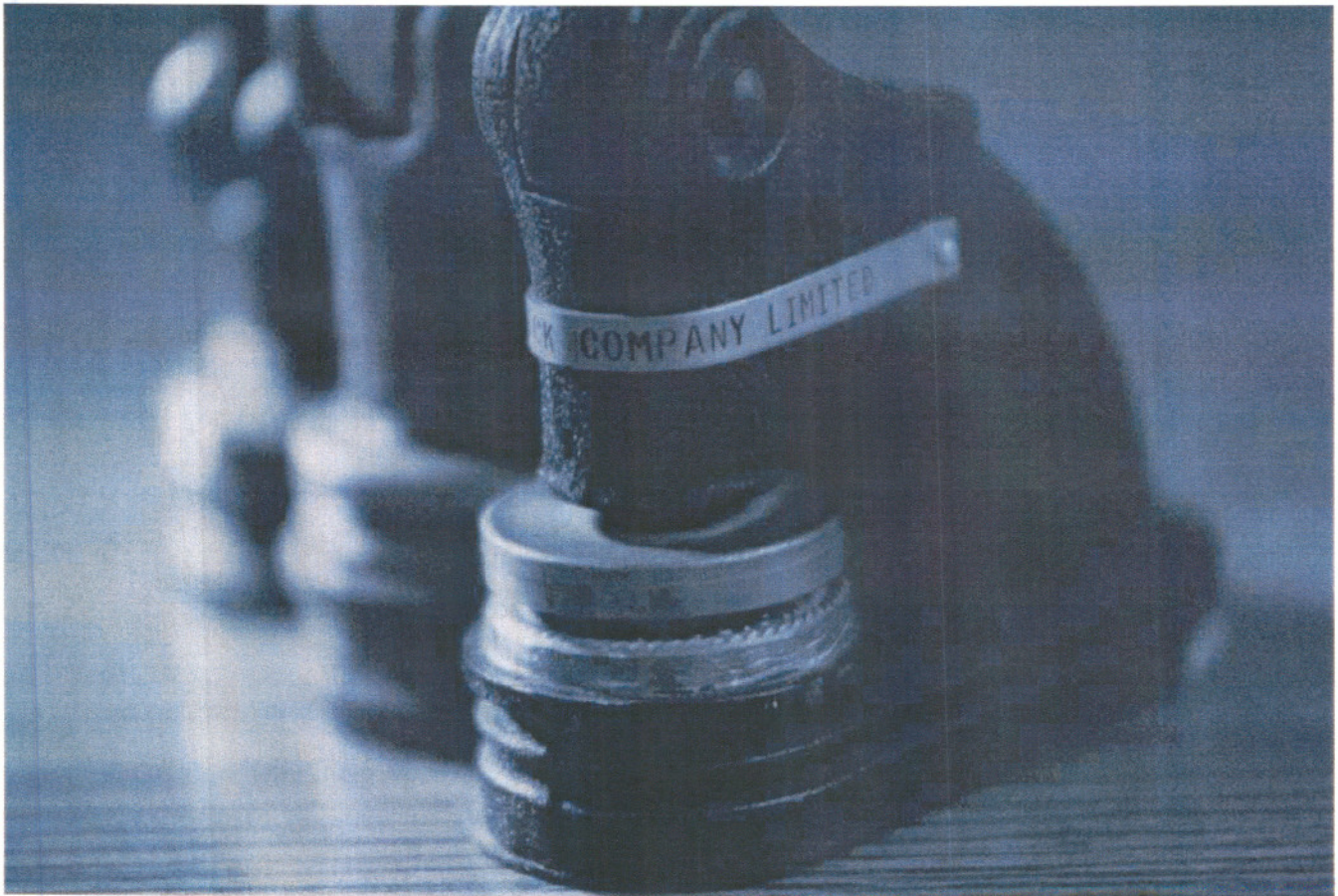
Report Says Communication Hallmark of Successful Reorganizations

Successful mergers of government agencies require a new organizational culture, extensive communication with stakeholders, swift implementation and time for adjustment, a new report says. During the past few years, several federal agencies have undergone major reorganizations, including the 22 agencies merged to create the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in November 2002. When the DHS reorganization was first proposed in June 2002, advocates said the government needed to consolidate homeland security operations currently spread among numerous agencies. In the following months

Congress and the Bush administration debated how best to align the agencies in the department, as well as tie together agencies' separate data infrastructure and personnel systems. Much of this work is still going on, with Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge and Office of Personnel Management Director Kay Coles James currently collaborating with the major federal employee unions to develop a personnel system for the new department.

—Tanya N. Ballard, Government Executive.

Read more at www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0803/080603t1.htm



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