

The Washington Connection

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS
WASHINGTON D.C. CHAPTER



Issue 6 • March 2008

In This Issue

President's Message	2
Note From the Editor	4
AGADC Financial Status	7
Member Profile: Kim Farington	9-10
Early Career Member Update	12
Member Services	12
February Luncheon Recap	13
Membership Agency Liaison	13
Announcements	14
Inside the Black Box	15-16
Northern Virginia Fraud Conference	17-19
FSIO Conference	20
Montgomery County Chapter Events	21
Federal News	22
AGADC Member Happenings	23
Financial Mgt. in Changing Times	24
Awards	25-27
Community Service- Dress-For-Success	28
CGFM	29
2007-2008 Calendar of Events	31
Officers and Directors	32



When I let go
of what I am,
I become what
I might be.

-Lao Tzu

LUNCHEON SERIES

March 26, 2008 (11:30 a.m. - 1:30 pm)

Members \$25
Non-Members \$30

BILL BOUTBOUL

We're very excited to welcome Bill Boutboul, Assistant Director in FMA at GAO, as our luncheon speaker on March 26, 2008. Bill led GAO's Statement of Social Insurance audit work at CMS this past year. He will provide an overview of the audit of the consolidated financial statements of the U.S. government, including GAO's approach to auditing the government-wide Statement of Social Insurance.

Zola restaurant - 800 F Street, NW - next to the International Spy Museum (one block from the Gallery Place/Chinatown red/yellow/green line Metro)

For more details, see <http://agadc.org/mlunch2.php>

Register online at <https://secure.serve.com/AGADC/lform2.php>

SAVE THE DATE Spring Conference

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2008

[Read More](#)

Announcements

AGA D.C.'s Mentor Program: Now Open to All!

[Read More](#)

Now Accepting Hotel Reservations for PDC 2008

[Read More](#)

Dress for Success

[Read More](#)

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](#)

President's Message - March 2008

by Dan Christovich, President

Spring is in the air! Even with the relatively mild winter we've had, I still enjoy those sure signs of warmer weather and longer days right around the corner.



I was thinking recently about baseball and Spring Training. I thought that it really must be nice for those players to have an off-season, and then head to warm climates and practice where it doesn't count for much, before they return to their home parks and fans for the regular season and the chase for glory. At first I thought "wouldn't it be nice to have half a year to get in shape and play for fun before the real work started?" But then I realized that I was looking at baseball from the wrong perspective. The regular season might be what casual fans like me consider the "real work", but for the owners, managers, groundskeepers and players, I would guess that baseball is real work all year around, just like our jobs are real work for us. So, do those of us in financial management get an off-season, or Spring Training? Or is every day Game Day? Again, I think it's all a matter of perspective. I know there are never ending cycles and processes in our world of work, and if we manage by deadline it sometimes feels that we never get a break. The latest press is full of complaints by government officials at all levels complaining about increased oversight and more and more demands for reports and information that are threatening to cripple already overworked government agencies.

I think it's up to all of us to determine what our "business cycle" is and to give ourselves and the people that work for us time to take a break, time to get some refresher training, and time to get ready for the "regular season". How this is accomplished would obviously depend on the nature of the work accomplished in your office. Wouldn't it be nice if you could take your whole team to Arizona or south Florida for six weeks every year?

For those of us in the AGA Washington DC Chapter, I think we just began what in our community could be considered Spring Training with AGA's 6th Annual National Leadership Conference. Next up is the FSIO Conference on March 11th, followed by the Chapter sponsored training conferences. Perhaps you could get your whole team to use these conferences as a Spring Training event for the office. If you can't all attend one or two conferences together, maybe have a few people attend each one and then you could get together for a day or two back in the office and compare notes. This might be a great way to begin a new strategic planning cycle for your office. I hope to see everyone at our March luncheon, attendance was a little off in February (speaking of busy schedules), and at the upcoming member services activities.

I want to personally thank all of our Chapter Executive Committee members for the hard work they do to keep our Chapter running smoothly, and of course I want to thank all of our very generous corporate sponsors who make it possible for us to have such a diverse and enriching program of activities.

Sincerely,

Dan Christovich

Dan Christovich

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Note From the Editor

by *Emily Asmus, Editor*

First off, let me say thank you for all those who submitted articles - there is a lot of knowledge in this group, whose articles, I am fortunate enough to review and publish. Our team took a lot of time to produce a high quality newsletter notifying AGA D.C. members of Chapter and National events, services, and the people supporting this professional organization. And, if you are not already a member, we encourage you to join AGA D.C. Chapter and enjoy the many benefits it offers, in particular the high quality luncheon series, learning opportunities, and conferences.



This year we decided to install a "Letters to the Editor" page in The Washington Connection, allowing members of the AGA D.C. Chapter to voice their opinions on any matters of concern to AGA D.C. Chapter. As a rule, we will only publish signed letters and reserve the right to crop submissions for the sake of space. Before submitting a letter/comment to the editor, please consider the following:

- Relate your issue to a recent chapter event or article
- Keep submissions short and concise
- State your main point at the beginning
- If applicable, please include the article title and author you are addressing
- Send articles to Emily.Asmus@gt.com with "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line

As a general rule, if you have something to say, say it! We also encourage you to submit your suggestions, comments, or questions about the AGA D.C. Newsletter. We have made some significant changes to the layout and would love to know what you think. After all, this is your newsletter, the strength of this page and general publication depends on your comments.

*"But words are things, and a small drop of ink,
Falling, like dew, upon a thought produces
That which makes thousands,
Perhaps millions think."*

Lord George Gordon BYRON
English poet (1788-1824)

Thank you for your words,

Emily Asmus

Emily Asmus
AGA D.C. Chapter Newsletter Editor

Newsletter Team

Emily Asmus, Editor

Leon Fleisher, Assistant Editor

Erwin Solbach, Graphics

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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

Connect to the World of Government

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Government
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>

AGADC Financial Status

Year to Date Revenue as of 12/31/07

\$84,918

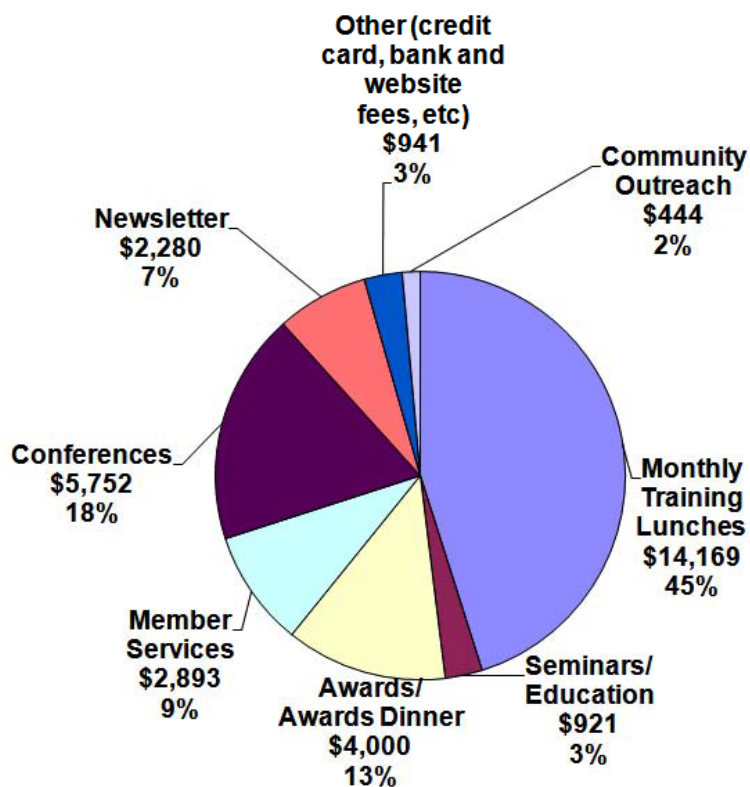
Year to Date Expenses as of 12/31/07

Monthly Training Lunches	\$14,169	45%
Seminars/ Education	\$ 921	3%
Awards/ Awards Dinner	\$ 4,000	13%
Member Services	\$ 2,893	9%
Conferences	\$ 5,752	18%
Newsletter	\$ 2,280	7%
Other (credit card, bank and website fees, etc)	\$ 941	3%
Community Outreach	\$ 444	1%
Total Expenses	\$31,400	100%

Net Income as of 12/31/07

\$53,518

AGA DC Chapter Year to Date Expenses as of 12/31/07



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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.

Who is Kim Farington?

Name:

Kim Farington

AGA Position: Assistant Director for Programs



Agency: Office of Management and Budget

Title: Policy Analyst

Background: I am currently a Policy Analyst in the Office of Federal

Financial Management at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). In this role, I monitor the President's Management Agenda scorecard for Improved Financial Performance and oversee implementation of financial management systems throughout the Federal government. I also oversee the development and adoption of the Common Government-wide Accounting Classification Structure and the standard business processes created under the Financial Management Line of Business.

Prior to joining OMB, I was an Accountant in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) (OUSD(C)). There I was responsible for the development, implementation, and continued financial improvement & audit readiness for the Department of Defense's \$70 billion in environmental liabilities and \$221 billion in inventory and operating materials & supplies.

Before becoming a member of OUSD(C), I was the Business Financial Manager for three Major Information System Programs, served as a Systems Accountant where I developed numerous programs, as well as served as Chief of Interfund within the Department of Defense. I was also a member of the Financial Management Modernization Program (FMMP) which developed the initial version of the enterprise architecture for the Department. In this role with FMMP, I initiated the development of the standard accounting code structure, now known as the Standard Financial Information Structure, for the Department.

I am a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Virginia, with over 17 years of Government service, and recipient of the Office of the Secretary of Defense Exceptional Civilian Service Medal.

As a member of AGA, I previously served as the AGA Regional Vice President for Membership in the North Central Region and the Indianapolis chapter.

How long have you been a member of AGA? I have been a member since 1997. Each year I have become more involved in AGA activities, and each year has resulted in more rewarding experiences, both personally and professionally.

How has AGA helped you with your career? AGA has had a multi-faceted impact on my career. I have had the opportunity to meet exceptional members or enhance my existing relationships over the years through participation at AGA events-luncheons, conferences, and training events. As a former AGA Regional Vice President for Membership for the North Central Region, I was afforded the opportunity to meet AGA members across the region as well as the country, some of whom I continue work with over the years. Further, taking advantage of the numerous educational opportunities presented by AGA has provided me with first-hand knowledge of current and emerging issues that impact efforts which I am working. The network of extraordinary people, the educational opportunities, the luncheons, and the conferences have all made a positive difference in my career.

What advice do you have for someone thinking of joining the AGA? I strongly encourage anyone considering joining AGA to become a member. Many prospective members are under the impression that AGA is an Association just for Accountants, which is not the case. Although many accountants are members, AGA is an Association for anyone interested in improving government financial management.

What is the best thing about working in government service? I enjoy the gratification knowing that I am making a long-lasting difference to improve Federal financial management. With my 17 years of Federal government experience, I have recognized areas whereby processes can be streamlined. I appreciate having the opportunity to suggest improvements and as well as being afforded the opportunity to make the changes which result in efficiencies and improved financial management significant to personnel within and outside the Federal financial management arena in the future.

Who is Kim Farington? (Cont'd)

What has been the biggest obstacle in getting where you are today? Time, or lack thereof, seems to be the biggest obstacle for me. During events, such as AGA conferences and luncheons, members make suggestions for ways to improve current financial management practices. Between these suggestions and my own analysis of existing and potential policy, it is a challenge to find the time to address all issues immediately as each challenge is raised. I find that developing policy is a lengthy process when done as comprehensively as I like. It takes time to identify all possible options, and subsequently weigh the benefits as well as consequences of each option before determining which approach is the most effective for government moving forward.

What is your favorite hobby or outside activity? My favorite hobby is traveling. My most memorable trip was recently to Bordeaux, France. I stayed at an old Chateau situated right on the Garonne River and not only enjoyed the unforgettable scenery of Bordeaux, but I also enjoyed barrel-tasting from some of the most noted Chateaus in the region.

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream? My favorite ice cream is Ben & Jerry's Chocolate Fudge Brownie. Yummy!

Anything else that you would like to highlight? The Washington DC Chapter of AGA is a wonderful chapter with which to be involved. The expertise each member brings to the chapter is noteworthy. Building on this expertise, the Washington D.C. chapter can collectively synergize to improve government financial management beyond expectations.

Kim Farington

Kim Farington, CPA

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[VSCPA Home Page \(Virginia\)](#)

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Early Career Members Update

Here's a brief update of Early Careers activities, past and future.

Capitol Region Early Careers enjoyed a Happy Hour at Buffalo Billiards in Dupont Circle. The AGADC chapter joined with members from the AGA Northern Virginia and Montgomery/Prince George's County for a great social event and networking opportunity.

Upcoming Early Career Events:

White House Tour February 28th

Members plan to visit the White House and experience our nation's heritage. Another White House tour is being planned for this year.

Early Careers Seminar "The Future Executive: Leadership & Accountability"; March 13; 5pm - 9pm.

The Northern Virginia Chapter of AGA would like to invite you to our Early Careers Seminar, titled "The Future Executive: Leadership & Accountability." It is scheduled for March 13th at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Old Town Alexandria, VA, from 5--9PM and should be an educational and rewarding experience. Last year's event was attended by roughly 100 attendees, 60% of whom were Early Careers Members. Contact: Jim Davis at jbdavis@dodig.mil

United States Capitol Tour, April 2008

AGA DC would like to invite you one another great tour in April! The U.S. Capitol is one of the most widely recognized buildings in the world. It is a symbol of the American people and their government, the meeting place of the nation's legislature, an art and history museum, and a tourist attraction visited by millions every year. Exact date and details to follow...

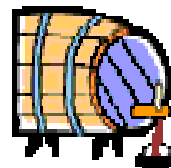
Member Services



As many of you know, the February trip to the Capitals game with the Northern Virginia Chapter was a huge success. Once again, thank you to our sponsors of that event: Savantage, MIL Corp, KPMG, Delta Solutions, PwC, and Clifton Gunderson.

We have some exciting events for you in the next couple of months. First, on Friday, March 7, the Chapter will be attending the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History Jazz Café. The event will begin at 6:30pm. That evening the Statesmen of Jazz will be presenting "Five Play". This should be a wonderful event and we are very excited to be able to offer it to our members free of charge. Thank you in advance to the sponsors of this event: Savantage, Grant Thornton, MIL Corp, KPMG, Ernst & Young, Management Concepts.

In April we will be bringing you the very popular Virginia Wine Tour. This event will be held on Saturday, April 12th. There will be more details to follow in an email to Chapter. Please remember to register early as this event fills up quickly!



February Luncheon Recap



Steve spoke about the challenges facing CFO's in the federal government, and offered the position that CFO's influence may be in descendency given the human capital, compliance and analytical challenges they face.

He is actively engaged in working to strengthen the program and cost analysis capabilities at DOE, and is working through the CFO Council to launch specific efforts to improve training and hiring programs for federal financial management staffs. Overall, Steve is optimistic that

improvements will be made, but firmly believes that certain core financial management functions must be carried out by competent federal staff to ensure the long term success of CFO's.

Membership Agency Liaison

APRIL 24, 2008:

LIAISON/MENTORING LUNCHEON

By: The Membership Team

Marguerite Nealon, Membership Co-Director;
LeAnn Corcoran, Membership Co-Director; and
Ruthie Apelt, Membership Assistant Director

Agency and Corporate Liaisons and Those Interested in the AGA D.C. Mentoring Program: Please mark Thursday, April 24, 2008, Noon to 1:00 p.m. on your calendars!

Once again the Membership Team will be hosting our free luncheon for liaisons and those interested in our thriving mentoring program. Come hear how liaisons are building AGA D.C. membership in their organizations! And for a new twist, we'll hear a panel of mentors and mentees discuss what our mentoring program is doing for them and what they have learned from the experience. Panelists

will include Scott Bell of the Department of Treasury, past President of AGA D.C..along with other distinguished panelists.

Sign up now, if you are interested in attending! We'll try to accommodate everyone interested in participating - but don't forget: last fall we had an overwhelming response to our liaison/ mentoring luncheon, so it's best to sign up early. The location of our luncheon will be announced at a later time.

Please contact one of us at the following e-mail addresses:

- Ruthie Apelt, ruth.apelt@thomson.com;
- Marguerite Nealon, marguerite.nealon@fms.treas.gov;
- LeAnn Corcoran, lcorcoran@savantage.net.

Announcements

AGA D.C.'s Mentor Program: Now Open to All!

by The Membership Team—LeAnn Corcoran and Marguerite Nealon, Membership Co-Directors, and Ruth Apelt, Assistant Membership Director

Last spring the Membership Team of the AGA D.C. Chapter initiated a Mentor Program, pairing retirees with Early Career members, (chapter members with five or less years of government financial management experience.) Due to the enormous interest we received, we are broadening the program to include every member who would like a mentor, regardless of their career stage. We now have an even larger pool of mentors-five people with Federal government and private sector experience. Would you like a mentor...or to be a mentor? If so, read on.

About the Program

The Program serves to facilitate member's professional development and enhance government accountability skills. Mentees receive one-on-one coaching from one or more mentors. Experienced professionals and retirees contribute to the professional development of our members. Before selecting their mentor, mentees have the opportunity to meet the mentors and review their résumés. The Membership Team is the conduit for exchanging information and getting the relationship off and running. The program is voluntary and open only to Chapter members.

Program Benefits

For mentees, benefits of the program include opportunities to:

- Enhance core financial management competencies
- Learn how others have advanced their careers in government accountability
- Seek advice or guidance for a specific work challenge
- Discover how greater involvement in the AGA D.C. Chapter can develop or strengthen one's management and leadership skills
- Develop further networking avenues

For mentors, the benefits include opportunities to:

- Give back to the profession by sharing knowledge and wisdom
- Have a meaningful impact on an individual's career development
- Build deeper relationships with other Chapter members

Participation

To sign up for the Mentor Program, please contact Marguerite Nealon wnealon01@aol.com or LeAnn Corcoran lcocorcoran@savantage.net.

Now Accepting Hotel Reservations for PDC 2008

It's time to look ahead to the 2008 PDC in Atlanta! Next year's conference will take place July 27 - 30 at the Marriott Atlanta Marquis. Everyone attending the conference will be housed in this hotel; AGA's room block is now open. Be sure to mention that you are attending the AGA PDC when making your reservation.

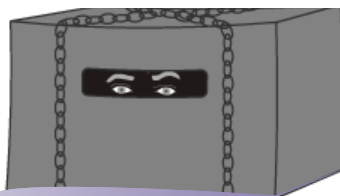
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Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA



Correcting Errors and Estimates

Introduction

Federal agencies have to follow private-sector GAAP where not superseded by federal guidance. In May 2005, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued SFAS 154 Accounting Changes and Error Corrections. This document describes three methods of handling corrections of prior activity.

Estimates - Prospective Correction

Where an estimate is changed, even radically, the affect is handled prospectively (only affects future transactions). For example, if an asset was depreciated based on a seven-year life, but two years later it was determined its useful life is really six years, only depreciation taken after that point is affected. If the depreciable amount (cost less salvage value) is \$600,000, the original depreciation rate would be $\$600,000 / (7 * 12) = \$7142.86/\text{month}$. If 26 months later the useful life is revised, the depreciation taken until then would be $26 * \$7142.86 = \$185,714.28$, so the new rate would be $(\$600,000 - \$185,714.28) / (6 * 12 - 26) = \9006.21 .

Errors

Where an actual transaction was recorded wrong, the affect is handled retroactively. For example, say \$50 million was posted to 1720 Construction-in-Progress over a couple years for a building and on July 1, when the building was completed, the entire amount was accidentally expensed instead of capitalized. This error wasn't caught until the following February, after the old-year books had been closed. There are two ways of posting the correction: prior-period adjustment and retroactive correction.

Errors - Prior-Period Adjustments

If \$50 million is considered material for the agency, the agency should restate its old financial statements and record the correction as a prior-period adjustment. If there is an expected salvage value of \$2 million and a 30 year life, the monthly depreciation would be $(50M - 2M) / (30 * 12) = \$133,333.33/\text{month}$. Since we are already

recording a prior-period adjustment for the missed capitalization, we may as well throw in the missed depreciation as well: 3 months for the prior year and 4 months for the current year.

Debit	1730	Buildings, Improvements, and Renovations	\$50,000,000
	6710	Depreciation, Amortization, and Depletion	\$533,333
Credit	7400	Prior-Period Adjustments Due to Corrections of Errors	\$49,600,000
	1739	Accumulated Depreciation on Buildings, etc.	933,333

Errors

If \$50 million is not considered material for the agency, the agency should record the correction in the expense accounts. Since the account 6100 Operating Expenses/Program Costs is for funded expenses and the funding was posted in prior years, an unfunded account such as 6790 Other Expenses Not Requiring Budgetary Resources should be used to update the Statement of Net Costs. No entry is made to the 8100 series of memoranda accounts, since the purchase was in a prior year (if the expenditure entry had been left off the books for the prior year instead of being accidentally expensed, then 4982 Upward Adjustments of Prior-Year Delivered Orders - Obligations, Paid would be credited, the 8100 series also posted, and no postings made to expenses). Now the question arises as to what to do with the depreciation? It results from an error, but depreciation is only an estimate, allocating the asset cost over time. I believe the depreciation should be handled prospectively, but where interim results are not crucial to any decision makers, it could be prospective for the entire year (i.e., retroactive only to the beginning of the current year, no matter how many old years may be involved). For example, if the asset is used for reimbursable work, will the clients be upset if there is a 5 month depreciation entry in February? If so, then a purely prospective entry should be used, where depreciation is $(\$50M - \$2M) / (30 * 12 - 3 - 4) = \$135,977.33/\text{month}$. If the agency chooses to make the entry prospective from the beginning of the year,

Inside the Black Box (Cont'd.)

the depreciation is $(\$50M - \$2M) / (30 * 12 - 3) = \$134,453.78/\text{month}$ and recorded as follows:

Debit	1730	Buildings, Improvements, and Renovations	\$50,000,000
	6710	Depreciation, Amortization, and Depletion	\$537,815
Credit	6790	Other Expenses Not Requiring Budgetary Resources	\$50,000,000
	1739	Accumulated Depreciation on Buildings, etc.	537,815

Conclusion

There are three models for correcting errors and estimates. Only material corrections of fact (not estimates) can be recorded as a prior-period adjustment, which also requires that prior-year statements be restated. Non-material corrections are recorded as regular activity for

the year, but correcting a prior-year funded expense might require recording an unfunded expense in the current year (unless the expenditure was also not recorded previously). Correcting estimates should only be done prospectively. However, if the prior-period adjustment directly impacts an estimate such as depreciation, it may be possible to include the impact of the estimate together with the correction of fact in the adjustment.

Simcha Kuritzky

Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA

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.



NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER'S ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL EVENT

Fraud, Waste & Abuse

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(Continental Breakfast begins at 7:15 a.m.)

Embassy Suites Old Town Alexandria
1900 Diagonal Road (across from the King Street metro)
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Who should attend: Auditors, Financial Managers, Internal Control Evaluators



This event will enhance and update Federal Financial Management professionals on key fraud indicators and historical precedents as well as the latest trends / topics on Fraud, Waste and Abuse in the Government sector.



Register by March 12th - Members \$ 100 - Non-members \$ 125

After March 12th - Members \$ 125 - Non-members \$ 150

Sessions held in the Virginia Ballroom - 8.5 CPEs

Directions to the Embassy Suites and Transportation Information

Metro: King Street Metro is across the street from the Embassy Suites Alexandria Old Town. (Blue and Yellow lines)

By personal vehicle: Parking is available at Colonial Parking garage located under the Embassy Suites.

*****From the North (New York/Baltimore):** Take I-95 South across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Immediately after the bridge, take exit 177B to US-1 North. Turn left onto King Street and left again onto diagonal road the hotel will be on the right hand side across from the King Street metro station.

*****From the South (Richmond):** Take I-95 North. When approaching the Springfield interchange, stay to the left and follow I-395 signs toward Washington, D.C. Take exit 5 (Route 7/King Street East) and after about 4 miles, make a right on diagonal road. The hotel will be on the left hand side across from the King Street metro station.

Fraud, Waste & Abuse

Program / Agenda

- 7:15 – 8:00 a.m. **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:00 – 8:10 **Opening Remarks – Bill Hughes, CPA, CGFM – President, NOVAGA**
- 8:10 – 9:00 **Fraud: The Devils in the Data (1 CPE)**
Speaker: David R. Hancox, CGFM, Director of State Audits, Office of the State Comptroller, State of New York
- 9:00–10:30 **The War Against Fraud and Abuse: Are We Winning? (1.5 CPE)**
Speaker: David L. Cotton, CPA, CFE, CGFM, Cotton & Company LLP
- 10:30-10:40 **Break with refreshments**
- 10:40– 11:30 **Fraud and Internal Control Issues in Contracting (1 CPE)**
Speaker: Sharon Woods, Acting Director Defense Criminal Investigative Service, DOD Office of the Inspector General
- 11:30 – 12:20 **Challenges in Establishing Accountability in Emerging Governments – Iraq: A Case Study (1 CPE)**
Speaker: Deane Williams, Program Director, Inspections and Evaluation Directorate, DOD Office of the Inspector General
- 12:20 – 1:30 p.m. **Luncheon and Keynote Speaker – Fraud, Waste & Abuse (0.5 CPE)**
 Windsor Room
Speaker: Thomas Gimble, Principal Deputy Inspector General, Department of Defense
- 1:30 – 2:20 **Using COBIT for Stronger Internal Controls and Better Governance to Mitigate Risks Including Fraud (1 CPE)**
Speaker: John Lainhart, Past International President of ISACA and ITGI and current member of the IT Governance Committee
- 2:20 – 3:10 **TBD (1 CPE)**
Speaker: Matt Jodacki, Department of Homeland Security, OIG
- 3:10 – 3:30 **Break with refreshments**
- 3:30 – 5:00 **Panel Discussion on Forensic Auditing (1.5 CPE)**
Panelists:
 Bruce Causeaux, Senior Contracting and Procurement Fraud Specialist, Forensic Audits and Special Investigations, Government Accountability Office
 Chris McGrath, Faculty Advisor for Finance and Forensic Accounting, Georgetown University
 Richard Woodford, Executive Assistant to the Assistant Inspector General for Audit, Department of Labor, Office of the Inspector General

Register Early! Space is limited! Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____

Employer _____

Email _____

Billing Address (if different) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Are you an AGA member? Yes No Chapter _____

*****Pay and Register by March 12, 2008*****Members \$100, Non-members \$125*****

Register between March 13 – 18, 2008 *** Members \$125, Non-members \$150

Last day to register March 18, 2008

Price includes continental breakfast, lunch buffet, and refreshment breaks

Amount \$ _____ Method of Payment:
 Check Enclosed
 Master Card Visa AMEX Discover

Name as it appears on card: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Register by mail
 Mail completed form to:
 NOVAGA
 8712 Timothy Road, Brandywine, MD 20613

Register by email, fax, or phone:
 Pat Remington, (703) 601- 5815 or (571) 309-1885
patricia.remington@dodig.mil
 Fax: (703) 601-6047

FSIO Conference



Register for the FSIO Conference Today!

The deadline is fast approaching to register for the March 11th Conference, co-sponsored by the Financial Systems Integration Office (FSIO) (formerly JFMIP), General Services Administration; and the Graduate School, USDA.

The program features panel sessions on a variety of topics for financial managers, accountants and auditors. Don't miss this opportunity to obtain 7 hours of CPE for only \$150. Please visit the FSIO website for more information and to register online!

Montgomery County Chapter Events

03/05/08 - 03/05/08

FREE AGA Audio Conference: How Fraud Can Undermine the Integrity of Environmental Programs

Event Description: *Description:* AGA, in conjunction with the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT) and the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA), is pleased to announce an increasingly important topic to our audio conference schedule - identifying, prosecuting and preventing environmental fraud.

To share their expertise and experiences combating environmental fraud are **Michael Daggett, Director, EPA OIG Program Integrity Directorate; Larry Valett, Director, EPA OIG Financial Fraud Directorate; and Frank Lane, Director of EPAs Suspension and Debarment Division.**

Contact: [Maria Rosse](#)

Phone: 202-533-6396

For More Information: [*FREE* AGA Audio Conference: How Fraud Can Undermine the Integrity of Environmental Programs](#)

03/13/08 - 03/13/08

Early Careers Social Hour

Event Description: *Description:* Our chapter is pleased to announce social hours specifically geared to our Early Career members on the 2nd Thursday of every month.

Location of This Month's Event: PGA Tour Grill at 1699 Rockville Pike in Rockville, MD

Time: The event begins at 5:30 p.m.

Contact: [AnLih Tung and Chris Deeb](#)

Phone: 301-931-2050 or 301-443-0089

03/26/08 - 03/26/08

FREE AGA Audio Conference: Emerging Issues at FASAB and GASB - The Landscape is Changing

Event Description: *Description:* AGA, in conjunction with the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT) and the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA), is pleased to announce a new audio conference addressing Emerging Issues at the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) and the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

Contact: [Elizabeth Robinson](#)

Phone: 301-931-2050

For More Information: [*FREE* AGA Audio Conference: Emerging Issues at FASAB and GASB - The Landscape is Changing](#)

<http://www.marylandaga.com/meetings.cfm>

Federal News

GAO Chief Announces Resignation

by Elizabeth Newell • enewell@govexec.com
February 15, 2008

David M. Walker, head of the Government Accountability Office, announced Friday that he would resign his position effective March 12 to head a new foundation.

Walker, who has served as comptroller general since late 1998, will be president and chief executive officer of the Peter G. Peterson foundation, which GAO said will be dedicated to "seeking and supporting sensible policy solutions to a range of sustainability and transformation challenges."

Walker said Peterson, senior chairman of the Blackstone Group, a financial services firm headquartered in New York, and former Commerce secretary and Council on Foreign Relations chairman, asked him to head the new foundation within the last few months, and he was undecided until very recently. "It was a very difficult decision because I love my job, I love the GAO and everything is going very well," Walker said. "No one expected me to leave and really nor did I until the last few weeks."

For the past several years, he has been an outspoken advocate of the need to address long-term fiscal challenges facing government. He has recently been traveling the country with Robert Bixby, director of the Concord Coalition, a balanced budget advocacy group, giving speeches on the risks these challenges pose. The Fiscal Wake-Up Tour was chronicled in the documentary film I.O.U.S.A., which was screened at this year's Sundance Film Festival.

"In a town that is too often focused on short-term crises, David Walker stands out in his ability to focus on big-picture issues facing our nation and has been promoting real solutions to our country's toughest challenges," said Max Stier, president of the Partnership for Public Service, a Washington nonprofit dedicated to attracting talented people to work in government. "He embodies the best qualities we seek in our public servants: integrity, courage, intelligence."

While Walker has been outspoken about his concerns, he said resigning his post would give him much more flexibility to speak out and to advocate specific policy solutions and pieces of legislation.

"There are some practical limitations as comptroller general," he said in an interview with Government Executive. "In my new position I will have more discretionary resources and flexibility as to what I can do and say."

As head of GAO, Walker said, he is not able to get involved with policy on a grassroots level, write books or give regular commentary to the degree necessary to encourage major fiscal change over the next five to 10 years.

Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, praised the reports produced by GAO during Walker's tenure, including those on the federal response to Hurricane Katrina and contracting in Iraq. "Comptroller General Walker's leadership, expertise, and dedication to public service will be missed in the Congress," Waxman said. "His oversight work saved the taxpayer billions."

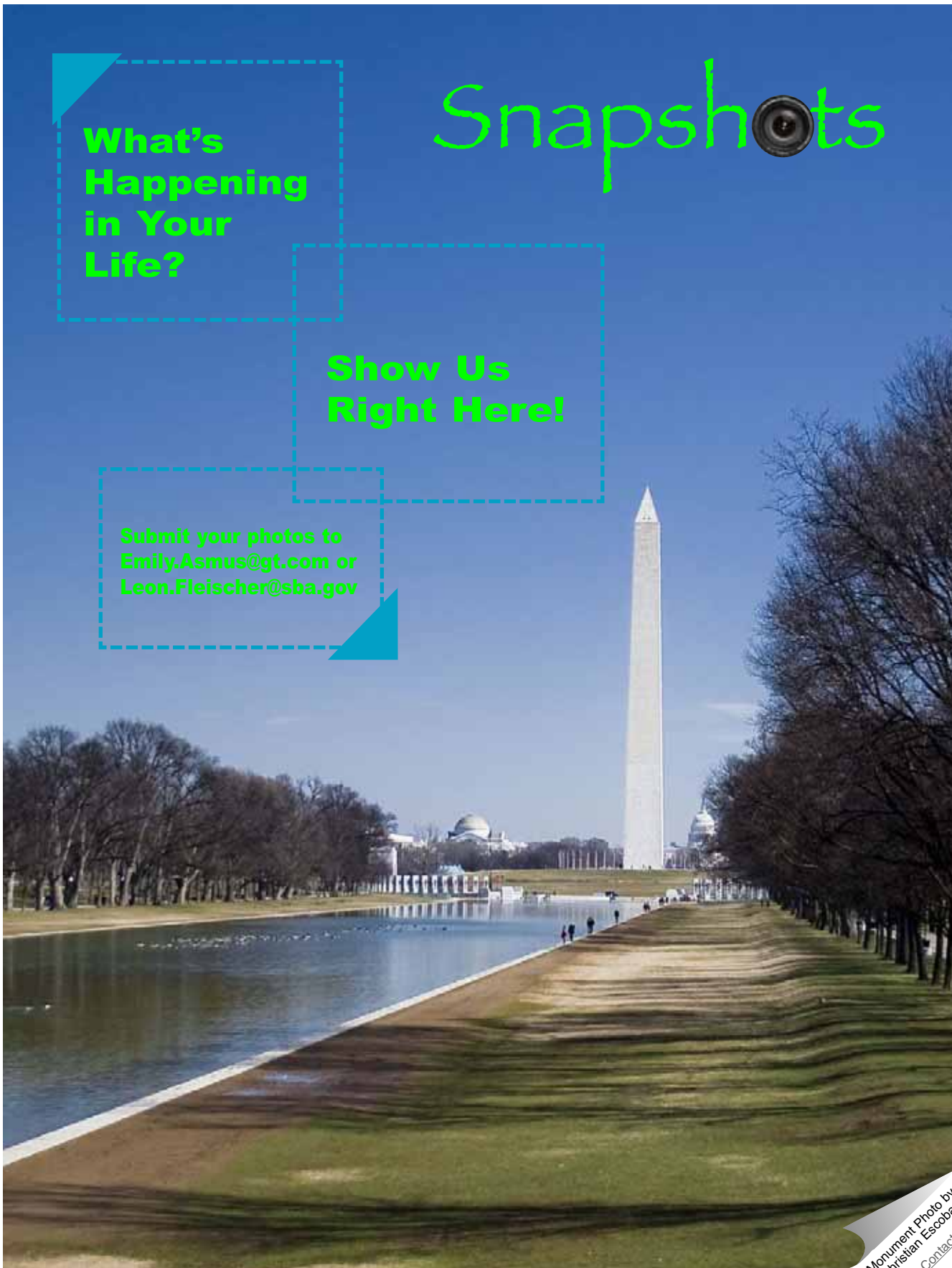
Walker also has been involved in some controversy during his tenure, in particular over the compensation of GAO analysts. In 2006 and 2007, Walker reassigned 800 of 1,200 senior analysts to a lower pay category and froze pay increases for hundreds of employees, arguing that a 2004 study conducted by consulting firm Watson Wyatt determined that many GAO analysts were paid above market levels. In response, analysts formed the first-ever union of GAO employees, which negotiated a tentative agreement on 2008 pay raises last week.

One analyst, who has worked with the agency for more than 30 years, said most employees were pleased with Walker's resignation. "They were shouting for joy," he said. "The rank and file at GAO was truly dissatisfied and had developed a strong animosity toward him."

Gregory Junemann, president of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, which represents GAO employees, said in a statement that the union employees "congratulate David Walker on his new leadership position ... [and] know he will continue to be a strong voice for fiscal discipline and a more efficient and effective government." Junemann also said the union hopes to work with Congress to find a new comptroller general "who will make a great agency even better."

GAO announced that Gene Dodaro, GAO's chief operating officer and a career civil servant, will serve as acting comptroller general upon Walker's departure. Dodaro is "perhaps the most capable career civil servant in government," Walker said. "I take comfort leaving GAO in great shape and good hands." The comptroller general is nominated by Congress and appointed by the president for a 15-year term. The presidential appointee must then be confirmed by the Senate. Given that the process is extensive, Walker said he expects Dodaro to remain acting comptroller general for at least 15 months, and the next president to choose his successor.

AGADC Member Happenings



**What's
Happening
in Your
Life?**

Snapshots 

**Show Us
Right Here!**

**Submit your photos to
Emily.Asmus@gt.com or
Leon.Fleischer@sba.gov**

AGADC Member Happenings

Monument Photo by
Christian Escobar
Contact



AGA Washington, DC Chapter Conference

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN CHANGING TIMES

MAY 7 - 8, 2008

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
(Horizon Ballroom)

HIGHLIGHTS:

Join us for our annual spring conference. This year's theme focuses on how current trends and the upcoming transition in the Administration may impact the federal financial management community in the future.

ATTENTION CPA'S:

We are again offering an optional 2-hour breakout session on Ethics.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION / REGISTRATION:

Program times: 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on both Wednesday and Thursday

AGA-DC members: \$375 early registration (\$425 late registration - after April 18)\\

Non-members: \$425 early registration fee (\$475 late registration - after April 18)

Group discount: Register at least three attendees from the same organization at the same time to get an additional 5 percent discount off the appropriate fee. Register six or more attendees from the same organization at the same time to get an additional 10 percent discount off the appropriate fee.

CONTINUING EDUCATION:

15 hours CPE credit (recommended) for all paid attendees

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Government financial management professionals, accounting, audit, and other professionals who are involved with government financial management issues.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: VISIT WWW.AGADC.ORG

Awards

AWARDS NEWS

The Academy of Government Accountability Announces the First Recipients of the Dr. Mortimer Dittenhofer Dissertation Research Award

Alexandria, VA – Patricia Patrick from Pennsylvania State University in Harrisburg and Annette Pridgen from the University of Mississippi, received the Academy of Government Accountability's Dr. Mortimer Dittenhofer Dissertation Research Awards on August 7, 2006. The dissertation awards were presented in conjunction with the American Accounting Association's Government and Non-Profit Sector Luncheon in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Patrick is completing her Ph.D. in Public Administration. Her dissertation is focused upon, 'The Determinants of Organizational Innovation: A Study of GASB 34 in Pennsylvania'. She plans to receive her degree in the summer of 2007.

Ms. Pridgen is seeking a Ph.D. in Accountancy from the E.H. Patterson School of Accountancy. She has recently begun her dissertation research on, 'Analyzing Government Financial Condition.' She expects to be completed in late 2007.

The Academy's mission is to support research and education initiatives and advance thought leadership in bringing transparency and accountability to government financial management and to forge relationships among government, business and academia to further such goals. The Dittenhofer Dissertation Award is named after Mortimer Dittenhofer, Ph.D., CGFM, CIA, a retired professor of accounting at Florida International University who dedicated his career to achieve these same objectives.

In 2005, fewer than 100 individuals earned their Ph.D. in accounting with only a minute percentage specializing in government accounting. The Dittenhofer Research Award program provides funds to selected doctoral candidates interested in the field of government financial management. The doctoral candidate must be pursuing an advanced post-graduate degree from an accredited educational institution in auditing, budgeting or business, with an emphasis in government financial management. Applicants should have completed or be within one semester of completion of coursework.

The Academy is governed by a distinguished Board of Trustees, which includes both public and private individuals. Chair of the Academy is Sridhar Ramamoorti, Ph.D., CGFM, CPA, CIA, ACA, CFE, CFSA, CRP, CGAP, a partner with Grant Thornton. Vice chair is Samuel Mok, CGFM, CIA, chief financial officer of the U.S. Department of Labor. Cornelius E. Tierney, CGFM, is a member emeritus of the Board of the Trustees. Professor Michael Granof, Ph.D., is vice-chair of the Academy Research & Education Task Force.

For more information about the dissertation award, please contact Eveanna Barry at ebarry@agacgfm.org, 800.AGA.7211, ext. 324 or visit www.agacgfm.org/academy/doctoral.aspx.

The Association of Government Accountants is an 15,000-member professional Association devoted to meeting the continuing professional education needs of financial managers at all levels of government, the private sector and academia. For more information about the Association, or the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Program, call 800.AGA.7211, or visit our website at www.agacgfm.org.

Award News (cont'd.)

Our chapter donated \$25,000 to help support the Raymond Einhorn Research Awards. AGA awarded two Raymond Einhorn award winners for the first time. Below are two letters commending our chapter's donation in support of the awards. The 1st letter is from Ms. Evie Barry, MS, Director of Performance Reporting, AGA and the 2nd letter is from Mr. Sridhar Ramamoorti, Ph.D., CPA, CIA, CGFM, Chairman, Academy for Government Accountability. The Academy's mission is to support research and education initiatives and advance thought leadership in bringing transparency and accountability to government financial management and to forge relationships among government, business and academia to further such goals. The Academy is governed by a distinguished Board of Trustees, which includes both public and private individuals.

Following is the letter from Ms. Barry to our Chapter:

Dan,

As you are the DC Chapter president, I wanted to let you know that the Academy for Government Accountability has awarded for the first time two Raymond Einhorn Research Awards to:

M. Bryna Sanger, Ph.D., professor of Urban Policy Analysis and Management at the Robert J. Milano School of Management and Urban Policy at New School University in New York City, received \$24,480 for her project, Improving State and Local Performance and Accountability: Understanding, Recognizing and Promoting Best Practices. Her ultimate goal is to increase public accountability through improved performance measurement and management.

Ken Smith, Ph.D., assistant professor of accounting at Atkinson Graduate School of Management, Willamette University in Salem, OR, received \$9,900 to continue his research in evaluating performance by governments. The first phase of his project looked at state agencies in all 50 states and how they report performance. The second phase, Evaluating and Increasing the Quality of Performance Reporting, will examine performance reporting by more than 200 cities. The goal of his project is to help government agencies prepare and publicly share quality performance reports. Smith is a member of AGA's Willamette Valley Chapter.

These two researchers have one year to complete their research and it is hoped that the articles written about the research will be accepted by the editorial board of the Journal of Government Financial Management.

Without the chapter's generous donation of \$25,000 these two awards may not have been possible. Please thank, on behalf of the Academy and myself, the members of the DC chapter for their support of the Academy and keeping the memory of Mr. Einhorn alive.

Sincerely,
Evie Barry

Following is the letter from Mr. Sridhar Ramamoorti to our chapter:

Dear Mr. Christovich,

As Chairman of the Academy for Government Accountability, I completely acknowledge and endorse Evie Barry's expression of gratitude to you and the D.C. Chapter.

In terms of professional background, like Dr. Relmond Van Daniker, AGA Executive Director, I too was formerly an academic affiliated with the University of Illinois, and hence, understand only too well how much can be accomplished if we fund the right research grants. Advancing thought leadership can significantly influence change, and a groundswell of public opinion when articulated well and supported by empirical evidence, can have a huge impact in promoting government accountability. In fact, Van, former AGA President Sam McCall, and I have co-authored an article laying out the Academy's vision in an article published in the Journal of Government Financial Management (attached). Hence, we truly appreciate the Washington D.C. Chapter's financially supporting the Academy for Government Accountability.

It is to the D.C. Chapter's credit that they have been a pioneer in providing financial support for a wonderful cause-promoting government accountability through research and education initiatives. By their action, they have led by example and have sounded the clarion call for other AGA Chapters nationwide to demonstrate similar support.

Thanks again for your continuing support of the Academy and its mission. I look forward to meeting you in the near future, perhaps when I expect to be in Washington D.C. to attend the AGA National Leadership Conference from February 19-23.

Kind regards,

Sridhar Ramamoorti, Ph.D., CPA, CIA, CGFM

Chairman

Academy for Government Accountability

Community Service

Dress for Success

Our March project will be The Dress for Success Suit Drive. The Dress for Success Suit Drive is a program where women suits are donated and distributed to disadvantaged women. We support this effort by encouraging the women of the AGA's DC Chapter to participate by donating a used suit. Unlike our other drives (Toys for Tots, Project Harvest, etc.) we don't collect any suits. We encourage our members to take their suit to their local Dressbarn. We do this to make it easier for our members and make it easier for us logistically.

However, we will be collecting money at the March luncheon meeting for this event. So if you don't have a suit to donate then you can bring your momentary donation to the meeting. We will collect the monies and send them to Suit for Change (The organization that sponsors this event). Or you can just drop off a used suit or new suit to your local DressBarn. To locate a Dressbarn near you, visit their Web site.

In April, We will be partnering with the Montgomery/Prince George's Chapter of the AGA and working on a house for DC Habitat for the Homeless. The tentative date is May 3rd and we are scheduled to bring up to 20 volunteers between the DC Chapter and Montgomery/Prince George's Chapter. On this day with the assistance of trained staff from Habitat from the Homeless we will assist them in building a new home for a needy family. Volunteers will arrive at the site and work from 8:15 to 4:00 PM with a lunch break from 12:00 -12:45. All volunteers must be 18 years of age and complete a liability form and bring the form with them. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- We work from 8:15-4:00 with a lunch break from 12:00-12:45. Please plan to come on time and **stay the entire day. If you cannot work for the entire day please don't volunteer.** This allows us to get as much done as possible, since it usually takes a while to train volunteers in the day's task.
- Wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty; you may or may not be painting.

- No sandals are allowed on site, only closed-toed shoes or boots.
- Remember to bring your water bottles!
- Food will be provided for lunch.
- We work in all kinds of weather. The site is only closed if DC Public Schools are closed for snow.

Please contact Lloyd A. Farmer 703-294-4473, Tonya Allen Shaw 202-720-5026 or AnnMarie Walker 202 461-6499 for more details on this event or any event that we are sponsoring.



CGFM

CGFM Examinations Update

In 2007 AGA undertook a psychometric review and update of the three CGFM Examinations. To ensure that the examinations content reflects the current industry practices, AGA conducted a full-scale Job Analysis Study of the role of the Certified Government Financial Manager. While the core of the examination content remained the same, the three examination content outlines were updated, refreshed and streamlined. The weighting among the sub-content areas within each examination was adjusted, and the language of the content outlines was revised to provide additional depth and detail to support candidates preparing for the examinations.

View the [revised examination content outlines](#).

View the [Job Analysis process description](#).

The updated CGFM Examinations will be offered for the first time at the Intensive Review Course/CGFM Examinations event to take place before the Professional Development Conference in Atlanta on July 24-27, 2008. The updated examinations will be available in Prometric testing centers starting on August 15, 2008. CGFM Examinations taken prior to that date will follow the [existing examinations content outline](#).

AGA is in the process of revising the three CGFM study guides to reflect the updated examinations content outline. The updated study guides will be available in March 2008.

If you have any questions about the examinations update, please visit the CGFM Examinations Update: Frequently Asked Questions page or contact the Office of Professional Certification at 800.AGA.7211, ext. 305.

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Calendar of Events — 2007/2008 Program Year

Month	Luncheons*	Community Service	Member Service	Education	Early Careers	Membership	CEC Meetings
September	Zola Lunch - 9/19 Danny Werfel Deputy Controller, OMB Topic: "Smarter Accountability"	Baby Food Challenge	Zaytina on 9/5 4pm - 6pm for Happy Hour	Audio Conference (AC) - 9/20 - Making the Transition to Management: What it takes to succeed			9/4/07 - noon
October	Zola Lunch - 10/17 TBD - Sally Ann Harper Topic: "Transforming the Enterprise at GAO"	Walk to D'feet ALS ALS Association	Mount Vernon - 10/5 6pm - 9pm or with NOVAGA on Oct 7 from 6-9 pm Old Europe - 10/25 Oktoberfest		10/17 Details TBD	Membership Luncheon - Jerry Murphy, Former Treasury Fiscal Asst. Secretary; 10/25/07, Noon until 1:00 p.m.; Veterans Affairs	10/2/07 - noon
November			Opera Night at Cafe Mozart 11/28 6:30pm				11/6/07 - noon
December	Zola Lunch - 12/5 William Campbell, CFO Amtrak "The Transition from Public to Private Sector Financial Management"	Collect toys for needy children at monthly luncheon - U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program	Mystery Dinner Show* 12/6/07 6:30 dinner; 8:00 show Blair Mansion Inn, Silver Spring, MD Holiday Happy Hour 12/17/07 4:30 - 6:30 Old Ebbitt Grill	AC - 12/12 - Anatomy of Fraud: Case Examples of Greed, Collusion, and Override of Controls	FSIO/CGAC & BTA/SFIS Update - Dec 5; NoVA Chapter's Holiday Social immediately following** http://agadc.org/ novatrainning.php		12/4/07 - noon
January	Zola Lunch Jan 23 Ken Carfine, Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Treasury	Collect spare change at monthly luncheon - Make-A-Wish Foundation	AGA Dinner Date, Time, and Location TBD		1/30 Details TBD		1/8/08 - noon
February	Zola Lunch Feb 20 Steve Isakowitz, CFO, US Dept of Energy	Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)	Capitals Game (Partner with NOVA) 2/6/08	AC - 2/6 - Internal Controls National Leadership Conference - February 21-22; Washington DC; 14 CPEs			2/5/08 - noon
March	Zola Lunch March 26 Speaker TBD	Dress for Success Suit Drive	Smithsonian Museum of Natural History Jazz Café - 3/7 6:30 pm				3/4/08 - noon
April	Zola Lunch Apr 16 Speaker TBD	Habitat for Humanity	Virginia Wine Tour - 4/12 (Partner with NOVA)		4/23 Details TBD	4/24 - Complimentary liaison lunch fea- turing mentorship panel.	4/1/08 - noon
May		Eyeglass Collection for Lions Club & Cell Phone collection Verizon Wireless	Tidal Basin - 5/18 - Paddle Boats on the Tidal Basin and picnic	Spring Conference May 7 and 8, 2008 - Ronald Reagan Building			5/6/08 - noon
June		So Others Might Eat	Nationals Game Date, Time, and Location TBD				6/3/08 - noon
July		Boy's and Girl's Club (Baseball Outing)					7/1/08 - noon

* Event sponsored by the Montgomery/PG County AGA Chapter / ** Event sponsored by Northern Virginia AGA Chapter

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