

The Washington Connection

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS
WASHINGTON D.C. CHAPTER



Issue 02 • October 2011

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN



OCT

LUNCHEON SERIES

Debra Bond

**Deputy Controller
of the Office of Federal Financial Management**

Director of the Office of Payments Integrity

Tuesday, October 25, 2011
11:30 am - 1:30 pm • Clydes of Gallery Place



[Read Bio](#)

Looking For Ways to Get Involved With the DC AGA Chapter?

The AGA DC Mentorship Committee is seeking energetic volunteers interested in helping to improve the Mentorship Program. Last year we conducted a survey of our members to obtain their expectations. Today, we have planned several activities in response to improving our program. We are seeking volunteers interested in helping to continue to improve the Mentorship Program.

If you are interested in becoming a dynamic member of a great Chapter, please contact Kesha Pendergrast (Pendergrast_kesha@pendergrastconsulting.com).

"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other."
- John F. Kennedy

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

President's Message



by Terry Bowie

Welcome,

The DC chapter was honored to have Nancy Fleetwood, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Department of Treasury's Financial Management Service, as our luncheon speaker in September. I have known Nancy for number of years and have a great deal of respect for her knowledge and abilities as demonstrated during her brilliant federal career. There were 126 attendees at the luncheon inspired by Nancy as she discussed ways to mitigate "Improper Payments" as well as how to successfully

administer the Federal Governments' "Do not pay list".

Our luncheon speaker this month is Ms. Bond, the Deputy Controller of the Office of Federal Financial Management within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Ms. Bond will provide us with an OMB update. Please join me at Clyde's Restaurant in October.

The chapter would like to acknowledge and thank our 2011 – 2012 corporate sponsors that enabled the chapter to provide the many educational, member services and other events for our members. Our sponsors include Savantage Solutions, Grant Thornton, Kearney and Company, KPMG, the MIL Corporation, Clifton Gunderson, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Booz Hamilton and many others. Other corporate sponsors interested in providing support, please contact us.

September and October are busy months for many AGA members. I'm quite sure that many of you are involved in either the preparation of year-end financial statement, conducting audits, finalizing budgets, preparing year-end reports and involved in strategic planning sessions, performance reporting, and a whole host of end of the year procurement and other activities. Although it is a busy time, don't let the work get in the way of taking care of yourself and others. I have a suggestion that addresses both - take time to participate in the annual Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS- also known as Lou Gehrig's disease) walk. The DC AGA Chapter has been proud to participate as a team in Walk to Defeat ALS for a number of years now. There will be t-shirts at the event to represent our team and its participation. This year's walk will be on Sunday, October 16, 2011, on the grounds in front of the Washington Monument. Show up and get involved!

Sincerely,

Terry Bowie

Terry Bowie
President
Washington DC Chapter

Note From the Editor



by **Jorge Asef-Sargent,**
Editor

Welcome to the October edition of the Washington Connection! Although October is a busy time for AGA members, our committees have found extra time to serve our

community. In this month's edition of the newsletter we have information on the following activities:

- Our mentorship committee is looking for volunteers interested in helping improve the mentorship program.
- Our membership committee has a number of activities planned to continue building our membership and strong interest in all the AGA DC offerings, including continuing professional education and networking opportunities.
- Also, we have information on the upcoming luncheon for October (which remains popular as ever!) and a technical article on recording accounts receivable in our *Inside the Black Box*, by Simcha Kuritzky.

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!

Sincerely,

Jorge Asef-Sargent

Jorge Asef-Sargent, CPA, CGFM
AGA D.C. Chapter Newsletter Editor

Newsletter Team

Jorge Asef-Sargent, Editor

Allen Devine, Co-Editor

Erwin Solbach, Graphics



Welcome, New Members!

MEMBERS NEW TO AGA DC

<i>Anne R. Atienza</i>	<i>Dept of the Interior</i>
<i>Sarah Blanding</i>	<i>Dept of Energy</i>
<i>Sarah Choi</i>	<i>SEC</i>
<i>Amy-Beth Evans</i>	<i>DoD</i>
<i>Alvin A. Frazier</i>	<i>NASA</i>
<i>Abisola Glover</i>	<i>Deloitte</i>
<i>Michael Gugulis</i>	<i>Dept of the Navy</i>
<i>Jacqueline A. Hillian-Craig</i>	<i>Dept of Veterans Affairs</i>
<i>Christopher R. Kikel</i>	<i>CSC</i>
<i>Krish Krithivasan</i>	<i>Ernst & Young</i>
<i>Kevin Kull</i>	<i>Kearney & Co</i>
<i>Minar Machhi</i>	<i>Cotton & Co LLP</i>
<i>Jason P. Mann</i>	<i>CSC</i>
<i>Patrick Mellon</i>	<i>US Dept of Homeland Security</i>
<i>Ailene V. Paz</i>	<i>Cotton & Co LLP</i>
<i>Vanessa Rivera</i>	<i>KPMG LLP</i>
<i>Shawn Wertman</i>	<i>US Coast Guard</i>
<i>George Kendrick Williams, II</i>	<i>Grant Thornton LLP</i>
<i>Linda Winings</i>	<i>HHS</i>

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 traveled to any interesting locations? The Washington Connection requests that you submit any and all items of interest to our federal, state, and local member including: reviews of recently published books related to financial management; unique travel experiences or assignments; lessons learned on rollouts of new systems; appointments or promotions; employment opportunities; and noteworthy accomplishments by our members. We also welcome digital photos that accompany your submission.

The deadline for submitting articles to appear in the **November 2011** issue is **October 21, 2011**. Please send your comments and contributions to **Jorge Asef-Sargent** and **Allen Devine**, the newsletter editors for the 2011-2012 program year, at jasef-sargent@kpmg.com and abdevine@kpmg.com.



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Grant Thornton

Early Careers Corner

Please join the DC Early Careers as we kick off the FALL with Oktoberfest and then a picnic at Haines Point!

Saturday, October 8th ~ DC and NOVA chapters will participate in Oktoberfest at the Capitol City Brewing Co. from 12-2 pm. Meet in front of Clyde's. FREE!

Saturday, October 22 ~ Tri-Chapter picnic at Haines Point Park in Washington, DC from 12-3 pm. Enjoy Famous Dave's BBQ while relaxing and networking with fellow EC members from DC, NOVA, and PG/Montgomery chapters.

(Rescheduled date; cancelled in Sept due to weather)

RSVP to Stephen Wills at sgwillsusa@yahoo.com

We hope to see you at an event soon!

November ~ Fondue Party at the Melting Pot

December ~ Holiday Bash

Give us your feedback ~ questions/event ideas can be directed to co-directors

Stephen Wills at sgwillsusa@yahoo.com and **Lena Lewis** at Lena.Lewis@dhs.gov.

Lena Lewis & Stephen Wills

DC Early Career Committee Directors

Luncheon Speaker: Debra Bond



In November 2009, Ms. Bond assumed the role of Deputy Controller of the Office of Federal Financial Management within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). As Deputy Controller, she is responsible for helping coordinate OMB's efforts to initiate government-wide improvements in all areas of financial management, including financial reporting, improper payments, open government, and real property management.

Prior to her current position, Ms. Bond served as the Chief Financial Officer of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), managing budget, finance, acquisition, and asset management matters. She moved to ICE from the US-VISIT program in DHS, where she worked on initiatives to improve coordination of terrorist screening efforts in the Federal government.

Earlier, Ms. Bond served in multiple capacities within OMB, including Policy Analyst in the Office of Information & Regulatory Affairs working on labor issues. Later, Ms. Bond moved to various Resource Management Offices (RMOs) including the Labor Branch, Justice Branch, and the Homeland Security Branch, where she concentrated on immigration policy and biometrics policy.

Ms. Bond holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from North Carolina State University and a Bachelors Degree in Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

WANT TO HELP?

If you're interested in being a liason or joining the mentor program, as either a mentor or mentee, please contact Kesha Pendergrast at 202-351-8636 or:

Pendergrast_kesha@pendergrastconsulting.com.

Connect to the World of 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.agacqfm.org/downloads/agaweb.wmv>

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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 on the AGA national website www.agacgfm.org or contact **Jessica Jones** at JJones@agacgfm.org.

Mentorship Program

Welcome to the 2011-2012 Mentorship Program

The Mentorship Program Directors are pleased to welcome you to a new year with the AGA DC Mentorship Program. We are very excited about the services we're planning to help nourish the current mentor/mentee pairings and looking forward to bringing other mentors and mentees onboard.

The AGA DC Mentorship Program serves to facilitate AGA DC 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 resumes. The Mentorship Team is the conduit for exchanging information and getting the relationship off and running. The program is voluntary and open only to AGA DC Chapter members.

Benefits

There are several benefits to being a member of the Mentorship Program. 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 and Chapter members from other chapters

How to Get Involved

If you are interested in learning more about the Mentorship Program, interested in being a Mentor and/or Mentee or would like to be a volunteer to help improve the program, please contact the Director of Mentorship, Kesha Pendergrast at Pendergrast_kesha@pendergrastconsulting.com or the Assistant Director of Mentorship, Sharnell Montgomery at Montgomery.Sharnel@dol.gov.

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[AGA Montgomery/PG Home Page \(Maryland\)](#)

[MACPA Home Page \(Maryland\)](#)

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

[GWSCPA Home Page \(D.C.\)](#)

[AICPA Home Page](#)

AGA DC Awards Gala 2011

On June 4, 200 members and guests attended the Washington D.C. Chapter's 2011 Awards Gala, held at the J.W. Marriott Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue to honor awardees, recognize our sponsors, thank outgoing President Doug Glenn and welcome incoming President Terry Bowie. 2011 was a year no different than others, as many of our local awardees went on to win the National awards and were recognized at the PDC in Atlanta.

Members were recognized for leadership and accomplishments during 2011:

Shirl A. Ruffin, CGFM - Distinguished Leadership Award

Edward J. Mazur, CPA, MBA - Distinguished Service to the Financial Management Community Award

Terry Bowie, CPA, CGFM - Achievement of the Year Award

Gail Flister Vallieres, CPA, CGFM - International Achievement Award

Ann Davis, CPA, CGFM - Einhorn-Gary Award

Christina Beck, CGFM, CPA, CISA, CFE - James W. Saylor Award

Vivek Kundra - Emerging Leader Award

Pauline D. Wang, CPA, CGFM - Ronald J. Lynch Memorial Scholarship Award

Dr. Cornelius E. Tierney, CPA - Lifetime Appreciation Award

(awarded by National President, Lisa Cassias) The 2012 awards gala is tentatively scheduled for



AGA DC Awards Gala 2011 (cont'd)



We recognized our Board for their hard work during 2011



And showed our appreciation to our loyal membership.



But after Doug (finally) got off stage the party really began – We had dancing!



We had a singing DJ!

AGA DC Awards Gala 2011 (cont'd)



We had fun with our friends!



And we had the best looking presidents around!



"...Won't you join us and make memories of your own?"

Saturday, June 9 at the J.W. Marriott. Won't you join us and make memories of your own?

To see all of the photos from the 2011 Awards Gala, visit our homepage on Facebook



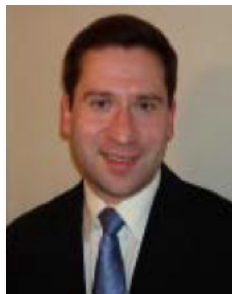
Membership

Membership News and Upcoming Events

The current year membership team is thrilled for the opportunity to help the AGA DC chapter to continue growing and thriving.

Our team is made of a diverse group of people from government and private sector.

The members are:



Boris Lyubovitsky
Director



Ana Chaletzky
Assistant Director



Megan Amend
Assistant Director



James Dalkin
Assistant Director

Our main purpose is to continue building membership and attracting strong interest in all AGA DC offerings, including continuing professional education and networking opportunities.

Planned Highlights:

- **Recruitment Contest:** Membership Committee will hold again a recruitment contest. The first 20 members of our Chapter to recruit/sponsor a new member and come with the new member to a chapter luncheon will receive a \$50 Visa or Master Gift card. The new member will also receive a \$50 Visa or Master Gift card and their first luncheon free.
- **Publishing New Members' Names:** Throughout the year we will continue publishing names of all new members in the Newsletter. Also, we will start sending DC chapter new member welcome letter.
- **Photos of New Members and Sponsors at the Monthly Luncheons:** We will continue to provide a monthly newsletter article with photos/names of new members and/or sponsors recognized at the monthly Chapter luncheons.

If you have any questions and/or interested in learning more about our team, please contact:

Boris Lyubovitsky	Boris.Lyubovitsky@cfo.usda.gov
Ana Chaletzky	achal@loc.gov
James Dalkin	DalkinJ@gao.gov
Megan Amend	mrsamend@gmail.com

Membership (cont'd)

Recognition of AGA-DC New Members at the September 2011 Luncheon

New Members

Terry Bowie welcomed the following new members and presented each of them with an AGA-DC lapel pin:

- Matthew Jacobs – U.S. General Service Administration
- Roberta Jordan - U.S. Office of Personnel Management
- Patrick Mellon- U.S. Department of Homeland Security



Terry Bowie welcomes new members at the September 2011 Luncheon
Left to right: New Members Matthew Jacobs, Patrick Mellon, Membership Director Boris Lyubovitsky,
Chapter President Terry Bowie, Roberta Jordan
Thank you to Ana Chaletzky (Assistant Membership Director) for taking this picture.



Chapter President Terry Bowie thanks Luncheon Speaker Nancy C. Fleetwood
for the presentation at the September Luncheon.

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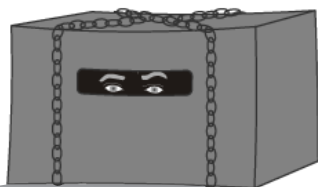
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Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA



Recording Receivables

Introduction

There are a number of different types of receivables that a federal agency can generate, but only some are specifically recognized in the Standard General Ledger (SGL) or should be reported on the Treasury Report on Receivables (TROR).

Revenue Related

Receivables are frequently related to revenue. In fact, it is booking receivables for credit sales that made double-entry bookkeeping a necessity. Federal agencies can earn revenue, tax it, or collect it on behalf of others. There are a number of specialized revenue receivable accounts in the SGL. Account 1320 Employment Benefit Contributions Receivable is only booked by agencies who administer employment-related benefits, and 1325 Taxes Receivable are only used by agencies who invoke the sovereign power of taxation. Agencies with credit programs can book 1350 for loans, 1341 for interest receivable, 1361 for penalties and fines receivable, and 1371 for administrative fees receivable. I would like to point out that administrative fees are only those against debt or loans; an agency that collects fees as part of its mission (such as user fees) posts receivables to 1310 Accounts Receivable. Economy Act reimbursements also use 1310. Receivables for recognized revenue should be reported on the TROR and be actionable (i.e., if the debtor doesn't pay, the agency takes steps to collect).

In the past, I wrote about receivables related to revenue not yet earned. Some agencies book a receivable for reimbursement advances (2310) or for unearned revenue (2320). While I can see the need to include such activity in the general ledger, I question whether such receivables are actionable or reported outside the agency (such as on the TROR or on the balance sheet). I would segregate such receivables and their associated liabilities by using subaccounts, so receivables for unearned revenue would not be mixed in with receivables for revenue, and unearned revenue not collected would be separate from collected unearned revenue. Agencies may want to use a contra-liability subaccount that maps to SGL accounts 2310 or 2320 instead of a receivable, so any SGL-level trial balance will ignore uncollected advances (this will also avoid difficulties tying the 2310 balance to 4222 Unfilled Customer Orders with Advance).

Expense Related

The other main type of receivables are those related to spending. These are all actionable and should be reported on the TROR (some even have tax implications for debtors who don't pay up in a timely manner). An agency can bill a vendor for goods or services paid for but either returned or not received. Agencies also recognize bills for advances paid to others where that advance has not been used. These bills do not affect funds availability until they are collected. However, they can cause some reconciliation problems if not booked properly.

A bill against an expense posts to unfunded expenses (account 6790). When it is collected, the posting to 6790 is backed out and the original expense (usually 6100) is credited instead, along with a debit (reduction) to expenditures (generally 4902).

While expenses can be funded or unfunded, it is generally assumed that assets are always funded. We fund assets when we pay for them, but if we then credit the asset with only a receivable on the books, we are backing out the asset without funding though we're using the same SGL account. The net of the purchase and bill would be to debit 1310 and funds availability (such as 4610) and credit cash (1010) and expenditures (4902). That effectively makes the receivable funded. So while FMS entry C414 simply debits 1310 and credits the asset (with a note to back out the 8801-8804 postings), I would suggest that the agency also debit 6100 Operating Expenses/Program Costs and credit 6790 Other Expenses Not Requiring Budgetary Resources, converting the unaccepted or non-existent assets to a funded expense and leaving the receivable unfunded.

Inside the Black Box (Cont'd)

When a paid advance (such as a travel advance) is billed, the balance in 4802 Undelivered Orders - Obligations, Prepaid/Advanced should be relieved or else it will end up funding 1310. Generally the easiest way to do this is to process a voucher to expense the prepayment, thus recognizing an expenditure (moving the 4802 balance to 4902), then process an unfunded bill against the expenditure crediting account 6790. This will also make it simpler to write off the debt should that become necessary, because if the agency doesn't expend and expense the advance when booking the bill, it will have to before writing it off.

Conclusion

Receivables for revenue or expenses should be reported externally, whereas those for unearned revenue or advances to be received should not. When billing for goods returned (or not received) or advances paid but not vouchered, first recognize a funded expense and then the bill can credit unfunded expenses. This will simplify reconciliations and write-offs.

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.

Snapshots

EARLY CAREERS



Meetings Team

Ryan Bolz



The Meetings Committee would like to once again welcome everyone back to Clyde's Restaurant of Gallery Place for another great series of luncheons this year. There is an excellent line up of speakers planned to deliver some great messages to the AGA DC Chapter. For the September luncheon, please ensure to sign-up early, as we expect a packed crowd as usual. Also, make sure you get to Clyde's around 11:30am to allow enough time to get situated and enjoy the 3-course meal that is offered.

Mark Kandra



We shall see you October 25 at Clyde's – Gallery Place/Chinatown.

Best Regards,

Ryan Bolz and Mark Kandra

Ryan Bolz, Mark Kandra
Meeting Team

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Calendar of Events - 2011/2012 Program Year

Month	Luncheons	Community Service	Education / CGFM	Membership Services	Early Careers	CEC Meetings
October	25			29 / 1	8 / 22	
	<p>October Luncheon Location: Clyde's of Gallery Place Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm Speaker: TBA CPE: 1.0</p>			<p>Washington Zoo Tour Location: Washington, DC Time: TBA</p> <p>***</p> <p>Top Golf Alexandria Location: Alexandria, VA Time: 11am - 1pm</p>	<p>Oktoberfest Location: Shirlington, VA Time: 11:30am - 2pm</p> <p>***</p> <p>Famous Dave's BBQ Location: Haines Point (East Potomac Park) Time: 12pm - 2pm</p>	<p>Teleconference #: 888-283-7402 Access code:2809637 12:00 - 1:00pm</p>
November				8		
				<p>Oktoberfest Dinner Location: Cafe Mozart Time: TBA</p>		<p>Teleconference #: 888-283-7402 Access code:2809637 12:00 - 1:00pm</p>
December	7			13		
	<p>December Luncheon Location: Clyde's of Gallery Place Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm Speaker: TBA CPE: 1.0</p>			<p>Holiday Happy Hour Location: Old Ebbitt Grill Time: TBA</p>		<p>Teleconference #: 888-283-7402 Access code:2809637 12:00 - 1:00pm</p>
January	24			10		
	<p>January Luncheon Location: Clyde's of Gallery Place Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm Speaker: TBA CPE: 1.0</p>			<p>Washington Capitals Game Location: Verizon Center Time: TBA</p>		<p>Teleconference #: 888-283-7402 Access code:2809637 12:00 - 1:00pm</p>
February	15			8		
	<p>February Luncheon Location: Clyde's of Gallery Place Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm Speaker: TBA CPE: 1.0</p>			<p>Chinese New Year Dinner Location: China Garden Time: TBA</p>		<p>Teleconference #: 888-283-7402 Access code:2809637 12:00 - 1:00pm</p>

Calendar of Events - 2011/2012 Program Year

Month	Luncheons	Community Service	Education / CGFM	Membership Services	Early Careers	CEC Meetings
March	20			10		
	March Luncheon Location: Clyde's of Gallery Place Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm Speaker: TBA CPE: 1.0			Upcoming Event Location: TBA Time: TBA		Teleconference #: 888-283-7402 Access code:2809637 12:00 - 1:00pm
April	18			7		
	April Luncheon Location: Clyde's of Gallery Place Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm Speaker: TBA CPE: 1.0			Virginia Wine Tour Location: TBD Time: TBA		Teleconference #: 888-283-7402 Access code:2809637 12:00 - 1:00pm
May	15			12		
	May Luncheon Location: TBA Time: TBA Speaker: TBA CPE: TBA			Upcoming Event Location: TBA Time: TBA		Teleconference #: 888-283-7402 Access code:2809637 12:00 - 1:00pm
June				9		
	Awards Gala Location: TBA Time: TBA			Washington Nationals Game Location: Nationals Park Time: TBA		
July						

2011/2012 Officers and Directors

Officers

President, Terry Bowie
NASA
202-358-0978
terry.bowie@nasa.gov

President-Elect, Eileen Parlow
FASAB
202-512-7356
parlowe@fasab.gov

Past-President, Doug Glenn
DOI
NASA
202-513-0362
Douglas.glenn@ios.doi.gov

Treasurer, Christy Beck
Clifton Gunderson
703-532-2319
c.r.beck@hotmail.com

Accountability & Outreach

Director, Wendy Huddleston
Grant Thornton
703-637-2853
Wendy.Morton-Huddleston@gt.com

Asst Director, Eric Ernest
McConnell & Jones LLP
301-452-7177
ernest@mjlm.com

Administration

Co-Director, Charlie Ripetta
Kearney
703-931-5600
cripeta@kearneyco.com

Co-Director, Pushparajan Arokiaswamy
VA
202-462-6172
pushparajan.arokiaswamy@va.gov

Awards

Director, Eleanor Long
Ernst & Young
202 - 327-5903
eleanor.long@ey.com

Asst. Director, Pat Wensel
Independent
301-384-0896
dpwensel@verizon.net

Awards Gala

Director, Whitney Vickrey
Morgan Franklin
703-508-3183
Whitney.Vickrey@morganfranklin.com

CGFM Coordinator

Director, Karl Payne
KPMG
703-286-8217
kpayne@kpmg.com

Co-Director, Leon Fleischer
SBA
202-205-6121
Leon.Fleischer@sba.gov

Community Service

Director, Lloyd Farmer
Milcorp
703-294-4473
lfarmer@milcorp.com

Asst Director, Tonya Allen-Shaw
USDA
202-720-5026
Tonya.allen-Shaw@cfo.usda.gov

Corporate Sponsors

Director, John Cherbini
Grant Thornton
703-373-8680
john.cherbini@gv.com

Asst Director, Marianne Condon
VA
202-461-6107
Marianne.Condon@va.gov

Co-Director, James Oliver
BAH
703-377-0062
oliver_jim@bah.com

Co-Director, Cynthia Heath

202-401-8476
Cynthia.heath@ed.gov

Early Careers

Director, Stephen Wills
Smithsonian Institute
202-366-2889
sqwillsusa@yahoo.com

Asst Director, Lena Lewis
DHS
202-447-0709
Lena.Lewis@dhs.gov

Education

Director, Mari Ellen Testa
BAH
703-902-3086
Testa_Mari_Ellen@bah.com

Asst Director, Bob Manuse
BAH
703-377-0947
manuse_robert@bah.com

Historian

Director, Aubrey Vaughan
Oversight Systems
703 582 0885
aubrey.vaughan@oversightsystems.com

Asst. Director, Tyrone Allmond
Allmond & Company
301-918-8200
tallmond@allmondcpa.com

Meetings

Director, Ryan Bolz
KPMG
832-423-5185
rbolz@kpmg.com

Asst Director, Mark Kandra
KPMG
703-286-6912
mkandra@kpmg.com

Asst Director, Derek Thomas
KPMG
202-533-5406
dwthomas@kpmg.com

Member Services

Co-Director, Caitlin Holmes
PriceWaterhouseCoopers
703-918-1293
caitlin.b.holmes@us.pwc.com

Co-Director, Crystal Heitman
PriceWaterhouseCoopers
703-918-3291
crystal.j.heitman@us.pwc.com

Membership

Director, Boris Lyubovitsky
FASAB
202-205-6422
boris.lyubovitsky@cfo.usda.gov

Assist Director, Jim Dalkin
GAO
202-512-3133
DalkinJ@gao.gov

Assist Director, Elena Yearly
Fannie Mae
703-943-8129
eyearly@cox.net

Assist Director, Megan Amend
Kearney & Company
703-931-5600
mamend@kearneyco.com

Assist Director, Ana Chaletzky
Library of Congress
202-707-6728 / 4261 (fax)
achal@loc.gov

Assist Director, Rahul Jindal

..***
rahul.jindal@fed-help.com

Mentorship

Director, Keshia Pendergrast
Pendergrast Consulting
202-351-8636
pendergrast_keshia@pendergrastconsulting.com

Asst Director, Sharnell Montgomery
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-693-6854
sharnell.montgomery@doi.gov

Newsletter

Editor, Jorge Asef-Sargent
KPMG
202-533-4480
jasef-sargent@kpmg.com

Co-Editor, Allen B. Devine
KPMG
202-533-6532
abdevine@kpmg.com

Programs

Director, Lisa Fiely
Grant Thornton
703-837-4400
lisa.fiely@gt.com

Asst Director, Ron Longo
Kearney & Company
703-946-0047
ron.longo@kearneyco.com

Director, Audrey Duchesne, CPA
U.S. Dept. of State
202-663-2117
DuchesneA@state.gov

Asst Director, Charlie Carrigan
Savantage
301-258-5600
ccarrigan@savantage.net

Publications

Simcha Kuritzky
CGI
703-227-5796
Simcha.Kuritzky@cgifederal.com

Webmaster

Tim Coulson
Savantage
240-506-6031
tcoulson@savantage.net

Newsletter Designer: Erwin Solbach, solbach7@gmail.com

Washington Chapter
P.O. Box 423
Washington, DC 20044-0423
www.AGADC.org

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WASHINGTON DC, CHAPTER