

The Washington Connection

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS
WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER

MARCH 2006

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Would you like to receive e-mail reminders of our monthly meetings and conferences? If so, please log on to the AGA National website at <https://members.agacgfm.org> to verify that all of your contact information is up-to-date (you will need your AGA member id and password).

March 16th AGA-DC Luncheon to Highlight FASAB Changes and Challenges

by Julia Ranagan, AGA-DC Newsletter Editor

The March installment of AGA-DC's luncheon speaker series will feature Wendy Comes, Executive Director of the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB). Ms. Comes will brief the audience about recent and pending changes in Board membership, how newly effective standards will affect financial reporting, about implementation guidance being developed for standards that will impact future financial reports, and what concepts and standards are being developed at FASAB.

continued on page 8

Call for 2006 – 2007 AGA-DC President-Elect and other Board Members

The time is now to reserve your spot on the 2006 – 2007 Board of Officers and Directors. If you are interested in being a part of the dynamic and exciting AGA Washington, DC Chapter from July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007, contact President-Elect Scott Bell by **Wednesday, March 15, 2006**. There are several positions open, including several assistant and vice-chair positions. See the last page of this newsletter for a listing of all of the various positions. We encourage participation at all levels.

In addition, the current Board is seeking a President-Elect for the 2006 – 2007 chapter year, who will then serve as Chapter President during the 2007 – 2008 year. To serve as President-Elect, you must be a current Government employee, an AGA-DC chapter member, and a current or former Chair/Officer for the Chapter. Please contact Scott by **Wednesday, March 15, 2006** if the position interests you or if you know anyone that might be interested. You may reach Scott via email at scott.bell@hhs.gov (preferred) or via telephone at 202.205.2099.

March Luncheon

Getting to Green, and Everything In Between! Luncheon Series

*Wendy Comes, Executive Director
Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board*

*Thursday, March 16th Luncheon: 11:30am – 1:30pm
Members: \$25.00, Non-Members: \$30.00*

*For more details, see <http://agadc.org/mlunch2.php>
Register online at <https://secure.serve.com/AGADC/lform2.php>*

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

Please bring a donation for the Dress for Success Suit Drive, see page 13.

President's Message

by Lisa Casias, President



Ms. Lisa Casias, President

Dear Chapter Members,

With great sadness, I report that the federal government's financial management community lost a highly respected colleague with the passing of Bill Pugh in early February. Bill was the Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits at the Department of Treasury. Although Bill was a member of the Inspector General Community, he was well known throughout the financial community because of his willingness to share

his expertise with others. For those who knew Bill, they would agree that he epitomized the definition of a public servant. He was well-known for his friendly nature and never ending optimism. Bill introduced many financial professionals to federal government careers, including myself. He remained a mentor and friend to all of us even as our career paths moved in different directions. He will be sorely missed.

The 2005-2006 AGA-DC Chapter year is moving along quickly and as it comes closer to an end, we are looking for members interested in serving on the Chapter Board for the 2006-2007 Chapter year. There are many exciting activities to participate in and varying levels of time commitments. I personally have found the last year as President to be one of the most rewarding experiences in my career. Please contact Scott Bell, President-Elect, at scott.bell@hhs.gov if you have an interest in working with the Board at any level in the upcoming year.

Although we are already planning for next year, we still have many exciting events in the coming months!

Professional Development: The AGA-DC spring conference "Mission Possible: Getting to Green," featuring Linda Combs, Controller, Office of Management and Budget, and Sallyanne Harper, Chief Administrative Officer, Government Accountability Office, will be held on May 3 and 4. Fitting the theme, the location will be at The Spy Museum, see page 25 for further details. Thank you to Mike Allen, Director of Education, and to the many volunteers from the chapter for organizing this event.

On March 16, AGA-DC's luncheon speaker series will feature Wendy Comes, Executive Director of the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board. Ms. Comes will brief us on the changes to FASAB and new and upcoming standards along with their impact on financial reporting. Our February luncheon was one of the most interactive sessions so far this year. Lisa DiNunzio, Program Manager, Bureau of Engraving and Printing's (BEP) Office of Security Technology, kept the audience engaged with a presentation on the necessity for BEP to enhance the security of the nation's currency. Congratulations to Dan Kovlak, winner of the door prize for tickets to the chapter-sponsored Washington National's baseball game in the spring.

Early Careers: Reaching out to the next generation of financial management leaders remains a top priority as the current generation of financial management professionals move toward retirement. Critical to their success is the attainment of the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) certification. In December, we were able to provide over thirty of our early career professionals with the opportunity to take a review course to prepare them for the CGFM exam. Based on the success of this program and the overwhelming response, we will provide an additional course in April, providing these early career professionals a strong foundation for a successful career. See page 24 for further details. If you would like more information about the CGFM program, you can check out <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm> or contact Ken at ken.bresnahan@gt.com or 703-637-3034.

Our next informal early careers luncheon is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, April 11. I encourage those individuals with less than five years of experience in the government accounting/accountability field to attend. The April luncheon will feature a panel of individuals who have recently taken the CGFM exam and a chance to win one free paid registration to the AGA Professional Development Conference in San Diego, CA. Lunch will be provided by AGA-DC and individuals need not be members to attend. This is an excellent opportunity for early career professionals to meet others in the field and learn about obtaining the professional CGFM certification.

Community Service: This month we will again support the Dress for Success "Suits to Self-Sufficiency" program. Dress for Success responds to the needs of local communities by providing programs that help economically disadvantaged women acquire jobs, retain their new positions and succeed in the mainstream workplace. We will be collecting suits and cash donations at our March luncheon.

Member Services: Karl Boettcher, our member services coordinator continues to keep us busy with exciting activities! Last month, members enjoyed a ski trip and a visit to the Naval Observatory. There are many more events scheduled for this year including a tour of the National Cathedral on Sunday, March 12, and a visit to Mount Vernon on Sunday, April 2 (see pages 11 and 12 for more information). We would like to congratulate Karl on his move to a regional AGA board position in the upcoming year, and want to highlight the member services coordinator position as just one of the many opportunities for volunteers next year.

As usual, all of the upcoming year's activities can be found on our chapter's website, www.agadc.org, in addition to the monthly newsletter, The Washington Connection. You can contact the Officers and Directors if you are interested in assisting with any of the chapter activities or to provide suggestions on enhancing the programs we offer. The 2006 Officers and Directors' list can be found in this newsletter and on our website.

Sincerely,
Lisa Casias

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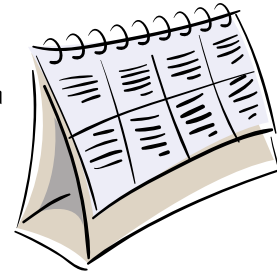
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AGA-DC Events Calendar



Schedule of Events

March 1 – Audio Conference

(see page 21 of February newsletter)

March 3 – Registration Deadline for Federal Financial Management Conference

(see page 22 of February newsletter)

March 10 – Federal Financial Management Conference

(see page 22 of February newsletter)

March 12 – Tour of National Cathedral
(see page 11)

March 15 – Volunteer for AGA-DC 2006 – 2007 positions

(see front page)

March 16 – Monthly luncheon

(see front page)

March 31 – Deadline to submit applications for 2006 AGA National Academic Scholarships

(see page 30)

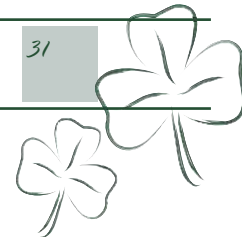
March 31 – Deadline for payment of annual AGA and CGFM dues

(go to the "Members Only" section at www.agacgfm.org and login to pay now.)

March 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AGA-DC Events have a border.



April 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

AGA-DC Events have a border.

Schedule of Events

April 2 – Mt. Vernon Tour
(see page 12)

April 11 – Early Career Luncheon
(see page 23)

April 21 – Early Registration for AGA-DC's Annual Spring Conference
(see page 25)

April 26 – Annual AGA-DC Awards Dinner at Pier 7 Restaurant

April 29-30 – Avon Walk for Breast Cancer
(see page 14)

2006 Schedule of Events

Mark these dates on your calendar so you do not miss any of these fabulous events! Check future newsletters or the AGA-DC website at www.agadc.org for more details.

Date	Type of Event	Activity
March 1	Education	Audio Conference – Implication of Sarbanes-Oxley <i>(see page 21 of the February edition)</i>
March 7	Chapter Meeting	Monthly meeting of the chapter officers and directors
March 12	Member Services	Tour of National Cathedral (see page 11)
March 16	Luncheon	Monthly Luncheon (see front page)
March 16	Community Service	Support the Dress for Success “Suits to Self-Sufficiency” program (see page 13)
April 2	Member Services	Mt. Vernon Tour (see page 12)
April 4	Chapter Meeting	Monthly meeting of the chapter officers and directors
April 11	Early Career	Early Career Luncheon (see page 23)
April 26	Awards Dinner	Annual AGA-DC Awards Dinner at Pier 7 Restaurant
April 29-30	Community Service	Avon Walk for Breast Cancer
May 3-4	Conference	Annual AGA-DC Conference
May 9	Chapter Meeting	Monthly meeting of the chapter officers and directors
May 18	Luncheon	Monthly Luncheon
May 28*	Member Services	Wolf Trap Event (*date to be confirmed)
May	Community Service	Lion’s Club Eyeglass Recycling Program
May/June	Member Services	Washington Nationals Game
June	Community Service	Collect used cell phones for HopeLine
June	Member Services	ASMC/AGA Golf Tournament

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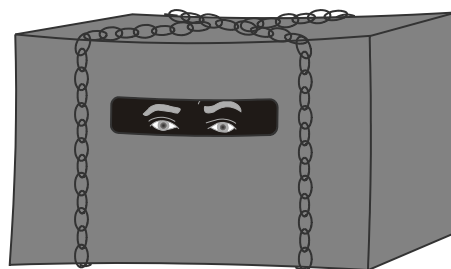


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Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA



An Immodest Proposal . . . (Appropriations without Budgetary Accounts)

Introduction

If you do not like (or even recognize) parodies of Jonathan Swift, then perhaps Rod Serling will do. Submitted for your perusal . . . imagine federal accounting without budgetary accounts. Is such a thing possible? If so, what do we lose by moving budgetary transactions into the proprietary accounts? What do we gain? If the gains exceed the losses, then perhaps we should seriously consider implementing a new, proprietary-only accounting model. If losses exceed the gains, then at least we would have a better appreciation for the current Standard General Ledger.

The Budget-Accounting Divide

It is very important that budgeters learn accounting. This is to say, it must be important, because it has been on the Treasury Financial Management Service's and Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) agendas for the last decade or so. However, what if the reason that it is so hard to merge the budget and accounting worlds is that they really do not belong together? Budgeters track changes to authority on spreadsheets that readily tie to OMB's Program & Financing Schedule—why do they need to know what Standard General Ledger (SGL) accounts are involved?

The Proposal

What I plan on outlining over the next several months is a new accounting model that does not use the budgetary (4000 series) accounts. This model will still retain most of the information currently recorded there, but it will do so in an expanded set of proprietary accounts (technically, the budgetary accounts are intermingled with the proprietary). Specifically, the cash and equity sections will be beefed up considerably to report on budgetary activity and status. Smaller changes will be needed in receivables, payables, expenses, and revenue. These proposals will evolve as I work out the model, hopefully with your input.

An Appropriation and Spending Chain

I believe in digging right in to the heart of the matter, so I will start with an example of an appropriation received, budgeted, and spent. In a later column I will list all the accounts I have invented (hopefully they will not have changed too much from what I am proposing here.

A104 Enact appropriations

Debit 1020 FBWT - Appropriations - new
Credit 3115 Unapportioned Authority

Note: I split out Fund Balance with Treasury (FBWT, a.k.a. Cash) by all the different types of cash transactions, so they could map directly to the Statement of Transactions (SF-224) and parts of the Statement of Budgetary Resources (SBR). In this case, 1020 replaces 4119 Other Appropriations Realized in the SBR as well as 3101 Unexpended Appropriations - Appropriations Received in the Statement of Changes in Net Position, while 3115 replaces 4450 Unapportioned Authority.

A116 Budgetary authority apportioned by OMB

Debit 3115 Unapportioned Authority
Credit 3120 Available Authority

Note: From the SGL standpoint, we do not need to post budget levels lower than the apportionment, so 3120 replaces the whole series of fund status accounts from 4510 to 4610. However, agencies that want lower-level budgeting in their journal can use 3120 sub accounts.

continued on page 7

An Immodest Proposal . . . (Appropriations without Budgetary Accounts)

(continued from page 6)

B202 Commit unobligated amounts

Debit 3120 Available Authority
Credit 3125 Commitments

Note: Committed funds are still technically available, so commitments are part of the 3120 series of accounts.

B204 Current-year undelivered orders without an advance

Debit 3125 Commitments
Credit 3130 Obligated Authority

B107 Pay and disburse funds

Debit 6101 Expense of Appropriated Obligations
Credit 1040 FBWT - Disbursements - new

Note: Account 6101 will close into 3130. Since expenditures are already treated as a kind of obligation (see line 8 of the SBR), expending the order does not change the status of the authority, so I leave the balance obligated in 3130 until annual close. Account 6101 takes the place of 6100 Expenses, 5700 Expended Appropriations, and 3107 Unexpended Appropriations – Used. An expense which does not represent appropriation usage would instead be recorded in 6102. Account 1040 takes the place of both 1010 and 4902 Delivered Orders - Obligations, Paid.

The SGL Board has interpreted FASAB Statement 7 paragraph 212 as requiring an additional entry, such as dr. 3130 and cr. 5700, but it might be possible to recognize appropriations used as a financing source through dedicated usage accounts (such as 6101, which is only used when appropriations are expended).

Conclusion

While the idea of eliminating the budgetary accounts has been proposed before (e.g., the article co-authored by Mitch Laine and Catherine A. Kreyche on financial management reform in the Summer 2005 issue of the *AGA Journal of Government Financial Management*), mine is the first attempt I know of to draw up an actual posting model that uses only proprietary accounts. In a future column, I will go through an example of the reimbursements chain.



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.

To find out what's happening at other AGA chapters in the area:

Visit the Baltimore chapter's website at <http://www.aga-balt.com> to learn about their upcoming events.

Visit the Northern Virginia chapter's Web site at <http://www.novaga.org> to learn about their upcoming events.

Visit the Montgomery/Prince Georges chapter's Web site at <http://www.marylandaga.com> to learn about their upcoming events.

March 16th AGA-DC Luncheon to Highlight FASAB Changes and Challenges

(continued from front page)



Wendy Comes
FASAB Executive Director

The Board's newest member, Tom Allen, is the former chair of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. Mr. Allen is designated to succeed long-time DC Chapter member, David Mosso, as FASAB Chairman in 2007. In addition, the Board is seeking another individual to join the Board in 2007. There also has been significant change in the federal membership this year and Ms. Comes will highlight those changes.

Several new standards have been issued recently. Ms. Comes will discuss standards being implemented for fiscal year 2006. For certain standards, FASAB's Accounting and Auditing Policy Committee is developing implementation guidance. Information about those efforts and how you can contribute or monitor progress will be provided. Ms. Comes also plans to cover the projects on the FASAB agenda that are likely to affect agencies in the future.

Ms. Comes manages the research staff supporting Board deliberations. Prior to joining FASAB staff in 1991, Ms. Comes worked in the utility field. Her experience includes consumer advocacy and corporate financial planning. She served as an auditor and expert witness for the Public Staff of the North Carolina Utilities Commission. She represented the Navy's interests in utility rate cases throughout the country while employed by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command. With Potomac Electric Power Company, Ms. Comes was responsible for long-term financial forecasting, cash planning and bond rating agency presentations. Ms. Comes graduated with distinction from the University of Virginia with a Bachelor of Science degree in Commerce. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the Association of Government Accountants (AGA). She has served as chairperson of the AGA Professional Certification Board, President of the AGA's Washington DC Chapter, and member of the AICPA's Members in Government Committee and Group of 100. She has published in the AICPA Journal of Accountancy and is the author of the federal portion of the AGA's Study Guide for CGFM Exam 2 – Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting.

The luncheon will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2006, at the Zola restaurant at 800 F St., NW, adjacent to the International Spy Museum. The luncheon starts at 11:30, with speakers generally starting around noon. We offer one hour of continuing professional education credit with confirmed attendance. Please register early as our recent luncheons have been filling up very quickly. We look forward to seeing you.

Request for Newsletter Submissions, Comments, or Suggestions

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter? Do you have an article you would like to see in print? Have you developed a time-saving process or procedure on the job? Have you traveled to any interesting locations? *The Washington Connection* requests that you submit any and all items of interest to our federal, state, and local members including: reviews of recently published books related to financial management; unique travel experiences or assignments; lessons learned on 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 April 2006 issue is March 13, 2006. Please send your comments and contributions to the newsletter editor, Julia Ranagan, at ranaganj@fasab.gov. Guidelines for submission of articles and letters to the editor are located at <http://www.agadc.org/documents/artsubguide.doc>.



AGA-DC Profile of the Month

Marianne Condon, Assistant Treasurer



Marianne Condon
*Director, Trust Oversight Office,
 Department of Veterans Affairs*

Name:

Marianne Condon

Title/Office:

Director, Trust Oversight Office, Department of Veterans Affairs

In what other position(s) have you worked?

Since joining the Federal community in 1994, I have always worked in the Finance arena. I have worked for the Office of Personnel Management, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

How long have you been a member of AGA?

Since 2000

What has been your most rewarding achievement in your career?

A number of things come to mind but most recently being instrumental in managing the VA Franchise Fund's financial statement audit and maintaining a clean opinion during my tenure in that office. Actually that job was so much fun; I should have paid them to let me work for them.

How has AGA helped you with your career?

The networking and friendships made since I became AGA-DC's Assistant Treasurer in 2003 have provided valuable resources in my day-to-day work environment.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about joining AGA?

Do it!! Make the time to get involved. The professional relationships developed in AGA can only reap rewards.

What is the best thing about working in government service?

The feeling that YOU are making a difference is rewarding. I would say that all of the VA employees I know realize they have a job because a veteran put his or her life on the line for our freedom. It is very fulfilling to work for an agency that has such a noble mission and such a deserving customer.

What has been the biggest obstacle in getting where you are today?

I can be very single-minded and driven, which is not viewed as a politically correct attitude by some.

What is your favorite hobby or outside activity?

Boating, fishing, any activity involving water.

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?

Ben & Jerry's Coffee-Buzz-Buzz-Buzz.

In Memoriam
William H. "Bill" Pugh, III

With great sadness, we announce the loss of a highly respected and loved member of the federal financial management community. William H. "Bill" Pugh, III, the Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit at the Department of the Treasury and an AGA-DC member, died suddenly on February 6, 2006. Bill was the lead on the Treasury audit for a number of years and was key in ushering in the acceleration of Treasury's reporting processes.

He served the federal financial community well by participating on numerous panels around town to assist other agencies in achieving accelerated closing and improving federal financial management, including the CFO Council's Acceleration Committee and the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board. Whether it was one on one, on a panel, or in a committee, Bill was always willing to share his Federal financial management expertise with other agencies.

Bill had over 30 years of diversified audit experience in the federal government and private industry. He began his federal career with the Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General in 1991 where he implemented a highly successful incremental audit strategy for financial statement audits required under the Chief Financial Officers' and Government Management Reform Acts and then went to work for the Department of Treasury Office of Inspector General in 1995. He received numerous awards for his work throughout his federal career. Prior to joining the federal government, he was an audit partner with Ernst & Young. Bill was an avid tennis player and was ranked nationally as an over 50 player. He was a CPA and CGFM, with a BA from Virginia Military Institute and an MBA from Miami University of Ohio.

Anyone who knew or worked with Bill personally knows what a great loss this is to the federal financial management community. He was a highly respected member of the community and will be greatly missed by his colleagues.



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Tour of the Washington National Cathedral

Member Services, in partnership with the Northern Virginia and Montgomery/Prince Georges Chapters, is sponsoring a tour of the Washington National Cathedral on **Sunday, March 12, 2006**. We will meet inside at the rear of the Cathedral at 1:45 p.m. for a 2:00 p.m. tour. The official interior tour will be narrated by a docent of the Cathedral's art, architecture and history and last about 30 to 45 minutes. This will allow ample time for visiting the Cathedral shops and gardens. It is suggested that you arrive early since ongoing parking garage construction has limited the usual availability of free parking on the streets adjacent to the Cathedral (North, South and Pilgrim). While there is no charge for the tour, a \$3 suggested donation per person is being contributed compliments of our corporate sponsor -

"Savantage Solutions"

If you are interested in this activity, please let us know as soon as possible. Send your electronic response or direct any questions to our Member Services Director, Karl Boettcher, at karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov or 202.874.6131. Additional information can also be obtained from the Cathedral's website at <http://www.cathedral.org/cathedral/>.

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Tour of Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens



Member Services, in partnership with the Northern Virginia and Montgomery/PG chapters, is proud to sponsor a tour of President George Washington's estate at Mount Vernon, Virginia, on **Sunday, April 2, 2006**. Mount Vernon is located 16 miles from Washington, DC, and 8 miles from Old Town, Alexandria, Virginia. You will find it at the south end of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Our group will meet at the ticket window/Texas Entrance Gate by 1:15 p.m. for a 1:30 p.m. walking tour of the estate and its grounds. While you will find part of the grounds tour at Mount Vernon to be self-directed, tour narrations are provided at the Mansion, at the Slave Life tour at 2:00 p.m. and at the Garden/Landscape tour at 3 p.m. There are numerous other buildings and sites you may wish to visit, including the Tombs, Wharf, Pioneer Farm site, and 16-sided barn. It is recommended that you wear comfortable clothes and shoes due to the considerable amount of walking during the tours. In order to visit all of Mount Vernon and its beautiful grounds, you should plan on spending at least two to three hours. You may take photographs everywhere on the estate, except inside the Mansion.

Following the tour, AGA members will be able to enjoy a snack and beverage compliments of our corporate sponsor – "Savantage Solutions"

A one-time admission is \$13.00 for adults, \$12.00 for seniors, \$6.00 for youth ages 6 to 11, and free for children under 5. An excellent value for those wishing a return visit is a "one year" unlimited admissions pass for only \$18.00. There is ample free parking in the parking lots located on both sides of the parkway leading to Mount Vernon. Since many tours at Mount Vernon end at 5:00 p.m., we will meet at the food court at 4:30 p.m. This will allow plenty of time for us to eat and visit the gift shop before it closes at 6:00 p.m. If you are interested in this activity, please let me know as soon as possible. Send your electronic response or direct any questions to our Member Services Director, Karl Boettcher, at karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov or 202.874.6131. For more information, you also may contact the staff at Mount Vernon directly at www.mountvernon.org or 703-780-2000.

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Community Service News

by Tonya Allen-Shaw, AGA-DC Director of Community Service, and Lloyd Farmer, AGA-DC Community Service Assistant

Dress for Success Suit Drive

AGA-DC is continuing its support of the Dress for Success "Suits to Self-Sufficiency" program. Dress for Success is a not-for-profit organization that offers services to help advance low-income women's economic and social development and to encourage self-sufficiency through career development and employment retention. Dress for Success responds to the needs of local communities by providing programs that help economically disadvantaged women acquire jobs, retain their new positions and succeed in the mainstream workplace. Each Dress for Success client receives one suit when she has a job interview and a week's worth of separates when she gets the job.

AGA-DC will be collecting suits at our March luncheon in support of the "Suits to Self-Sufficiency" program. Cash donations will also be accepted. Make checks payable to "Dress for Success." If you have a suit and cannot make the March meeting, Dress for Success currently accepts clothing donations at its monthly suit drive on the first Wednesday of every month in the food court of Pentagon City Mall in Arlington, VA, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Also, see information in the box below for drop off locations during S.O.S. Week (March 19 – 25, 2006) at your neighborhood dressbarn store.

continues on page 14

S.O.S. - Send One Suit - Week™ March 19 – 25, 2006

S.O.S.
SEND ONE SUIT WEEK™



Dress for Success is sending an urgent S.O.S. to women nationwide: donate one new or nearly new interview suit during the week of March 19-25th and help a low-income woman enter the workforce.

A donation of just one suit can empower a woman struggling in a low-income situation to start a new life of self-sufficiency and success. S.O.S. - Send One Suit - Week coincides with Women's History Month and features promotions to raise awareness and funds for Dress for Success affiliates in the U.S. and abroad.

dressbarn, one of America's premier specialty retailers of women's career and casual fashions is the national drop-off site and title sponsor for S.O.S. Week. Women should bring their donation of a new or nearly new suit to one of **over 800 dressbarn stores during the week of March 19-25th**. To find a **dressbarn** store in your area, [click here](#) and enter your zip code on the homepage.

Style, the destination for women with a passion for the best in relatable and inspiring lifestyle television programming, is the exclusive media partner for Dress for Success and a title sponsor for S.O.S. Week 2006. Women who bring their donation to **dressbarn** during S.O.S. Week will receive a special gift from **dressbarn** and Style Network.

This is the 9th year for this call-to-action campaign, formerly known as "Clean Your Closet Week®." The focus on "sending one suit" symbolizes the organization's need to collect only garments appropriate for job interviews. The suit donation represents just the first step towards self-sufficiency. Once a woman is employed, she receives ongoing career development services from The Professional Women's Group, Dress for Success' internationally recognized employment retention program.

dressbarn 

Community Service News (continued from page 13)

Avon Walk for Breast Cancer

AGA-DC will participate in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in Washington, DC on April 29-30, 2006. The Avon Walk for Breast Cancer is about raising funds to help those affected by breast cancer, and about increasing awareness of the disease. The Avon Breast Cancer Walk of Washington DC is part of a series of walks that will occur in eight cities from April through October. Unlike the ALS walk, the Avon Breast cancer walk has a minimum age of 18 for participation. The Avon Walk for Breast Cancer offers a choice of a marathon (26.2 miles) or a marathon and a half (39.3 miles) over a weekend. The total distance is up to you. Your goal is to walk at least the distance of a marathon (26.2 miles) over the two days. You can also choose to walk a full marathon on Saturday and another half marathon (13.1 miles) on Sunday. It is your choice and you can make up your mind (and change it) right on the spot. Each Walker commits to raising \$1,800. There is also a \$55 non-refundable registration fee for each participant.

We are looking for members (and their friends and family) to either participate as walkers or runners or as Crew members or volunteers. Walkers are committed to raising \$1,800 and completing one of the distances listed above. They prefer all money to be turned in to the Avon Breast Cancer Foundation prior to the walk. You must register for the walk and participate in one of the introduction meetings. At these meetings, they will describe everything needed to participate as a walker in this event. There are multiple introduction meetings in March from which to choose. Please go to <http://www.avonwalk.org> for more information about these meetings.

If you join as a Crew Member, you are a registered participant and pay the \$55 registration fee. You will need to make a commitment to participate as a volunteer in an assigned role for the entire Walk weekend, including camping in the Wellness Village. You must also be able to attend at least one Crew Introduction and Training meeting (there are more than 10 scheduled in each city before the Event) and commit to attending the Crew Training Day (held about 4-6 weeks prior to the Event). Telephone meetings can be set up for Crew members outside the immediate area. The Crew is essential to making the Event run smoothly. Crew members are not required to raise funds, but many choose to and prove to be fantastic fundraisers! There is even a fundraising rewards program for the Crew.

Volunteers are also needed throughout the Event weekend. Volunteers commit to a shorter period of time, do not stay overnight, and do not actually register for the Walk. Volunteers will work shorter shifts on Friday (Event Eve), Saturday or Sunday. Depending on how much time you can commit to the Walk, your job will vary throughout the weekend to cover the areas wherever support people are needed most.

If individuals are interested, AGA-DC can form teams for walkers, crew members or volunteers. Please contact Lloyd A. Farmer at 301.809.1326 or Tonya Allen Shaw at 202.720.5026 for more details or to express your interest. Save the date, lace up your walking shoes, and get ready to help us walk to support the quest for a cure.

Eyeglasses and Cell Phones

We continue to collect used eye glasses for the Lion's Club Eyeglass Recycling Program and cell phones for Verizon Wireless Communications' HopeLine. The Lions Club International is the world's largest service club organization with 1.4 million members in 46,000 clubs in 194 countries and geographical areas. Every year the Lions Club partners with organizations, like the AGA, to collect used eyeglasses for individuals in need. The used eyeglasses are cleaned, repaired and classified by prescription. The eyeglasses are then distributed to those in need by Lions Club volunteers and other organizations hosting optical missions in developing countries. HopeLine collects wireless phones and accessories from any wireless service provider, and then refurbishes the phones or recycles them in an environmentally friendly way. Proceeds from the HopeLine program benefit victims of domestic violence and non-profit advocacy agencies. You can drop off eyeglasses and cell phones at any AGA-DC luncheon or other event.

Membership and Liaison News

by Marguerite Nealon, Membership Director and Agency/Corporate Liaison, and LeAnn Corcoran, Membership Assistant Director

Great Turnout for Liaison Luncheon, but New Liaisons are still Needed

Federal agencies and corporations provided strong representation at AGA-DC's first luncheon for agency and corporate liaisons. With funding from AGA National, AGA-DC hosted a free luncheon for those individuals continuing to serve as liaisons and those individuals interested in becoming liaisons. Representatives from nine private sector organizations and nine agencies came to hear our presentation on the liaisons' role. We are inviting others to join the liaison ranks as well so please let us know if you are interested. We encourage Early Careers professionals to join us as well.

What better way to get to know others in the government financial management community than to serve as a volunteer liaison? You will have an easy way to meet fellow colleagues, as you can discuss the benefits of AGA-DC membership! We now have liaisons from about 18 private sector and 30 federal organizations. Perhaps your organization could use more than one liaison, so sign up. Now, let us tell you what you missed at our luncheon:

After a brief introduction about the purpose of our luncheon, we introduced ourselves and shared a bit about our roles in government financial management. We then saw a two-minute video on the AGA organization and the many roles government financial managers play. We also addressed the roles of the liaison, which include:

- Informing colleagues about professional development and networking opportunities through AGA-DC;
- Urging Early Careers professionals to see if they qualify for free Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) training; and,
- Educating others on the benefits of membership in AGA-DC.

continued on page 16



Recruitment*

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP offers immediate opportunities to fast track professionals. We are seeking individuals with strong audit and finance backgrounds and a desire to contribute to our clients. You will have the opportunity to serve as a part of a team of professionals delivering quality service to numerous agencies and departments which will make a difference in their ability to fulfill their important missions.

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Membership and Liaison News (continued from page 15)

We also described such rewards for enlisting new members as: free AGA-DC luncheons for new members and those enlisting them, and redeemable coupons from AGA National for enlisting new members (for more information on the coupons, go to “Membership” and then “Recruit a Member” at www.agacgfm.org).

A few lucky attendees received our new collared Polo shirts with the AGA-DC logo and CGFM attendees received our AGA-DC T-shirts. Let us know if you are interested in these good-looking white shirts—you might want to wear them on casual Friday!

Welcome, New Members!

Please welcome the following members who recently joined AGA-DC:

<i>Amadou Makhtar Ba</i>	<i>Audrey Duchesne</i>	<i>Aurora C. Marteja</i>	<i>Ross E. Simms</i>
<i>Medhat Bahnan</i>	<i>Renita Y. Ferguson</i>	<i>Priscilla A. Martin</i>	<i>Gary Simpson</i>
<i>Jennifer Bailey</i>	<i>Elisa Ferrall</i>	<i>Luciana A. Mashore</i>	<i>Robert L. Smith, Jr.</i>
<i>Joseph Bauer</i>	<i>James A. Fishenden</i>	<i>Kimberly A. McFarlane</i>	<i>Twyla N. Stephen</i>
<i>Rhonda Beals</i>	<i>Michelle I. Fortsch</i>	<i>Fabian Mendive</i>	<i>Ashley D. Stickman</i>
<i>Lisa A. Berry</i>	<i>Jennifer Sanchez Funk</i>	<i>Brian Murphy</i>	<i>Tammi R. Straite</i>
<i>Iris E. Bowman</i>	<i>Juanita M. Galbreath</i>	<i>Sharmili A. Naik</i>	<i>Kawan Taylor</i>
<i>Whitney Brooks</i>	<i>Kathryn K. Gould</i>	<i>Rondy C. Nelson, Jr.</i>	<i>Matthew Taylor</i>
<i>Richard M. Brozen</i>	<i>John M. Herndon</i>	<i>Kathryn E. O'Malley</i>	<i>Sahra I. Torres-Rivera</i>
<i>Ebony A. Bullock</i>	<i>Jennifer Hope Hines</i>	<i>Jeffrey Page</i>	<i>Steven B. Triantafell</i>
<i>Susan Cash</i>	<i>Stephanie Irby</i>	<i>Robert Carter Pate</i>	<i>Chintan Bharteshkumar Tripathi</i>
<i>Jeffrey D. Champagne</i>	<i>Roxanne R. Jackson</i>	<i>Madhvi C. Patel</i>	<i>Alexia Cristina Vogler</i>
<i>Katherine Clark</i>	<i>Auvonett F. Jones</i>	<i>Jonathan Pavlik</i>	<i>Deborah K. Ward</i>
<i>David L. Concannon</i>	<i>Robert Josephs</i>	<i>Linda L. Pena</i>	<i>Timothy J. Weber</i>
<i>Mary E. Cooper</i>	<i>Shujaat U. Khan</i>	<i>Marshelle Richardson</i>	<i>Lenise E. Williams</i>
<i>Christine P. Courter</i>	<i>Shade Koletowo</i>	<i>Jodie Sandel</i>	<i>Cheryl L. Wilson</i>
<i>Abdollah Dabirzadeh</i>	<i>Jonathan Korol</i>	<i>Wanda Scotland</i>	<i>Amber S. Wright</i>
<i>Toni Y. Daniels</i>	<i>Stuart J. Levy</i>	<i>Chris Shelsta</i>	<i>Kevin Wu</i>
<i>George Deryckere</i>	<i>Alex M. Lopez</i>	<i>Michael N. Shifrin</i>	<i>Long Zhang</i>
<i>Joyce D. Douglas</i>	<i>Amanda Lopez</i>	<i>Filia N. Sidarta</i>	

You Too Can Enjoy A Free Luncheon!

New members and their sponsors are taking advantage of the monthly luncheons—FOR FREE! You too can enjoy a free luncheon if you sponsor a new member. Please contact either Marguerite Nealon at Marguerite.Nealon@fms.treas.gov or LeAnn Corcoran at lcocoran@savantage.net to let us know if you are a sponsor or a newly registered member.



February 16th AGA-DC Luncheon Attendees Learn About the New Color of Money: Safer. Smarter. More Secure.

by Julia Ranagan, AGA-DC Newsletter Editor

AGA-DC held the fifth luncheon in our 2005-2006 luncheon series, "Getting to Green and Everything in Between!," at Zola Restaurant in Washington, DC, on Thursday, February 16, 2006. The numerous bean counters and other federal financial management professionals in attendance are used to being accountable or helping the government to be accountable for federal funds. However, as Lisa DiNunzio, Program Manager from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's Office of Security Technology, pointed out, we deal mostly with numbers on paper and balances in a financial system. Ms. DiNunzio brought us up to speed on what goes on behind the scenes at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) to enhance the security of the nation's currency and other official documents and protect our economy from the effects of counterfeiting.

Ms. DiNunzio noted that, prior to 1990, the United States (U.S.) went 61 years without making any changes to the paper currency. However, with the advent of new and better reprographic technology, BEP has to continually issue new currency to keep up with changing technology. BEP now plans to issue new currency every seven to ten years to stay ahead of counterfeiting and protect the economy and citizens' hard-earned money. A newly revamped \$10 bill will be issued on March 10, 2006.

The impetus to change the currency started in the 1980's with the advent of the color copier and BEP's desire to stay ahead of the "casual counterfeiter." Now, with the increasingly more sophisticated technological equipment available worldwide and the proliferation of inexpensive, highly affordable reprographic equipment (digital cameras, printers, copiers, etc.), BEP needs to be even more vigilant about making it more difficult for our currency to be reproduced.

Ms. DiNunzio said that counterfeiting is a major problem but not one that normal citizens need to worry about on an every day basis. For every 10,000 genuine bills, she estimated that there is only one counterfeit bill. In addition, a counterfeiter only expects to pass a counterfeit bill one time. Once a bill is placed into circulation and passes through a Federal Reserve Bank, it goes through a high-speed processing machine that sorts out counterfeit bills as well as bills that are no longer fit for circulation. However, the damage is done to the economy once a counterfeit bill is accepted for payment. Ms. DiNunzio also noted that the most counterfeited bill in the U.S. is the \$20 bill and the most counterfeited bill outside of the U.S. is the \$100 bill.

Ms. DiNunzio said that the new color of money is:

- Safer, which makes it harder to fake and easier to check;
- Smarter, allowing BEP to stay ahead of tech-savvy counterfeiters; and,
- More Secure, protecting the integrity of the economy.

Several of the features of the new currency include:

- Embedded security thread that is visible when held up to light and turns orange under an ultraviolet light;
- Color-shifting ink that changes color from copper to green when the note is tilted up and down;
- A watermark that depicts the picture of the president on the bill that is visible when held up to light;
- Addition of subtle background colors that differ for each denomination;
- Two symbols of freedom added in the background that differ for each denomination;
- The border around the president has been removed, the portrait has been moved up, and shoulders have been added; and,
- Small yellow numbers denoting the denomination of the bill have been printed in the background on the front and back of the note.

Some features of the notes will remain the same, such as the blue and red fibers that are embedded in the paper itself. For more information and a demo of the features of the newly issued currency, go to <http://www.moneyfactory.gov/newmoney/>.

continued on page 18

February 16th AGA-DC Luncheon Attendees Learn About the New Color of Money: Safer. Smarter. More Secure. (continued from page 17)

Ms. DiNunzio responded to a large number of questions from interested participants. One participant asked if the U.S. had looked into using alternatives to paper such as polymer, which is currently being used in Australia. Ms. DiNunzio responded that BEP is always looking at alternatives to paper and they have looked at polymer and even Tyvek, but they have not found any better cost-effective alternatives so far. There was a problem noted with the ink wearing or cracking off of the alternatives; the U.S. is not planning on replacing paper currency any time soon.

Scott Bell, AGA-DC President-Elect, congratulated Dan Kovlak on winning the drawing for two tickets to the Washington Nationals baseball game to be hosted by AGA-DC in the spring. Marguerite Nealon, AGA-DC Director of Membership, presented an AGA-DC t-shirt to Christy Beck and recognized her for recently receiving the prestigious CGFM designation. Congratulations to Dan and Christy! Join us at the next AGA-DC luncheon on Thursday, March 16, 2006, for an informative presentation by Wendy Comes, FASAB Executive Director, on current FASAB Changes and Challenges, and your chance to win two tickets to a Washington Nationals baseball game in the spring.



Lisa DiNunzio, Program Manager,
Office of Security Technology,
Bureau of Engraving and Printing



An attentive audience of nearly 100 attendees listens to Lisa DiNunzio describe the methods used to protect our currency from counterfeiting.

2005-2006 CHAPTER RECOGNITION PROGRAM STATUS

by Patricia Clark-Duncan, AGA-DC Chair of Administration

The National Office encourages all chapters to achieve at least 10,000 points each year. As stated by the National Office, this total represents the level of activity of a well-rounded and "healthy" chapter. The current status of the AGA-DC chapter as of the third quarter is listed in the chart below.

<u>Section</u>	<u>1st Qtr</u>	<u>2nd Qtr</u>	<u>3rd Qtr</u>	<u>4th Qtr</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
I. Chapter Administration	1,325	1,225	250	0	2,800	3,000	93%
II. Educational Events	1,650	1,400	900	0	3,950	4,000	99%
III. Certification	2,250	1,300	1,025	0	4,575	4,000	114%
IV. Communication	1,302	1,698	2,275	0	5,275	3,000	176%
V. Membership	0	125	75	0	200	3,000	7%
VI. Community Service	200	500	1,300	0	2,000	2,000	100%
VII. Chapter Awards Program	0	300	0	0	300	1,000	30%
Quarterly Total	6,727	6,548	5,825	0	19,100	20,000	96%

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The Bottom Line

Included for your information is a summary of AGA-DC's quarterly financial report for the six-month period ending December 31, 2005.

For the six-month period ended December 31, 2005, AGA-DC's revenues (\$35,089) exceeded expenses (\$20,510) by \$14,579. This is largely due to the generous sponsorship that AGA-DC has received this year and only a half-year of expenses. The continuing success that AGA-DC has had with sponsorships have enabled AGA-DC to reduce chapter dues for all classes of members this year by at least 50 percent and offer a second free Certified Government Financial Manager training to Early Career members. AGA-DC expenses through December 31, 2005, primarily consisted of expenses for the monthly luncheon (\$13,622), layout of the newsletter (\$1,600), donations to charity (\$1,000), video CPE conferences (\$921), and miscellaneous expenses for community service, membership services, and bank fees.

If you have any questions related to this report, please contact John Lynskey, AGA-DC Treasurer, at jlynskey@nsf.gov.

December 31, 2005

Beginning Balance	\$165,600
Revenues	35,089
Expenses	20,510
Ending Balance	\$180,179
Checking Accounts	\$37,139
Money Market	139,601
Prepaid Expenses	589
Accounts Receivable	2,850
Liabilities	0
Total	\$180,179



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call 202 874-9560 or visit www.fms.treas.gov/tas



Intensive Review Course and CGFM Examinations A Success Once Again

Submitted by Katya Silver, AGA National

The Intensive Review Course is once again a big hit! Offered for the second time at the National Leadership Conference (NLC) in Washington DC on February 1 and 2, 2006, it was sold out at 50 participants.

After attending the two-day review course, the candidates tackled the CGFM Examinations over the next two days (with some taking all three exams in one day!). As a result, 23 of the participants passed all three (or finished up their remaining) CGFM Examinations at this event – even more than at the similar event in July of last year! Others passed one or two examinations and are on their way to completing the CGFM process.

While this “intense” experience is not for everybody, participants were attracted to the idea of completing the CGFM process in a short period of time, having a set deadline to take the examinations and saving money (the cost of CGFM Examinations is included in the Intensive Review Course fee, which is less than the cost of the three examinations). Holding an Intensive Review Course and CGFM Examinations in conjunction with AGA National Leadership and Professional Development Conferences gives the candidates one more way to reinforce the material and take the CGFM Examinations (candidates can also take the exams at Prometric testing centers anytime).

The extra reinforcement of the material is exactly what some people wanted and needed. The Intensive Review Course is not a substitute for the six days of regular instructor-led training courses. On the contrary, this course is designed as a supplement to previous preparation for the CGFM Examinations (such as attending the courses and/or using study guides). In fact, the majority of the participants have purchased the CGFM study guides before participating in the Intensive Review Course.

AGA plans to continue offering this course and CGFM Examinations at its upcoming conferences. The next Intensive Review Course is scheduled for June 15 – 16, 2006 (with exams on June 17 – 18, 2006) in conjunction with AGA's Professional Development Conference (PDC) in San Diego, CA. For more information or to register, please visit http://www.agacgfm.org/pdc2006/cgfm_exam.htm.



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National Says Now Is the Time to Apply for Your CGFM

Have you been thinking about applying for the CGFM Program? Have you been talking to a colleague who is "thinking about" applying for the CGFM?

Now is the time! From March 1 – 31, 2006, AGA National will give a refund of \$20 to CGFM applicants that meet the following requirements:

1. The complete CGFM application (application form, \$85 application fee and proof of a bachelor's degree) must be received by the AGA Office of Professional Certification during the period of March 1 through March 31, 2006.
2. The CGFM application form must have the promotional phrase: **"CGFM chapter promotion – Washington, DC"** written at the bottom of the form (under the source code). If the application is submitted online, the applicant must put this phrase in the last question: "How did you learn about the CGFM Program?"

Important notes:

- A full application fee of \$85 must be paid at the time of application. The \$20 refund check will be sent to the applicant by mail after the promotion month is over.
- The applicant must put the words **"CGFM chapter promotion – Washington, DC"** on the application form in order to receive the rebate.
- It is preferable that the applications are submitted by the applicants themselves and not by the chapter. The applicant does not have to be a chapter member in order to receive the rebate.

But that is not all...

Our chapter will receive 50 BONUS CREDITS (Chapter Recognition Points) for every application that lists the Washington, DC chapter in the promotional phrase! PLUS the chapter that is listed on the most applications submitted from March 1 – 31, 2006, will also receive \$20 for each application!

The CGFM application form is located at: <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/downloads/CGFMapplicationform.pdf>.

March is CGFM Month in the Commonwealth of Virginia

Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine recently proclaimed March 2006 as **Certified Government Financial Manager Month in the Commonwealth of Virginia**. The proclamation recognized the members of the Virginia Peninsula, Roanoke, Richmond, Northern Virginia, and Old Dominion University Chapters of AGA that are part of a network of 14,000 members in 88 chapters in the United States and around the world. The Certificate of Recognition stated that AGA's "CGFM program provides a means of demonstrating professionalism and competency by requiring CGFM candidates to have appropriate educational and employment history, to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics and to pass a 3-part examination requiring expertise in Governmental Environment, Governmental Financial Management and Control, and Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting." This important recognition would not have been possible without the initiative and dedication of AGA regional and chapter leaders.

Calling All Early Career Individuals – Save the Date!

Tuesday, April 11, 2006

The next early career luncheon will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2006. We will have a panel of individuals who have recently taken the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) exam to talk about this very important certification. We will also be holding a drawing for one free paid registration fee to this year's Professional Development Conference (PDC) in San Diego, CA on June 18 – 21, 2006 (value of up to \$1,000).

The DC chapter hosted a second early careers luncheon at Deloitte Consulting on January 24, 2006. Terry Hurst, Director of the Program Management Office and Systems Policy at the Department of Health and Human Services, spoke about the vast career opportunities that exist in the Financial Management field. We have reached out to many of the agencies' Financial Management intern programs to provide a venue for Early Career financial management professionals to network and learn more about a long-term career focused on accountability in the federal government.

AGA-DC would like to thank Deloitte Consulting for hosting the early career luncheons this year. The Deloitte Consulting offices, at 12th & F St., NW, provide a convenient location for AGA members to meet.

If you have less than five years of experience in the government accounting/accountability field, you do not want to miss out on our next Early Career Luncheon. This is a great opportunity to listen to a seasoned government financial management professional, meet and greet other professionals in the field, and win one free paid registration fee to the PDC in sunny San Diego (travel expenses not included).

- Who:** All individuals with less than five years of experience in the government accounting/accountability field (need not be members to attend).
- What:** Early Career Luncheon featuring a panel of individuals who have recently taken the CGFM exam and a chance to win paid registration to the AGA PDC
- When:** Tuesday, April 11, 2006 from 11:30 – 1:00 p.m.
- Where:** Deloitte Consulting, 12th & F. St., NW, Washington, DC
- Cost:** Free, lunch will be provided.
- How:** Please contact Laura Glass, Director of Early Careers, at 703.364.2545 or laura.glass@oracle.com to register for this event and receive further details.

Good Times · Knowledgeable Speakers · Networking Opportunities · Free Lunch

AGA's SEA Reporting Program Announces Two Recipients

AGA National announced recently that the first two 2005 SEA Certificates of Achievement in Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA) Reporting Program have been awarded to Maricopa County, AZ, and Bellevue, WA. Congratulations to these two governmental entities! Certificates will be presented at the Second Annual National Performance Management Conference, October 30-31, 2006, in Chicago, IL.

Back by Popular Demand

AGA-DC to Provide Free CGFM Training to Early Career Members

by Ken Bresnahan, AGA-DC CGFM Coordinator

Due to the generous sponsorship we have received this year and the overwhelmingly positive response to the free Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) training that was provided to Early Careers members in the fall, AGA-DC President Lisa Casias has recently announced that the Washington Chapter will be offering a second session of free CGFM training in April 2006. This six-day session is a comprehensive training program for Early Career members that helps prepare participants to successfully complete the CGFM examinations.

This program, offered **AT NO COST** to qualified enrollees, will address three key components that align with the CGFM: the governmental environment; government accounting, financial reporting and budgeting; and government financial management and control. In summary, there are four key criteria for eligibility:

- Must be a member of the DC, Northern Virginia or Montgomery/Prince George's County chapter of AGA (you can join now to meet this requirement);
- Must have no more than 5 years of professional experience;
- Must obtain your supervisor's approval; and,
- Must commit to taking the CGFM examinations within one year of the training.

This program provides a wonderful opportunity for our members in the early stage of their careers to dramatically increase their knowledge of government financial management, and prepare to acquire a critically important professional certification that will enhance their value to their organizations and promote their long term career aspirations.

The training will be held at the facilities of Grant Thornton Global Public Sector (GPS), which is located at 333 John Carlyle St, Suite 500, Alexandria VA 22314. We are most appreciative to Hank Steinger, the Managing Partner of GPS, for his generous hospitality in hosting this event.

Here is a quick synopsis of the program:

- Who:** Members of the AGA from the Washington, Northern Virginia, and Montgomery/ Prince George's County Chapters with up to five years of professional experience
- What:** Free comprehensive CGFM training
- When:** April 18 – 20 and 25 – 27, 2006
- Where:** Grant Thornton Global Public Sector (GPS), 333 John Carlyle St, Suite 500, Alexandria VA 22314
- How:** Applicants should submit a brief letter expressing interest in the program that includes a statement attesting to their eligibility as Early Career members, contact information, and a commitment to take the CGFM examinations within one year of course completion. A statement from the applicant's supervisor approving the training should also be provided. Enrollment of qualified applicants will be on a first-come, first served basis for up to 30 people. Application materials should be sent to Ken Bresnahan by e-mail at ken.bresnahan@gt.com. The application period will remain open until all available positions are filled.

We are excited to be able to offer this free training program for a second time this year. We will be able to accommodate members that were put on a waiting list for the previous training as well as additional members that are interested but did not sign up previously. This is a great opportunity for our next generation of financial management leaders.

Mission Possible: Getting to Green

May 3-4, 2006

The Spy Museum, 800 F Street, NW

Featuring Linda Combs, Controller, Office of Management and Budget; and Sallyanne Harper, Chief Administrative Officer, Government Accountability Office; as well as other top government officials, this conference will provide updates on federal financial management and systems, including internal controls, performance measures, fraud and identity theft, and the budget process. Getting to Green through improved financial performance is a goal shared by accounting, audit, budget, and fiscal operatives throughout the financial management community. This conference will provide a rare opportunity to learn from masters at the game and to share insights with your colleagues.

Conference Information/Registration

Program times: 8:00 am until 4:30 pm on both Wednesday and Thursday
 AGA-DC and GWSCPA members: \$300 early registration (\$350 after April 21, 2006)
 Non-members: \$350 early registration (\$400 after April 21, 2006)
 Topics include: The GWA Modernization Project, Implementing the New A-123,
 Performance Measurement, Budget Process Automation, Purchase
 Card Controls, Enterprise Architecture for Financial Management

Continuing Education

15 hours CPE credit offered by GWSCPA Educational Foundation for all participants

Who Should Attend?

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

Why Should You Attend?

Hands-on • Conveniently located
 Support your local organization • Inexpensive CPE!

For more information:

More information will be available on the website at www.agadc.org and in future issues of *The Washington Connection* newsletter. You can also contact Maureen Stratford at mstratford@lmi.org for additional details.

Save the date now for AGA-DC's Annual Spring Conference!

Featured Job Vacancy Announcement

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (www.pbgc.gov) is currently announcing a vacancy for a GS-13/14 Systems Accountant (\$77,353 - \$118,828). For more information, please contact Gary Birmingham, HRD/PBGC, via email at birmingham.gary@pbgc.gov, or by telephone at 202.326.4110, ext. 3135, or fax at 202.326.4249.

For more federal job vacancy announcements, visit USAJOBS at <http://www.usajobs.com/>.



Katrina Challenges and Lessons Learned

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

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

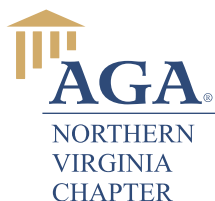
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Hilton Alexandria Old Town

1767 King Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

(across from the King Street metro)



The impact of Hurricane Katrina brought a new focus on accounting for disasters, natural and unnatural, and continues to present federal managers with changing challenges and new lessons learned as a result of Katrina's aftermath. Participants will hear the latest information on these challenges and lessons learned from key officials and standard setters. The sessions will explore these challenges and lessons learned from a variety of perspectives.

8.5 CPEs (see page 27 for registration form)

Katrina Challenges and Lessons Learned

Wednesday, March 15, 2006
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Hilton Alexandria Old Town
1767 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(across from the King Street metro)



7:15-8:00	Registration & Networking
8:00-8:50	Keynote:
8:50-9:45	Providing Emergency Assistance While Preventing Waste and Fraud - Lessons from Katrina
9:45-10:00	Break
10:00-11:50	Presidential Committee on Integrity and Efficiency Panel
11:50-1:00	Luncheon and Speaker: OMB Circular A-123: Strengthening Internal Control (will include a 15 min break to set up for lunch)
1:00-1:50	FASAB Changes in Accounting Standards-Now and Later
1:50-2:45	Disasters: The Importance of Data Collection and Reporting
2:45-3:00	Break
3:00-3:50	Impact on Audit Standards-What are Katrina's Effects on the Yellow Book
3:50-4:45	Maintaining Program Integrity during Emergency Circumstances
4:45-5:00	Wrap-Up

Continental Breakfast

The Honorable Richard L. Skinner,
Inspector General, DHS

Michael J. Hettinger,
Staff Director, Subcommittee on Government Management, Finance and Accountability, House Committee on Government Reform

Refreshments

Panel: Chair, Mathew Jadacki, Assistant Inspector General, Gulf Coast Hurricane Oversight Office, DHS

Jeffrey C. Steinhoff, Managing Director Financial Management & Assurance, GAO

Wendy Comes, Executive Director, Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board

Maria Paz-Barrientos, Partner, IBM Business Consulting Services

Refreshments

Jeanette Franzel, Director, Financial Management & Assurance, GAO

Sally Clark Beecroft, Senior Policy Analyst Financial Integrity & Analysis/OFFM, OMB

Patricia Brannin & Terri Patrizio

Registration

Sponsored by:
**The Northern Virginia Chapter of the
Association of Government Accountants**

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Employer _____

Email _____

Billing Address (if different) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Are you an AGA member? Yes No Chapter _____

Payment Information for 8.5 CPEs:

Amount: _____ \$195 Early Registration by March 1; \$225 Late Registration after March 1
(no later than March 6)

_____ Check Enclosed _____ MasterCard _____ Visa _____ AMEX _____ Discover

Amount _____ Price includes continental breakfast, lunch, and refreshment breaks.

Name as it appears on card: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

If a special meal is needed, please specify: _____

Signature: _____

*****Special volume discount*****
If an organization registers 10 or more participants at one time, the cost is only \$180 per participant. Discounts are Transferable and Subject to Availability.

Register Early! Space is limited!

Register by mail
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Washington, DC 20026-4079

Register by fax
(fax complete form to):

Terri Patrizio
fax: 202.512.4624

For inquiries:
Terri Patrizio
Patriziot@gao.gov
(telephone # for emergencies)
202.512.5386

Dennis Green
Dennis.Green@em-i.com
phone: 301.903.2823
cell: 703.994.1814



Make Plans Now to Attend AGA's 55th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC) June 18 – 21, 2006 in San Diego, CA

With the theme "Navigating the Way to Citizen-Centered Government," the PDC promises to be an excellent learning and networking opportunity for government financial managers and accountability professionals.

Education sessions will provide technical training, emerging trend snapshots and leadership secrets from the best in the business. Speakers will explain current regulations, describe future challenges, and share lessons learned in disaster recovery and finance, among many other topics. Concurrent sessions will be organized around the following six tracks:

- Envisioning 2015: The Future of the Accountability Profession
- Building and Sustaining Strong Internal Controls
- State and Local Governments—Challenges, Strategies and Innovations
- Improving Public Performance: Transforming Data into Results
- Intergovernmental Financial Management: Collaboration or Frustration?
- Technology, Tools and Techniques for the 21st Century

In addition to an outstanding technical program, AGA's PDC provides unparalleled opportunities to network, exchange ideas with your peers and meet new friends. The Exhibit Hall connects you with the industry's leading suppliers, eager to showcase cutting-edge technologies, products and services to help you to become more effective.

Register today and secure your place at the government financial management education event of the year!

- [Register online now](#) and save
- [Click here to print the registration form](#) (PDF).
- [Click here to visit the conference website](#).

Early registration by May 19, 2006, is \$800 for members and \$1,000 for nonmembers. Save an additional \$25 by registering online.

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>



Reserve Your Spot at the ASMC-DC Chapter Mini-PDI – 8 CPEs, \$195

It is not too late to register for the Washington, DC ASMC Chapter Mini-PDI to be held on Thursday, March 9, 2006, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC. With a theme of "Acceleration Towards Fiscal Readiness," this exciting conference offers eight hours of Continuing Professional Education (CPE) for only \$195 (\$170 for ASMC members). Please check the Washington Chapter website (<http://www.washington-asmc.org/2006MiniPDI/index.html>) for more information and to register.



Federal Financial Management Conference Counting on High Performance in Financial Management

March 10 2006

**Sponsored by the JFMIP Principals and
U.S. Chief Financial Officers Council**

Sign up now for the 2006 Federal Financial Management Conference – 7 CPEs, \$150

Seven hours of CPE for only \$150. For more info and to register online, go to www.jfmip.gov or click on the following link to register: https://register.grad.usda.gov/conferences/jfmip/jfmip06_reg_form.cfm

Register Today for the Southeastern Region PDC – 16 CPEs, \$350



Join AGA members in Nashville on March 16 – 17, 2006, at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center. With the theme "Open Government – Public Trust and Accountability" the PDC will provide 16 CPE hours as well as loads of networking and entertainment for only \$350. The brochure and online registration information are available at the Nashville Chapter website at www.nashvilleaga.org/2006/PDCBrochure.pdf.

AGA National Academic Scholarships
Due March 31, 2006



Call For 2006 National Academic Scholarships

Are you or a family member pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in disciplines such as accounting, auditing, budgeting, economics, finance, information technology, public administration, etc.? If so, consider applying for an AGA National Academic Scholarship today!

Each year, AGA National awards:

- Up to six \$1,000 full-time merit scholarships to AGA members and their family members;
- Up to two \$500 part-time merit scholarships to AGA members and their family members; and
- One \$1,000 community service scholarship.

The deadline for receipt of applications is March 31, 2006. Apply now and take full advantage of your AGA membership. To download a copy of the application, go to <http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/awards/> or contact Rosanna Ortiz at ortiz@agacgfm.org.

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Grant Thornton Global Public Sector has been serving Federal government clients for nearly a decade. Whether your organization is looking for financial services, cost and performance management, or technical solutions, Grant Thornton professionals can provide expert advisory services tailored to meet your organization's specific needs.

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- IT Management
- Enterprise Applications
- Strategic Management
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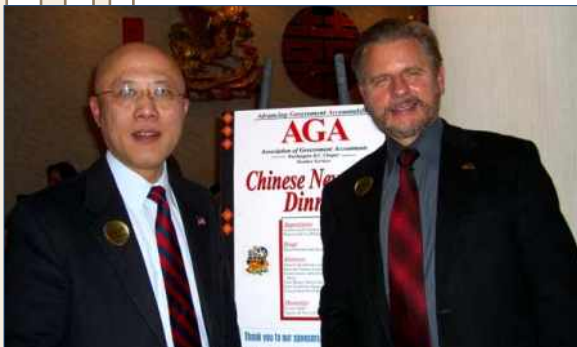
333 John Carlyle Street
Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
703.837.4400
www.grantthornton.com/globalpublicsector



Around Town with AGA

Members of AGA National, the AGA Capital Region, and their family and friends have been spotted around town recently in a number of activities . . .

Enjoying a "Chinese New Year Dinner" at the China Garden in Rosslyn, Virginia on Saturday, January 21, 2006. Sam Mok, Department of Labor CFO, and co-sponsor, Member Services Director, Karl Boettcher, welcomed a record seventy-five members, guests, and sponsors. All experienced a smorgasbord of Chinese Cuisine . . .



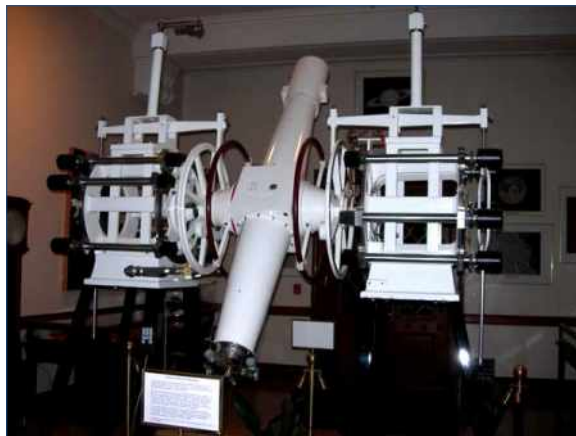
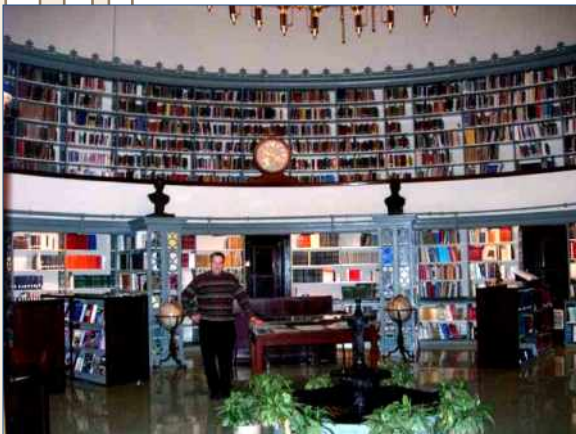
Continued on page 32



Around Town with AGA

Continued from page 31

Taking a tour of the Naval Observatory's time clocks, library, and observatory telescopes on Monday, January 23, 2006 . . .



Continued on page 33



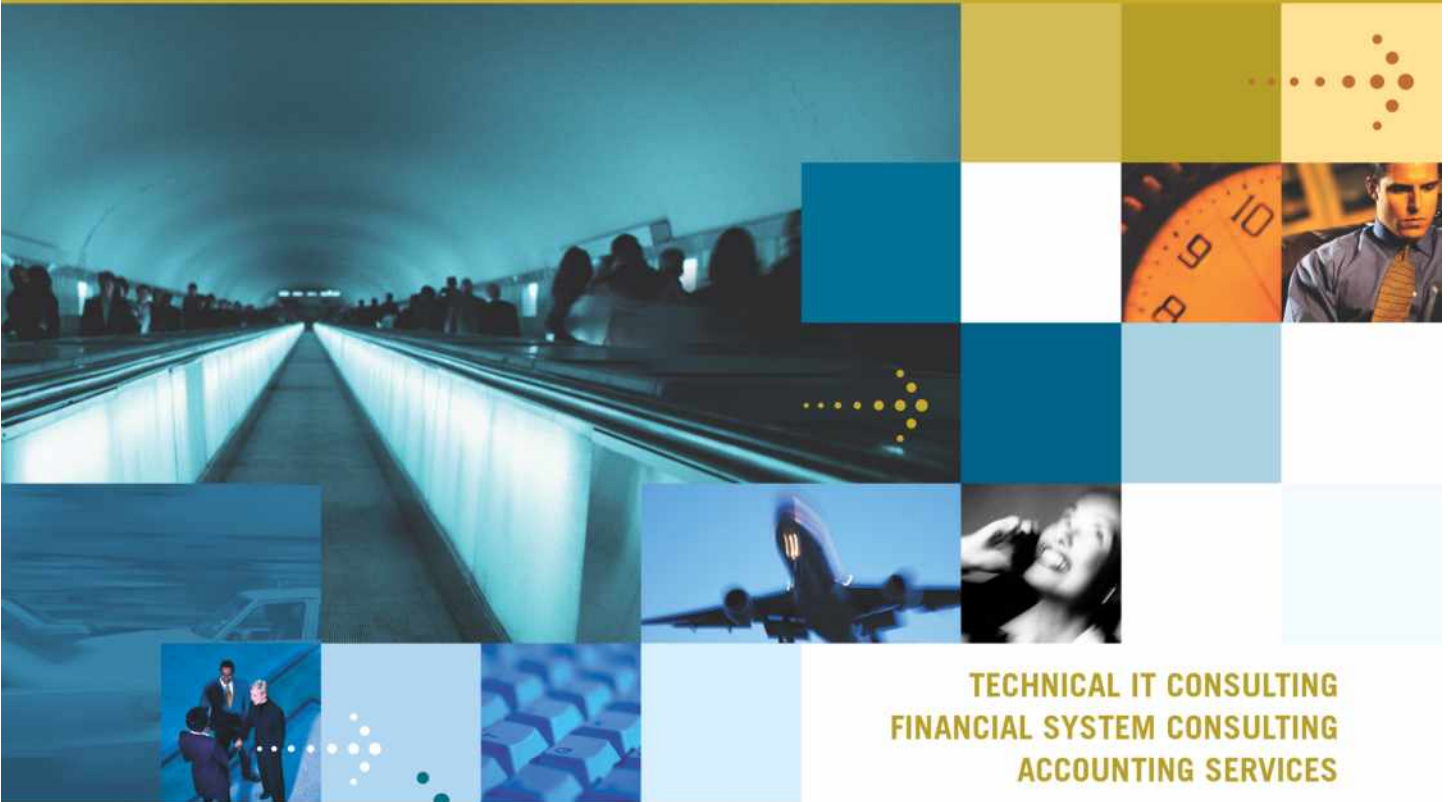
Around Town with AGA

Continued from page 32

Skiing at Ski Liberty on Friday, February 10, 2006 . . .



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