

ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS

THE WASHINGTON CONNECTION

Washington Chapter • P.O. Box 423 • Washington, D.C. 20044-0423 • (703) 758-4080 • November 1994

WASHINGTON CHAPTER LUNCHEON MEETING

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 3, 1994

Touchdown Club
2000 L Street, N.W.
(Near Farragut West Metro Stop)

Social: 11:30 (Cash Bar)
Luncheon: 12:00 Noon
Cost: \$16.00 (Members)
\$18.00 (Non-Members)

Also see The President's Message on page 2
for information regarding special luncheon prices.

- Reservations are urged
- Call (703) 758-4080 by
November 1, 1994
- Request sign language interpreter
by October 31, 1994
- Non-Members are welcome

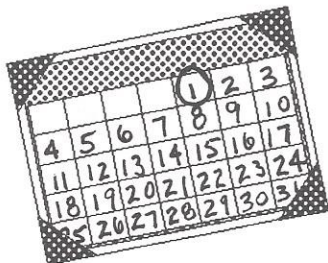
LUNCHEON PROGRAM

SPEAKER: Mr. Stephen Barr
The Washington Post

Did you ever wonder....How do we really look to the press who covers our activities? How do stories get onto the Federal Page of the Washington Post? How can I get my story on the Federal Page? Why do reporters cover politicals so completely and careerists so incompletely? How do they get these stories? What's it like to interview a Senator? Things like that.....

Stephen Barr, who has been at the Washington Post as a reporter and editor since 1979, will be our guest speaker. He includes in his "beat" coverage of the Chief Financial Officers Act and the Government Performance and Results Act. He has spent the past year tracking Vice President Gore's reinventing government initiative.

Mr. Barr has indicated that he would like the format for his luncheon remarks to be principally one of his responding to questions. This will be an opportunity to participate in an open forum and take advantage of the insight Mr. Barr's unique assignments covering Legislative and Executive Branch policy officials and staff members enable him to provide. Its your chance to catch a different view of what we do.



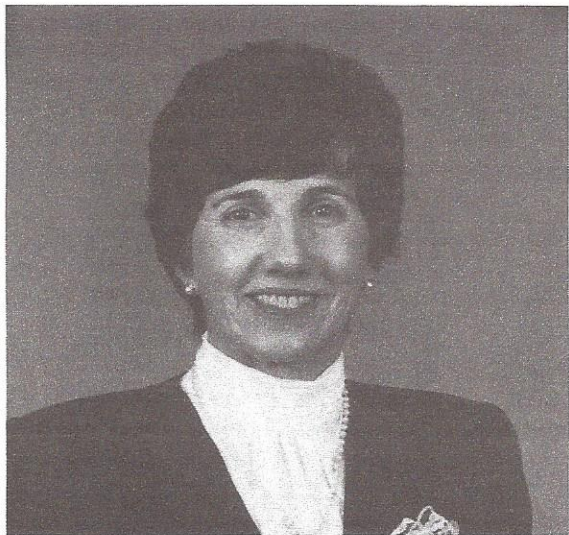
..... DECEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING

DATE: December 1, 1994
TOPIC: FinanceNet
LOCATION: Touchdown Club

SPEAKERS:
B. Preston Rich
National Science Foundation
Linda Hoogeveen
Office of Management and Budget

Preston Rich and Linda Hoogeveen have coordinated the FinanceNet development activities through co-chairing the FinanceNet Core Team, a group of interested representatives from financial management organizations. They have been the guiding spirits that have brought FinanceNet to us. They will give a presentation on why FinanceNet is important and why we should learn it. They will discuss how participation in FinanceNet is a career-enhancing activity for everyone in the Federal financial community.

The President's Message



Pat Wensel, President

Who says there's no free lunch?

We've had two fantastic speakers at our general meetings at the Touchdown Club - George Muñoz in October and Barry Anderson in September. But Russ Morris and his program committee are not resting on their laurels. Their plans for the rest of the year are now complete and they've fulfilled their promise to bring us more equally exciting speakers and interesting topics. Don't miss out on a single one.

I was very pleased to welcome so many of our hearing impaired colleagues to the October 6th meeting. We intend to offer an interpreter whenever we have a request. Thanks to all who helped make it possible, especially Tom Mundell for suggesting that the service was needed. But our work has just begun. I'm sure there are others in the financial management community who would like to be invited to attend our meetings.

Now I said something about a free lunch. The Chapter Executive Council unanimously voted to invite all new members

recruited this year to attend their first luncheon meeting during November, December or January as our guest. We're convinced that once you try us, you'll like us and return again and again.

One of our goals for this year is to increase active involvement by Chapter members. Attendance at our general meetings is a good starting point. For a three month trial period, we will offer a reduced lunch price for all Washington Chapter members on the following sliding scale according to type of membership:

- Special Associates (full time students & those in their first year of employment) \$ 8.00
- Associate Members (fewer than 6 years of financial management experience) 10.00
- Retired Members 12.00
- Full Members 16.00
- Nonchapter Members pay the full cost of lunch 18.00

And remember, any new member that you recruit in any category gets his or her first lunch free of charge. Please share with your friends and colleagues the benefits membership in AGA can bring.

We had a very good attendance last month. Let's keep up the good work. We made it back to the wall but didn't quite move it. Our speaker for November, Mr. Stephen Barr, is a very good incentive for us to fill the room to capacity. I'll see you at the Touchdown Club on November 3rd.

Pat Wensel

MEMBER NEWS

Nancy Fleetwood, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, has been selected as Controller and Deputy Chief Financial Officer for Treasury Financial Management Service.

The President's nomination of Luise Jordan, Price Waterhouse, to be Inspector General of the Corporation for National and Community Service, has been confirmed by the Senate.

Alan Strelser, Department of Agriculture, is retiring from Federal service effective November 30, 1994.

In last month's newsletter we incorrectly spelled the name of new member, Laura J. Chambou. We apologize for the error and welcome Laura to the Chapter.

We recently learned of the death of long-time member and past President, Joseph R. Hock. We extend our condolences to Mr. Hock's family.

RECOGNITION PROGRAM
Our Chapter has earned 5,909 points in the Chapter Recognition Program for the 1994/1995 program year through the month of September 1994.

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

The Federal Jobs Digest recently announced that it will be operating a new hotline which will match those seeking a Federal job or promotion opportunity to appropriate vacancies. The Digest's data base is updated daily and applicants can preregister their job specifications. The basic registration fee for the Job Hotline is \$30, which includes the cost of the first three job vacancy contacts. Additional contacts are \$5 each. For more information you may call 1-800-824-5000, extension 1116, or write to FJD Job Hotline, Federal Jobs Digest, P.O. Box 594, Millwood, NY 10546-9989.

Two exciting and challenging positions are currently open at the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts:

Table with 3 columns: Position, Salary Range, Grade. Rows include Chief Accounting Officer and Deputy Chief Accounting Officer.

These announcements close November 14, 1994. If you are interested in being a part of a dynamic team working to reinvent the judicial branch of government, please call (202) 273-2000 for more information.

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

When you turn this page you'll find an insert. It's a tool for you--we want you to come to the monthly luncheon meetings and bring friends with you. And we'd like you to help attract new members. The insert lists the dates and speakers for the luncheon meetings for the remainder of the 1994/1995 program year. Put it up on your bulletin board, refrigerator, or other place you keep such reminders. Photocopy it and give it to friends and encourage them to come to the meetings. Remember, AGA is not just for accountants and auditors, but includes a much broader area of financial management--people in

functional areas such as budget, information systems, and policy and program analysis can benefit from participation as well.

The insert also contains a membership application. Chapter dues are an additional \$7.50 over the listed amounts, but point out the reduced dues to younger people (Associates-those with less than six years financial management experience; Special Associates-full-time students and those in their first year of employment)--and don't forget to tell them about the free lunch!

..... EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

The Council met on Wednesday, September 28, 1994 at the National Press Club Building. Attendees were Pat Wensel, Bob Lee, Russ Morris, Warren Cottingham, I-Ming Clark, Mitch Laine, Karl Boettcher, Lydia Moshkin, Bob Buchanan, Larry Wilson, Jim Naughton, Jeff Williams, Bill Anderson, and Cis Kuennen. Among the topics that were discussed are:

- o Though it seems that the program year has just begun, it is already time to plan for National Officer nominations for next year. The Council is beginning the process of identifying candidates for nomination.
- o The Communications Committee has drafted a membership needs and wants survey instrument and is developing options for how to administer the survey. The intent is to begin the survey in January 1995.
- o Letters have been sent to several groups, such as the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency, the Inspectors General, and the CFO Council soliciting nominations for the awards to be presented at the February 1995 Leadership Conference.
- o Letters of designation to the initial approved applicants in the Certified Government Financial Manager program are being mailed out now.

Other topics discussed are addressed in the articles throughout this newsletter.



Pictured in upper right photo are Jeff Williams (left) and Larry Wilson. Jeff is Chair of Community Outreach for both the Washington, DC Chapter and AGA National; Larry is Chapter immediate Past President. They are exhibiting the AGA display that has been purchased and assembled for use at events in which AGA participates, for example, the Community Service Day to be held on the Mall.

The lower right photograph shows Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Honorable George Muñoz, addressing the Washington Chapter at its October 6 luncheon meeting. A summary of Mr. Muñoz' remarks is on the facing page.



SUMMARY OF LUNCHEON SPEAKER'S REMARKS *Cis Kuennen, Secretary*

The Honorable George Muñoz, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary of the U. S. Department of the Treasury, and the first elected Executive Vice Chair of the Chief Financial Officers Council, was our guest speaker at the Washington Chapter's October luncheon meeting. Mr. Muñoz spoke on the topic of change and the public's impatience for improvement in Federal financial management. He also discussed the recent reconstitution of the CFO Council into an agent of change and detailed the new organizational structure and functioning of the Council.

Mr. Muñoz talked about knowledge and information as not causing change, but creating a new "knowledge base" and desire for change. One area in which the American public is impatiently calling for change is the area of Federal financial management. The American public's dissatisfaction with the status quo is evidenced by the increase in the number of statutes governing Federal financial management and the decrease in the span of time between the passage of these statutes. For example, between the passage of the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921 and the Budget and Accounting Act of 1950, a period of 29 years elapsed with those two acts being the only financial management statutes enacted. From 1990 to 1994 we have seen the Budget and Enforcement Act of 1990, the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, The Inspectors General Reform Act of 1994, and the Government Management Act of 1994, all passed within a span of just four years. Financial management has become a higher priority in the National agenda and, therefore, it is critical that we, as Federal managers, take an active leadership role in looking strategically ahead to find the solutions that will lead to the restoration of the public's confidence in our abilities to safeguard and manage their monies. Currently we are "not getting it right according to the public we serve, or we're not getting our word out as to how we're doing business."

Mr. Muñoz believes the CFO Act will play a significant part in bringing about the kind of change in Federal financial management that is being called for. However, Mr. Muñoz also believes that the deep frustration of the public will require changes to be brought about faster than in the past. "If we don't revamp, the public will revamp us." Mr. Muñoz said that we need to focus on two primary areas--institutional change and leadership. In the area of institutional change, the CFO Act appears to be the right solution, but its success will depend on how it is implemented. Most critical is the placement of the Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Muñoz strongly believes the CFO

should report directly to the agency head and should be a partner with top management in decision-making. He believes the CFO needs broader jurisdictional authority, to include authority over procurement, information systems, and personnel, in order to have the leverage necessary to make the kind of fundamental changes that are needed. With more time, more diverse leadership in these areas might be manageable, but with Congress and the public calling for change now, this authority should be merged under the CFO. Mr. Muñoz also strongly supports the consolidation of the CFO position with that of the Assistant Secretary for Administration or comparable management position within the major departments and agencies. In the area of leadership, Mr. Muñoz said that all of us need to volunteer our leadership. We should strive to get away from operating in an auto pilot mode and help to develop the solutions that will drive the changes in our own environments.

Mr. Muñoz said that the goal of the CFO Council is "to show that we practice what we preach." Two fundamental concepts adopted by the Council are "customers' needs drive service" and a "belief in the empowerment of people." The Council chose to practice these concepts by electing their officers and allowing their council membership to select the agenda. The Council has chosen to organize itself into three committees--Human Resources, Financial Systems, and Asset Management. The committees will develop programs and suggest actions for the Council to approve and proceed on. The Council plans to take a proactive role in speaking out on Federal financial issues that it feels need to be addressed in the government community.

In closing, Mr. Muñoz challenged the AGA to think about its leadership role and to contribute its expertise on issues that are of vital interest and concern in our Federal financial community. He summarized his main comments by saying that the demand for change and new statutes will stop when we correctly identify the solution to the frustration of the public. The driving force behind the new CFO structure is our attempt to respond to the public's cry for a government that works better and is better respected. He is proud of the CFO Council and the many worthwhile changes being made in behalf of the CFO Act. Mr. Muñoz hopes to see Federal financial managers not isolated in their disciplines, but part of the decision-making process at the top. He hopes, too, for the continued merging of management and finance, as well as the strengthening of the CFO position through broader jurisdiction.

THE GOVERNMENT'S "HONEST BROKERS" Alexander Tripp

Why are the jobs as government accountants, auditors, budgeters, evaluators, comptrollers and financial managers important? It is because we are the "honest brokers" who promote and protect the public's financial interest. We are the ones to get out from behind the office desk to ensure that people, time, money and other resources are efficiently, effectively and economically managed at all levels of government.

Generally speaking, we serve the public through our constant efforts to improve accountability over these public resources. Specifically, it is our integrity and objectivity that causes our customers (Congress, State and Federal program directors and the public) to view us as "honest brokers". To maintain this image, we must continue to improve efficiency and effectiveness of our business practices and processes. This way, our customers will be assured that they can consistently rely on the accuracy of our audit reports, financial statements, budget submittals and other data we provide to assist them in making their resource priority and allocation decisions.

Although I am convinced that our current business practices are good, I believe they will be improved by applying the discipline my "honest broker" philosophy espouses. To bring about this desired discipline, your positive and innovative support is needed. I have consolidated my philosophy into four general areas that should direct us in achieving excellence.

Instill a Participative Mentality

At the lowest level within your respective organizations, instill a participative mentality in your people. I have learned during my long tenure as a government manager and leader that people are our greatest resource. If we, as managers in our various accounting related career fields, can instill in our people the importance of their participation and that we, top management, really value their views, they will be motivated to help fulfill our "honest broker" functions. To get to this point, we must do positive things that show that we trust them.

I have found that trust and consideration produce loyalty and motivate people to participate actively in the accomplishment of organizational goals. Therefore, accept the challenge and instill a participative mentality in your people.

Get Rid of the Fat

In my view, we have a public and moral obligation to see that scarce resources are not wasted on excessive, unneeded or invalid programs and requirements. We must have a well-designed people control system (cultural, not just formal) that identifies and trims the excess weight or fat from not only the program we audit, evaluate and analyze, but our own organizations too. If not, our credibility as "honest brokers" with our customers will be damaged or significantly diminished.

The key words are: focus on the mission, make the hard decisions, and get rid of the fat. To meet this challenge, we, from the top echelons to the lower organizational levels, must develop a consensus of purpose, commitment and goals toward eliminating the waste and inefficiencies that can turn the public, Congress and other customers against us. It has been my experience that such consensus with top management and lower organizational levels produces positive culture change that permeates throughout.

Emulate Winners

Everybody loves a winner; therefore, emulate the winner. Winners are heroes. They can serve as an ideal model or baseline to the rest of the organization. I believe that nearly every organization has a success story of a winner that captures the true essence of this philosophy. Find out who your organization's winners are. Your winner might be another organization with a similar charter, mission or goal. Whoever or whatever it is, discover the what, when, where and how the winner accomplished success. Weigh the risks and the rewards. Then, go to it: Emulate Winners!

Communicate

We must make every effort to ensure that our "honest broker" values, intentions, goals and practices are communicated clearly and comprehensively throughout the organization, especially to the lower levels. Communications (both written and oral) must be specific, clear and persuasive to achieve the goal of improved efficiency and effectiveness. If it is not, the results often are: conflicting interpretations, turf fights and waste of valuable resources.

(Reprint from the NOVAGA News and Views, April 1993, Northern Virginia Chapter; and The Baltimore Ledger, Summer 1994, Baltimore Chapter)

The George Washington University

November 8, 1994

Cloyd Heck Marvin Center
800 21st Street NW
Rooms 410 - 415
Washington, DC

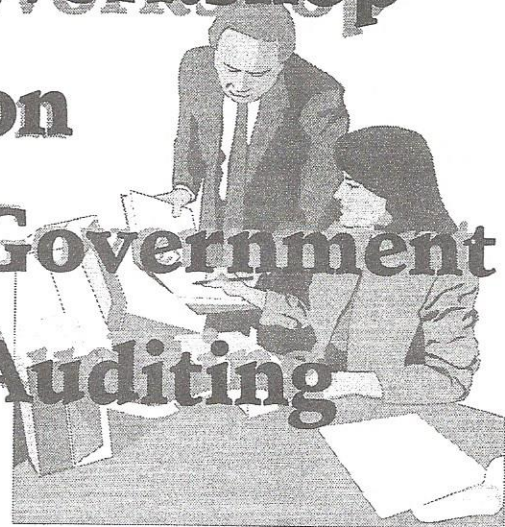
Metro Stop:
Foggy Bottom
(Blue or Orange lines)

Recommended 6 hours of CPE

This one-day workshop offers the latest information covering the most important issues in federal government auditing, including those related to the Chief Financial Officers Act.

Who Should Attend?
Auditors, CPAs, Program Analysts, Consultants, and others interested in government auditing.

Workshop on Government Auditing



Sponsored by:

- Association of Government Accountants**
Washington Chapter
- DC Institute of CPA's**
Government Accounting and Auditing Committee
- Beta Alpha Psi**
Epsilon Sigma Chapter

Registration begins at 7:30 am

- 8:15 am Opening Remarks
Doris Chew, Chairperson, Government Accounting and Auditing Committee, DCICPA
Darrell Poplock, President, Beta Alpha Psi, Epsilon Sigma Chapter
- 8:30 The Future of Government Auditing
Susan Gaffney, Inspector General, HUD
- 9:15 Break
- 9:30 The New Yellow Book—Federal Government Auditing Standards
Patrick McNamee, GAO
- 10:30 Performance Auditing
John Hummel, KPMG Peat Marwick
Alexis Stowe, Gardiner Kamy & Company

- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 Financial Statement Auditing
Ron Longo, OMB
Larry Albert, Arthur Andersen & Co.
Marla Freedman, GSA
Gregory Holloway, GAO
Jay Weinstein, Treasury
- 2:00 Break
- 2:15 Financial Statement Auditing (continued)
- 4:15 Wrap-up and Summary
Patricia Wensel, President, AGA, Washington Chapter

Registration Form

\$125 AGA or DCICPA Member
\$135 all others

Name _____

Agency/Firm _____

Billing Address _____

Business Telephone _____

Mail or Fax this form to:

Workshop Registration
 Suite 320
 666 11th Street NW
 Washington, DC 20001
 Fax: (202) 512-9593

Payment by:

____ Training Authorization Form
 ____ Check

For additional information, contact Doris Chew at (202) 512-9201, or AGA at (703) 758-4080

**AGA WASHINGTON CHAPTER
CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
FOR 1994/1995**

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

FCA (703) 883-4029

PRESIDENT-ELECT

DOT (202) 366-0318

SECRETARY

DOI/USGS (703) 648-5969

TREASURER

Treasury/Dept'l. Offices (202) 622-0935

Assistant Treasurer

Commerce/PTO (703) 305-8216

PAST PRESIDENT

CNCS (202) 606-5000 Ext. 195

Patricia Wensel

Evelyn Brown

Clarissa ("Cis") Kuennen

Robert Lee

Janet McBride

Larry Wilson

DIRECTORS

ADMINISTRATION

Treasury/Dept'l. Offices (202) 622-0934

BUDGET & FINANCE

Education (202) 401-0207

I-Ming Clark

Mitchell Laine

COMMUNICATIONS

GAO (202) 512-9319

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

USDA (202) 254-8385

EDUCATION

Ernst & Young (202) 327-6356

MEMBER SERVICES

DOD (703) 607-1467

Assistant

DOD (703) 607-1467

MEMBERSHIP

Treasury/IRS (202) 622-8963

MONTHLY PROGRAM

Treasury/FMS (202) 874-7000

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Attorney (703) 356-1467

PUBLICATIONS

USDA (202) 720-1174

REGIONAL V.P.

FAA (202) 267-9010

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

OGDEN Government Services (703) 246-0808

William Anderson

Jeff Williams

Daniel Murrin

Gary Amlin

Jerry Hinton

Eva Williams

Russell Morris

James Naughton

Peter Ben Ezra

Susan Lee

Bob Buchanan

The Chapter Executive Council meets monthly, normally at 11:30 a.m. on the last Wednesday, at the National Press Building. For information about a particular meeting, please call the AGA voice mail line at (703) 758-4080 and press option 3.

*Association of
Government
Accountants*

**THE WASHINGTON
CONNECTION**

**P. O. Box 423
Washington, D.C. 20044-0423**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL -
PLEASE EXPEDITE**

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS
WASHINGTON CHAPTER

SCHEDULE OF MONTHLY
THURSDAY LUNCHEON MEETINGS

REMAINDER OF 1994 - 1995 PROGRAM YEAR

PLACE:

Touchdown Club
2000 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.
(Near Farragut West
Metro Stop)

TIME:

11:30 a.m. Social
12:00 Noon Luncheon

DATES

November 3, 1994 Stephen Barr, Washington Post
December 1, 1994 Preston Rich, NSF, & Linda Hoogveen, OMB (FinanceNet)
January 12, 1995 Edward DeSeve, CFO, HUD
February 2, 1995 Donald Wurtz, CFO, Dept. of ED
March 2, 1995 Margaret Richardson, Commissioner, IRS
April 6, 1995 Clyde McShan, Dep. CFO, DOC
AGA National President
May 4, 1995 Awards Program

RESERVATIONS:

Call (703) 758-4080

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER:

When requested 3 days in advance

TEAR HERE AND MAIL TO AGA

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please fill out the form below and return with your check to:
Association of Government Accountants

2200 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22301
(703) 684-6931 • FAX (703) 548-9367

Full Member \$55.00
Associate Member \$28.00
Special Associate Member \$14.00
(Plus Chapter Dues - consult enclosed Table)

Mr. Ms. Name _____

Employer (Agency, University or Firm) _____

Employer Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Business Phone () _____ Home Phone () _____

Preferred Mailing Address Business Home

Sponsor's Name (if applicable) _____ Member #: _____

Employer: Federal State County City Private Academia
Field: Accounting Auditing Budgeting Systems Other

Accreditation & Certificates:

CPA _____ State _____
CIA _____ State _____
CMA _____ State _____
CISA _____ State _____
Other _____ State _____

Years of Accounting/Auditing Related Experience _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ (including Chapter dues)

Chapter Name _____

Applicant's Signature _____

Date _____

TEAR HERE AND MAIL TO AGA