

THE WASHINGTON CONNECTION

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

(703) 758-4080 • December 1996

WASHINGTON CHAPTER **LUNCHEON MEETING**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1996

Grand Hyatt Hotel 1000 H Street, NW (At Metro Center - 11th Street Exit)

Social: 11:30 - Luncheon: 12:00 Noon

Cost: Members \$17.00; Nonmembers \$22.00

New members - your first luncheon meeting is free!

Please call (703) 758-4080 for reservations or to request a sign language interpreter by MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1996

LUNCHEON SPEAKER

"The Actions Necessary to Keep a Clean Audit Opinion"

Hazel Broadnax, Deputy Director of Financial **Operations, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation**

azel Broadnax is presently the Deputy Director of Financial Operations for the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation where she administers financial systems and operations, policies and procedures, financial reporting, collection and compliance of pension plan filings and serves as the primary assistant to the Director and Chief Financial Officer.

PBGC is a federal corporation created under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to guarantee payment of basic pension benefits earned by nearly 42 million American workers and retirees participating in 55,000 private sector defined benefit pension plans. The agency receives no funds from general tax revenues. Operations are financed largely by insurance premiums paid by

companies that sponsor pension plans and investment returns.

Before coming to the federal government, from 1981 until 1993 she worked in various jobs for the District of Columbia, including serving as the Controller of the Department of Human Services. Her responsibilities as Controller included overseeing and administering financial management of a \$1.4 billion dollar budget, fiscal accounting, resource allocation, the Medicaid program, and payments and collections of the entitlement programs. She also served as the manager of Grants and Audits for the District Government under the D.C. Controller.

Prior to joining the District Government, she was the Executive Director of a nonprofit organization which was federally and locally funded. Her affiliations include membership in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; the D.C. Institute of CPA's; and the Government Finance Officers Association. In the GFOA she is Chair of the Membership Committee for the Washington metropolitan area. For the DCICPA she serves on the Financial Institution Committee.

* * *

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President's Message.....



Gary Amlin, President

was very pleased to have the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and Chief Financial Officer, Dr. John Hamre, as our November luncheon speaker. Dr. Hamre gave us a very informative and candid speech on financial management within the Department of Defense and the Federal Government, with an emphasis on what

may or may not change as a result of the national election. We have been very fortunate to get such outstanding speakers at our luncheons. Located within this newsletter is a summary of Dr. Hamre's remarks. If you were unable to attend, please refer to the writeup of the speaker's remarks for coverage.

Next month:

The January luncheon will feature Gerald Riso, Consultant, and first CFO of the United States. His presentation will cover the recent elections and how they impact the future of government financial management. Mark your calendars for Thursday, January 9, 1996.

We utilized the November luncheon as an opportunity to convey what our Chapter Directors do and where they may need some assistance. We introduced the various Chapter Directors, and they or a their representative were available after the meeting to discuss what their office does and how members may be able to help in some way in the future. These positions are what really make the Chapter function well and they need your support in

fulfilling their responsibilities to the maximum potential. Ms. Eva Williams organized this Director's Day for the luncheon and I very much appreciate the outstanding work she is doing. If you have any comments or suggestions on how we may get the word out to our members on our functions and responsibilities, please let Eva hear from you.

In addition, the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve annual "Toys for Tots" Campaign is celebrating its forty-eighth year. We have adopted this program as part of our Holiday activities for the Washington Chapter. There are 200 Marine Reserve units across the country and thousands of volunteers that work on this effort. Our contributions will help provide a toy to thousands of needy children in the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia, and Suburban Maryland this year. The local community Marine goal for 1996 is 250,000 toys. Think about the meaning and messages of this holiday season and bring a new unwrapped toy or donation (check made out to "Toys for Tots Foundation") to the December 5, 1996, luncheon or our Holiday Reception on

December 12, 1996. Or contact one of our Officers or Directors to find out how to get your contribution in. Let's make our first year with this fine organization a banner event for the Washington Chapter.

Looking forward to seeing you at our December luncheon, December holi-

day reception, and the upcoming educational events.

Gary W. Amlin, CGFM

Mark your calendar for the December 12th holiday party. See the enclosed flyer for details.

Summary of Luncheon Speaker's Remarks: Defense CFO Shares Personal Insight to Recent Elections

By Edward Baxter, Assistant Editor

ne of the great advantages of membership in the Washington Chapter of the AGA is the opportunity to hear key individuals from both government and the private sector speak about diverse topics and issues that affect

us personally and professionally. November's luncheon was no exception when the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and Chief Financial Officer, Dr. John Hamre, addressed a large audience on his views on the recent presidential and congressional elections. Dr. Hamre initially surprised the audience by saying that he would not talk specifically about financial management in the Department of Defense, the scheduled topic. Rather, given that our luncheon was held a mere 48 hours after the election, he chose to share some his personal insight as to what was going through his mind immediately following the reelection of President Clinton as well as elections in the House and Senate. Further, he examined the wake of the election to

project the effects it will likely have on those of us in the government, as well as the direction for which the government and the country seem to be heading.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of the election was

uniformity. Overall, there was very little change in the composition of elected officials. "It strikes me that this election, in many ways, was like a comma in a very long sentence," said Dr. Hamre. "It doesn't serve anything but to pause, catch your breath, and keep going." Only one member of Congress who ran for a state-wide office was not reelected. Similarly, of the 122 members of Congress who sit on oversight committees for the

Department of Defense -- Armed Services, Intelligence, and Appropriations -- only one was defeated. "This was an election of incumbency," Dr. Hamre added. "Part of it is, the power of incumbency. More than that, it probably is a message of where America is right now." In more tangible terms, the election signaled that America was perhaps not ready for significant change. That Americans are generally comfortable with the direction the country is heading. All of this stands in stark contrast to the elections of two years ago when a new Congress was installed by a boisterous public ready for change -- referring, of course, to the new Republican-controlled Congress.

Foremost of the election, Dr. Hamre said he was surprised by aspects that appear to be anomalies. Four years ago, when independent presidential candidate Ross Perot dominated the intellectual content of election, balanced budgets became the

forefront of the political debate. Similarly, during the 104th Congress, if there was one event which shaped the entire two years, it was the balanced budget amendment and the way it passed in the House and nearly passed in the Senate. The balanced budget became the centerpiece of American politics -- it was just assumed that we were going to have a balanced budget in this election. But how was it going to be achieved? How could Bob Dole balance the budget and cut taxes at the same time? How could Bill Clinton continue with the many programs he has championed and balance the budget? These questions very much dominated the debate about who was best qualified to lead the country into the 21st Century.



Dr. John Hamre

What's clear about this election is that the American public voted overwhelmingly for a President with one view of government and a Congress with a very different view. Again, this stands in stark contrast to the elections of two years ago

when a new political ideology created a new debate about the role and direction of government. The last time we had faced a debate of this magnitude was in the 1930's, when Franklin D. Roosevelt defeated Herbert Hoover and set a new path which dominated government for the next sixty years. What we are facing now, is similar to that time period.

What's emerged from this election is a climate of political conciliation. Both sides have clearly defined the issues for which they will not give up. The Republicans, for example, know they cannot touch Medicaid. Similarly, the Democrats know they cannot raise taxes. Yet, again, we are facing an American public set on a "zero deficit" policy. We are in a political stalemate and the fundamental question is: Are we in a new era of government? Are we in a post-FDR type of government set on dismantling the liberal infrastructure? We

(See Speaker's Remarks, next page)

"It strikes me that this election, in many ways, was like a comma in a very long sentence. It doesn't serve anything but to pause, catch your breath, and keeping going."

-- Dr. John Hamre, Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) & CFO

(Speaker's Remarks, continued from previous page)



Dr. Hamre addressing the luncheon attendees.

have therefore created a new debate about the future of our government and most important, what role the government will play for the next several decades.

This new debate was distinguished, however, by a flawed political strategy, referring to last year's shutdown of the

government. It proved to be disastrous for the new Congress. The shutdown did many things to government and the way in which the American people perceive it. "It's amazing how our electoral process forces us back to our basic principles, like what does it take to get elected," said Dr. Hamre, referring to the political conciliation and uniformity evident in this year's election.

Unlike most federal agencies, the Department of Defense has enjoyed a

relatively protected status over the last couple of years. The reason for this protection was, primarily, a republican controlled congress that wanted to re-create the excitement of the Reagan era with a powerful national defense. But it didn't catch on with the American people. Most people these days are more concerned with issues that affect them directly -- in their own communities -- more than overseas conflicts such as Bosnia and Haiti. Americans are more concerned about their children's schools, drugs and violence, to name a few examples. At the same time, other agencies are taking significant cuts that will severely impact their ability to serve the public. Some agencies are looking at reductions of operating costs up to 42% over the next five years -- a

staggering figure. But how are they going to achieve reductions of this size? No one really knows for sure and this creates unusual pressures for financial managers. Financial managers have to engineer real solutions to these problems, and they face some very tough issues over the next couple of years.

Dr. Hamre further emphasized that we are in a very critical period in government. Until we are able to bring all pieces of the debate to the table -- entitlements, taxes and discretionary spending -- and engineer real solutions, we will continue to remain in a critical state. What we are facing as financial managers is equally critical. "I think there is one thing that everyone in government is going to be facing. The government is just going to stop doing some things," Dr. Hamre expressed his personal concern over. He added that there are still many vital functions that only the government can and must perform to insure the safety of the public -- that the aircraft we fly on and the buildings we work and live in have met certain standards, for example. Too many cuts are somewhat irresponsible. The proposal to do away with the Internal Revenue Service, for example is irresponsible. We have remarkable tax compliance

in this nation compared to other countries. We need to insure the financial security of our government and the nation as a whole. Hamre also thanked Vice President Gore for having launched the National Performance Review (NPR). Most important, the NPR made a realistic attempt to make the core of government more efficient. The NPR accommodates an American public eager for both a smaller and more efficient government, vet one that meets their expectations.

of appreciation from Progovernment, yet one that meets their expectations. Perhaps one of the most important results of the NPR is that it invigorated government employees in the field and, in turn, reversed the negative perception of government employees by the American people. On the surface this election won't change anything. Below the surface, it will truly set a new path for our government and our country.



Dr. Hamre accepting a gift of appreciation from Program Chair, Joe Donlon.

Congratulations to Renee Barry, the Chapter's Publicity/Liaison Director who gave birth to a baby girl on September 26th!

Agency Liaisons

AID, Tom Mundell (202) 663-2253

Agriculture, Gary Maupin (703) 305-2191

Commerce, Kevin Kuesters (202) 482-2933

Defense, Rick Miskovich (703) 607-5024

EPA, Roland Cyr, CGFM (202) 260-8591

FASAB, Lucy Lomax (202) 512-7359

FCC, Jim Swartz (202) 418-1060

GAO, West Coile (202) 512-9324

GSA, Jolene W. Romanyshyn, CGFM (202) 501-1084

HUD, Rhea L Riso (202) 708-1757 ext. 3763

Private Ind. (Va), John Edward Murphy (703) 532-9106

Private Ind. (DC), Raina Rose (202) 862-3300

State, Mattie Harms (703) 875-5634

Transportation, Dennis Scott (202) 366-0294

Treasury, Linda Lloyd (202) 927-0119

USIA, Lynn Dyminion (202) 619-4700

VA, Jack Gartner (202) 273-5528

For more information contact liaison coordinator, Renee Barry at (202) 606-5000 extension 374.

Nominations Solicited for AGA's National Awards Program

By Warren Cottingham, CGFM

The Washington, D.C. Chapter is soliciting nominations for AGA's National Awards Program to be given at the annual AGA Professional Development Conference, June 22-25, 1997. The insert describes the award categories, criteria, and nomination procedures. Please route this information around your office and/or post to a bulletin board.

Nominations should be submitted by January 31, 1997. Mail nominations to:

AGA Washington, D.C. Chapter ATTN: Awards Committee P.O. Box 423 Washington, D.C. 20044-0423

or fax nominations to: Warren Cottingham at 202-874-9634.

All nominations received for the National Awards will be considered for the Washington, D.C. Chapter awards as well. If you have any questions about the awards or nomination procedures, please call 202-874-9584.

Upcoming Educational Event

The Montgomery Prince George Chapter is jointly sponsoring with the Northern Virginia and Washington Chapters a one day event on

Assessing Performance...Implementing the Government Performance and Results Act

Date:

February 26, 1997

Time:

8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Location:

George Washington University Marvin Center

CPE:

8 Hours

Price:

\$100 members/\$125 non-members

Focus: Under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993, every major Federal agency is required to set goals, measure performance, and report on their accomplishment. Several agencies have implemented pilot programs, and groups such as GAO and OMB have been analyzing the results. Speakers from GAO, OMB, and the agencies that have participated in the pilot programs will present their highlight the results of their efforts and describe how to implement GRPA in your agency.

Check your mail for a flyer with more details. For additional information or registration information please contact Lance Shawver at (301) 227-1497

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CDSI has been providing financial management system and implementation services to government agencies for more than 20 years. We have developed a state-of-the-art, off-the-shelf, integrated financial management system to support our government clients. In response to our rapidly expanding business, our Financial Systems Division is seeking qualified professionals, at all levels, with government accounting systems experience in one or more of the following areas:

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- CGFM, CPA, MBA or graduate training a plus

We also have challenging opportunities for technical individuals with Composer (IEF) experience. GUI, client/server, product development background a plus.

CDSI offers competitive salaries and a comprehensive benefits package. For immediate consideration, please call Phil Miller at (301) 921-7132 or send resumes to: **ATTENTION HRD** 1148. Our E-mail address is **resumes@cdsihq.com** (in ASCII text format, no attachments please), our fax number is (301) 548-2374, and our mailing address is: CDSI, One Curie Court, Rockville, MD 20850. EOE, M/F/D/V

To learn about additional opportunities at CDSI, call our Job Hotline at (301) 921-7199.

http://www.cdsihq.com



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Executive Council Profile

oseph Donlon, CGFM, has been a mem ber of AGA's Washington DC Chapter since 1971. He is a senior manager in the federal government consulting practice of Grant Thornton LLP. Prior to his retirement from the federal government in September 1995, he was the controller at the Internal Revenue Service. His past AGA Washington Chapter Service includes terms as editorial and program director and chapter president. At the national level, he has served as Capitol Region vice president, member of the National Executive Committee (two terms), and chairperson of several boards and committees. Last vear he served as a member of the National Awards Committee.



Joe Donlon, Program Chair

Currently, Joe is Director of Monthly Programs. In this capacity he develops the luncheon meeting agenda of topics germane to the AGA mission of improving financial management in government. Joe is responsible for arranging for top quality speakers for each month's luncheon for the entire program year, September through May.

January - February 1997 Courses at The Inspectors General Auditor Training Institute, IGATI

January 1997

13 - 16	Introduction to Financial Auditing
15 - 16	Auditing the Federal Contracting Process
22 - 23	Advanced Audit Tools and Techniques
27 - 28	Making Effective Audit Presentations
29 - 30	Contract and Procurement Fraud

February 1997

10 - 14	Fraud Auditing
24 - March 14	Introductory Auditor Training
25 - 28	Financial Statement Auditing

To register for any of these courses or if you have any questions, please call Gale Moore, Registrar at (703) 805-4501.

An SF-182, SF-1556, other training authorization forms, or personal checks, may be sent to:

Registrar, IGATI P.O. Box 518 Ft. Belvoir, VA 22060 (703) 805-4503 Fax

All classes are held at 5500 21st Street, Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. Special arrangements can be made to have dedicated classes given on-site. Please call for details.

......Upcoming Financial Management Courses

December 1996 Courses at The Center for Applied Financial Management

December 1996

3-4	Accounting for Revenue
3-4	Implications of Federal Appropriations Law
6	Certifying Officers
10-11	Property, Plant, and Equipment & Stewardship Reporting
12-13	Budget Execution Game
17-18	Understanding and Using the Standard General Ledger

Contact Kimberly Pringle at (202) 874-9560 for more information or fax requests to (202) 874-9629. To register for Center courses, submit an SF-182 to the Registrar, The Center for Applied Financial Management, 401 14th Street S.W., Suite 1100 KSB, Washington, DC 20227. All courses are held at 1411 K Street, N.W., 11th floor, unless otherwise noted.

December 1996 - January 1997 Courses at The National Capital Training Center, Graduate School, USDA

December 1996

2-4	Federal Appropriations Law
5	Federal Appropriations Law Update
5-6	Activity-Based Costing
9-12	Budget Formulation
10-13	Introduction to Federal Budgeting
16-18	Introduction to Financial Management
30-31	Federal Budget Process

January 1997

6-9	Budget Formulation
7-10	Government Bookkeeping and Accounting
13-14	Accounting for Non-Accountants
15-17	Federal Budgeting for Non-Budget Personnel
16-17	Performance Based Budgeting
17	Current Issues in Financial Management for Managers
	and Supervisors
27-30	Budget Execution
30-31	Federal Budget Process

To register for these courses, fax or mail your training form to The National Capital Training Center, Graduate School, USDA, 600 Maryland Avenue SW., Room 108, Washington, DC 20024-2520 Voice (202) 401-9194, Fax (202) 401-9417, TDD (202) 447-3247 ext. 8123.

Correction

In the recently published Washington Chapter Handbook some individuals were identified to organizations of which they did not belong. We apologize for this unfortunate error as every attempt was made to correctly place each chapter member under the organization they currently belong.

Highlights of the October 23, 1996 Executive Council Meeting

- Rick Miskovich, Treasurer, reported that ninety-eight people attended the October 3, 1996, luncheon meeting.
- Germaine Rowley, Director of Administration, reported that the chapter has earned 5,556 points as of September 30th.
- Virginia Murphy, Education Director, announced that the February 24th educational seminar will be on the Government Performance and Results Act, and there may be another training session on Cost Management in March.
- Bob Buchanan, Newsletter Editor, reported that the installation of a new software package will provide better access
 to the Newsletter on the Internet.
- The Executive Council scheduled its next meeting for November 20, 1996, at 11:30 a.m. at the Veterans Administration Headquarters building.

by Marianne Morahan, Secretary

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA).....

by Harvey P. Wiley, Community Outreach Director

Do you want to help people prepare their federal and state income tax returns during the upcoming tax filing season? Are you an accountant or CPA? If so, the VITA program at the Martin Luther King Memorial Library (MLK Library) wants you.

VITA stands for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. VITA volunteers prepare tax returns for people with income of \$30,000 or less. The VITA program has operated for years at the MLK Library at 901 G Street, NW. The library is conveniently accessible to Metro at either the Metro Center or Gallery Place stations. The library also offers free parking in its underground parking garage.

The VITA program will start Thursday, January 23, 1997, and will run through April 16, 1997. VITA volunteers prepare federal and state (DC, Virginia, and Maryland) tax returns on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 4:30 p.m. until the library closes. On Wednesdays and Thursdays the library closes at 7:00 p.m., and closes at 9:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. On Saturday we offer tax preparation help from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will be additional Monday hours during April.

If this sounds like something you want to do, mark your calendar so you can attend a tax refresher class at the library in Room A-9, Saturday, January 4, 1997, from 10:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and let the VITA coordinator you plan to attend.

When you help people prepare their income tax returns you provide a valuable civic service that you will find personally rewarding. If you are interested, first consider your calendar from January 23 to April 16. Because there are never enough volunteers, we ask each volunteer to commit to helping one day each week during the 1997 tax filing season. On Saturdays, a volunteer needs to commit to only four hours. Review your calendar now and mark the day you want to volunteer and make it a standing appointment you won't break. Volunteer scheduling is flexible and we understand that emergencies and other important, unexpected situations arise. In those situations all we ask is that you contact the VITA coordinator.

If you need more information, contact the VITA Coordinator at the MLK Library:

Robert Wheeler - VITA Coordinator (202) 622-3794 Voice (202) 622-6060 Messages 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday

You may reach Robert at home in the evening and on weekends at (202) 547-5147. He has an answering machine available.

Win the "You oughtta be in pictures" award

The Washington Connection, the newsletter of the Washington, DC Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants, is published in 10 issues each program year--September through the following June. The newsletter is circulated to the Chapter membership by mail and is also available for downloading from the internet at http://www.financenet.gov/aga.htm in full color, complete with graphics and photographs.

In addition to keeping members informed of Chapter happenings, such as educational events and other Chapter programs, we strive to provide information of a technical nature. We are in need of technical articles, i.e., articles about:

- · government financial management principles, standards, and practices,
- financial management policy or process improvements implemented at a federal, state, or local agency, or
- other material regarding the accounting, auditing, and budgeting professions that would be informative to our members.

We'd like you to help us find these articles by encouraging government officials to write them and by forwarding relevant articles from other publications to us for reprint in <u>The Washington Connection</u>. We'd also like you to author one of these articles yourself. If you write an article which we publish, we'll include a byline and your photograph--your publication will be available throughout the world via internet. You may fax articles to Bob Buchanan at (703) 246-0294 or Edward Baxter at (703) 607-0588. We would prefer to receive material electronically, however, at any of the following internet addresses:

rbuchanan@anteon.com msciorti@colybrand.com ebaxter@cleveland.dfas.mil

Deadlines for the next two issues are December 9 for the January issue and January 13 for the February issue.

We also accept advertisements that would be appropriate for our membership, such as:

- · ads which relate to the financial management profession, and
- · do not conflict with the Association's goals and objectives.

Prices are \$300 per full page ad (7" x 9" ad on 81/2" x 11" page); \$150, half page; \$75, quarter page.

We need your help in selling ads. Potential advertisers could include vendors who offer hardware, software, or services to the government financial management community. Advertisements could be regarding their products or services, or regarding employment opportunities. There are no restrictions on paid advertisements so long as they do not conflict with our goals and objectives. Paid advertisements not only provide commercial information to members, but they also help control Chapter costs and reduce pressure on Chapter dues.

Membership '97.....

By Eva Williams, CGFM, Director of Membership

We have just reached the half-way mark in our campaign to strengthen the membership of AGA and, most of all, our chapter. I want to welcome those who have joined us over the first six months and hope that all our members will reach out to help them become active members.

Micael Afowerky, CGFM Silvie S. Ao, CGFM Faisal Abo-Rass Eileen Angle, CGFM Deborah W. Barnwell Victoria L. Bateman Edward E. Baxter Michael Bazemore Hyesuk Bellino John E. Benoit, Jr. Jill Beresford Susan Betts Bobby Lee Blackley John Blackman

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Deanie P. Wu

Joseph F. Zimmer, CGFM

We would like to extend a special welcome to Jeffrey Steinhoff, a past national president and long-time member of the Northern Virginia Chapter, who now has dual membership in Northern Virginia and the Washington DC Chapter.

Association of Government Accountants

The Washington Connection



P.O. Box 423

Washington, D.C. 20044-0423

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FIRST CLASS MAIL-PLEASE EXPEDITE

AGA WASHINGTON CHAPTER CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 1996/1997

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