

THE WASHINGTON CONNECTION



Washington DC Chapter • P.O. Box 423 • Washington, D.C. 20044-0423 • (703) 758-4080 • February 2000

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Upcoming Events:

March 2, 2000: Monthly Luncheon meeting featuring Richard L. Gregg, Commissioner, FMS

March 14, 2000: JFMIP Annual Financial Management Conference (see page 11)

April 11, 2000: Monthly Luncheon meeting featuring David Walker, Comptroller General of the U.S.

April 18, 2000: Special Evening Meeting featuring Valerie Holt, CFO DC Government

May 4, 2000: Monthly Luncheon meeting featuring Edward A. Powell, Assistant Secretary/CFO, Veterans Affairs



Karla W. Corcoran, Inspector General, U.S. Postal Service

Luncheon Speaker

Karla W. Corcoran was sworn in as the Inspector General for the U.S. Postal Service on January 6, 1997. Ms. Corcoran was formerly the Assistant Auditor General of Field Activities for the Air Force Audit Agency. In that position, she had direct responsibility for the day-to-day management of more than 400 employees located worldwide in forty-one area audit offices at major Air Force installations.

Ms. Corcoran has also held high-level management positions at NASA, Department of Treasury, Department of Transportation, U.S. General

Accounting Office, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She served as a member of the National Performance Review, Vice-President Gore's "reinventing government" initiative.

Please note: February's luncheon is scheduled for WEDNESDAY (the 9th) instead of the normal Thursday meeting day. Please mark your calendar.

1999/2000 AGA Washington DC Chapter Monthly Luncheon and CPE Session

Wednesday, February 9, 2000
Grand Hyatt Hotel

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

11:30 to 12:00
12:00 to 1:10 pm
*Announcements
Lunch
Luncheon Speaker*
1:15 to 4:00 pm
*1:15 to 2:30 pm
2:30 to 2:45 pm
2:45 to 4:00 pm*

Social
Luncheon Meeting (1 CPE):

Afternoon Session (3 CPEs):
*CPE Session
Break
CPE Session*

Costs:

Luncheon:	Members	\$19.00
	Non-members	\$30.00
Luncheon & Afternoon CPE Session:	Members	\$40.00
	Non-members	\$50.00
Afternoon CPE Session Only:	Members	\$30.00
	Non-members	\$40.00

For reservations, please call the AGA Washington DC Chapter voice mail line at (703) 758-4080 and select option 1. If you prefer, you can register by email to cdavis@gt.com or you can register at our homepage: www.agadc.org. Please forward your name, agency/company, and telephone number.

President's Message

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Time really does fly in this new century. We're half way through our program schedule for this year. We have had some very thoughtful and interesting speakers the past few months that have each given a different perspective on the challenges and opportunities for federal financial management in the 21st Century.

One area that we have yet to explore is the impact of oversight in this new century. The impact of technology on our business alone has changed the whole way in which we approach financial operations today. With e-commerce, the web, enterprise software, and the trend to outsourcing our business, either to other agencies or private industry, we have redefined federal financial management. It is flexible and more dynamic than ever before. At the same time it presents new and even more complex challenges to our internal control programs and to the audit community who has the responsibility for oversight. Oversight in the 21st century will be challenging because of the use of technology in our business, but it will also change because technology will be leveraged in the performance of that oversight.

We will have the opportunity to hear the perspective of the oversight community from one inspector general this month at our luncheon meeting. Ms. Karla Corcoran, the Inspector General for the U.S. Postal Service, has an impressive career with a varied and extensive experience in many agencies. She is the first inspector general to report directly to the Postal Governors. Please join us on

February 9 to hear Ms. Corcoran's unique perspective on this subject. Our luncheon seminar continues on February 9 and will build from our January seminar on ABC. This seminar will focus on actual experiences by agencies on the use of ABC as a tool for management. Managing cost is becoming an essential element of all financial responsibilities today and this seminar will give you insight into how ABC can support measurement and reporting.

This month we will also include the second in the series of three major training events that we've planned this year. Performance measurement will be the theme for our next training event on February 28-29, 2000 at the Mayflower Hotel. With the full GPRA reporting on performance measurement due this year, this topic will be of critical importance to many. You can learn more about this program plus registration information in this newsletter and on our web site. Our final training event will be in May and will feature financial systems management. Eleanor Long and her committee have put together three very excellent programs for our membership and I encourage all of you to take the opportunity to grow and learn from them.

Our community service projects continue to flourish with your wonderful generosity. Project Harvest donations during November and the fabulous response to our Toys-for-Tots campaign at our Holiday Reception were exceptional. I want to give special recognition to Kathryn Healy for her leadership of our Community Outreach efforts and encourage you to look for more opportunities to participate in these events in the coming months. Also, we must thank Marcia Caplan for a spectacular leadership of the Toys-for-Tots campaign. Your toy donations and the cash collected at the reception (over \$800) made a memorable season for many young children in this area. No greater satisfaction can be found than that received from giving. See you at our next event!

Vincette

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From the AGADC.org Webmaster: How to Get On (and Off) the Washington DC Chapter Mailing List

The Chapter's website has been up and running for a couple of months now, and we would like to remind you of the Association of Government Accountant's Washington DC Chapter Mailing List Server on the site. By being added to the mailing list, members or any other interested persons will receive emails from the Washington DC Chapter updating them on upcoming chapter educational events and other activities.

We also make *The Washington Connection* available through this same service. One can subscribe by going to the main web site (<http://www.agadc.org>) and clicking on the mail-list button and choosing the subscribe option. You will be asked to enter your email address. Enter your address and click the subscribe button.

As a chapter member, you may already have been added to the mailing list. If you wish to remove yourself from the mailing list, you can unsubscribe by going to the web site and clicking on the mail-list button and choosing the unsubscribe option. You will be asked to enter your email address. Be sure to enter the email address that you wish to unsubscribe. Finally, click the unsubscribe button.

If you know of other members or non-members who would be interested in receiving emails from the Washington DC Chapter, please inform them of the new mail-list feature on the web site.

If you have any questions or comments, please e-mail the webmaster at webmaster@agadc.org or go the web site (<http://www.agadc.org>) and click on the e-mail button.

February Luncheon Speaker: Karla W. Corcoran, Inspector General, United States Postal Service



Karla W. Corcoran, Inspector General, U.S. Postal Service

Karla W. Corcoran was sworn in as the Inspector General for the U.S. Postal Service on January 6, 1997. Ms. Corcoran was formerly the Assistant Auditor General of Field Activities for the Air Force Audit Agency. In that position, she had direct responsibility for the day-to-day management of more than 400 employees located worldwide in forty-one area audit offices at major Air Force installations.

Ms. Corcoran has also held high-level management positions at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Department of Treasury, Department of Transportation, U.S. General Accounting Office, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She served as a member of the National Performance Review, Vice-President Gore's "reinventing government" initiative. Ms. Corcoran received numerous awards throughout her career, including the Exceptional Civilian Service Award in 1990 and the Inspector General's Special Recognition Award in 1991. She received her law degree from Catholic University and a

bachelor of science degree in mathematics from Mount Union College. She is a certified internal auditor and is licensed to practice law in Texas.

The Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Postal Service is an independent organization within the U.S. Postal Service. The Office of Inspector General was created by Public Law 104-208 which was passed by the Congress in the fall of 1996 amending the Inspector General Act. The Office of Inspector General is an independent and objective organization that provides leadership in promoting the economy, effectiveness and efficiency of postal programs and operations. The Office of Inspector General also prevents and detects waste, fraud and abuse within the U.S. Postal Service by conducting and supervising audits and investigations. In addition, the Office of Inspector General has oversight responsibility for all activities of the Postal Inspection Service and operates a complaint "hotline."

The Inspector General is appointed by the nine Postal Governors for a term of seven years. The Inspector General reports directly to the Governors on matters related to the role of the Inspector General and on the outcomes of audits and investigations conducted by the Office of Inspector General. The Inspector General also reports to Congress, including semiannual reports.

Prior to the establishment of a separate Office of Inspector General, the duties of Inspector General were performed by the Chief Postal Inspector of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, who in turn reports to the Postmaster General. The Inspector General is working closely with the Inspection Service defining respective duties and responsibilities.

February CPE Session "Using ABC and Cost Management Information To Improve Operations" February 9, 2000

Clif Williams and Srikant Sastry from PricewaterhouseCoopers will lead a discussion and presentation on several federal agency projects that leverage cost management information and its integration with program service delivery. All aspects of process analysis and costing will be discussed, including various federal systems and policy requirements. Several agency representatives will also participate and add their perspective to this presentation.

This CPE session is a natural follow-on to the January CPE presentation on ABC software. After these two sessions, attendees will have a basic understanding of some of the available ABC software and how ABC and other cost management data can help federal agencies manage cost and comply with existing requirements.

March Luncheon Speaker and CPE Session

The March 2, 2000 luncheon speaker will be Richard L. Gregg, Commissioner, Financial Management Service. Mr. Gregg's topic will be the FY1999 financial statements.

Following the luncheon comments, Management Concepts, Inc will conduct a CPE session on the Balanced Scorecard with an introduction to the concept and recent real world examples.



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The Few, The Proud, The AGA!

By Marcia Caplan and Michelle Lewis, Toys-for-Tots Co-Chairpersons

We numbered only 75 at our Holiday Reception, a reduction in attendees from 1998. But we were able to match our prior year donation results in both cash and toys. Thanks to the generosity of our members, we collected over \$800 in cash donations and over 80 toys for Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia children.

Everyone seemed to enjoy taking part in the event by donating cash or a check or dropping off a toy at the reception. Sergeant Teresa Snow and Sergeant Jacob Bradford represented the Inspector-Instructor Staff from the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Anacostia Naval Station. They personally thanked each AGA member who participated and presented a certificate of appreciation to Vincette Goerl, Chapter President.

We had a great selection of toys this year and the Marine representatives were impressed with our selection and generosity.

Once again we filled the table with toys and moved on to lining up toys along the bar near our buffet table. During the event, the Marine representatives informed us that for each dollar donated, they would be able to obtain three dollars worth of toys; thus our efforts would provide over \$2,500 worth of additional toys for the area. It was definitely a great effort for us with the Toys for Tots Drive and, with the type of membership support that was displayed, we hope to continue this good work in the future. I hope that we can have more participation for this fine holiday event next year. Our thanks to each and every one of you who displayed what is the best part of the holiday spirit in sharing with others.



Left to right: Sergeant Teresa Snow, Vincette Goerl, Marcia Caplan, and Sergeant Jacob Bradford.

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II. Business Information

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**include multilateral organizations that deal with a region(s) of the world.*

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III. Sponsor's name (if applicable) _____ Member ID # _____

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- Full - \$70.00/year • Career professionals performing financial management activities in an operational, administrative and/or supervisory capacity.
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- Special Early Career - \$25.00/year • Full-time students and those in their first year of employment.

Chapter: Washington, DC

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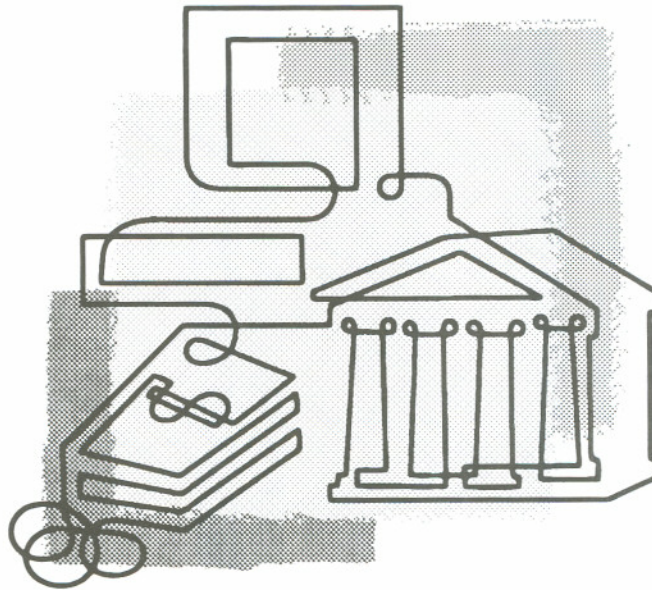
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50th Anniversary Corner

Education—An Objective of Yesterday and Today

Diverse topics, timely offerings, and exceptional instructors have long characterized the chapter's education program. This aspect of the chapter's activities was considered so important that its original by-laws specified that one of the organization's four motivating objectives would be to contribute to the improvement of education in the field of governmental financial management.

This goal continues to be a fundamental reason for the chapter's existence. A 50-year emphasis on quality training opportunities has provided chapter members with innumerable and excellent opportunities to increase their knowledge in a wide variety of areas from accounting and auditing standards, internal controls, and productivity to governmental budgeting.

A Continuing Commitment

The Washington Chapter's commitment to developing educational experiences for its members has prevailed over the years in many forms, including pertinent topics discussed at our monthly chapter meetings, technical articles in our newsletters and multi-day seminars and workshops on financial management issues designed specifically to meet the needs of our membership. Examples of the excellent programs, reflecting topics of relevance yet today, presented by the chapter during each of the past five decades follows:

- November 1959 featured a seminar on "Internal Auditing" featured Arvid Anteroinen, then the Post Office Department's Deputy Director for Audit.
- 1963-64 saw a series of workshops on automated data processing, including one on "Purchase Versus Lease of ADP Equipment" at which John Abbadessa, then the Atomic Energy Commission's Comptroller, spoke.
- In January 1978, a session entitled, "OMB-GAO-Treasury-CBO-and-YOU," brought together presentations by George Strauss, Donald Scantlebury, Paul Taylor, and John Ellwood from these organizations.
- The 1980's introduced several "Emerging Issues Conferences" which keynoted an impressive array of speakers discussing "hot topics" of the day.
- With the 1990's came an emphasis on financial systems. The 90's also introduced monthly Continuing Professional Education (CPE) sessions in conjunction with luncheon meetings.

Perhaps the most memorable single education event in the chapter's history came in February 1977, when a one-day seminar on Zero-Based Budgeting (a budgetary concept adopted when the Carter administration took office just one month earlier) filled George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium to its capacity. At that time, over 1,400 people heard lectures by distinguished experts of the day, including Peter Phyrre (the "father" of ZZB) and James McIntyre (then Director of OMB). That event, which was held when Audrey Dysland was President, has yet to be surpassed.



Joint Ventures

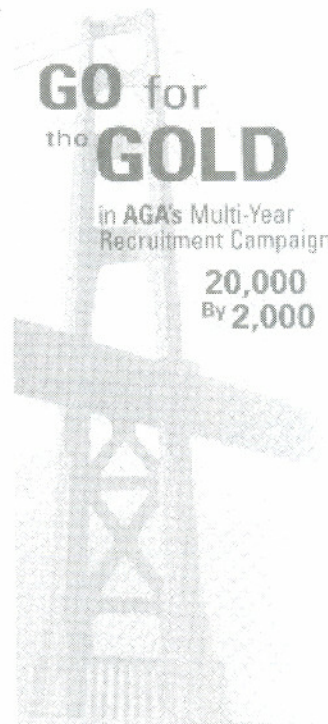
A key to the success of the chapter's education program has been a close, cooperative association with other organizations in sponsoring educational events of mutual interest. In this connection, many training sessions have been jointly held with the other chapters of the Capital Region, as well as with organizations such as the American Association for Budget and Program Analysis, the Institute of Internal Auditors, JFMIP, Treasury, and OMB.

Also, the chapter's education programming has often been done in conjunction with the national office. Perhaps the oldest and largest undertaking has been the chapter's participation in the association's annual symposia, now called the Professional Development Conference (PDC) and the Federal Leadership Conference (FLC).

These successful events were first initiated by the chapter—within 4 months of its formation. Until 1959, both symposia were held annually in Washington, D.C. Now, while the FLC is still held in Washington annually, the chapter hosts the PDC every four years.

Advancing Government Accountability in the 21st Century

Our current 1999-2000 program year continues the commitment to financial management education, featuring an informative and affordable CPE session following every monthly luncheon meeting, as well as three major educational events. Our inaugural educational event of the new millennium will focus on performance measurement and will be held on February 28 and 29 at the Mayflower Hotel.



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Understanding systems integration is one thing.
Understanding the system is another.

Our years of experience learning the ins and outs of the federal government
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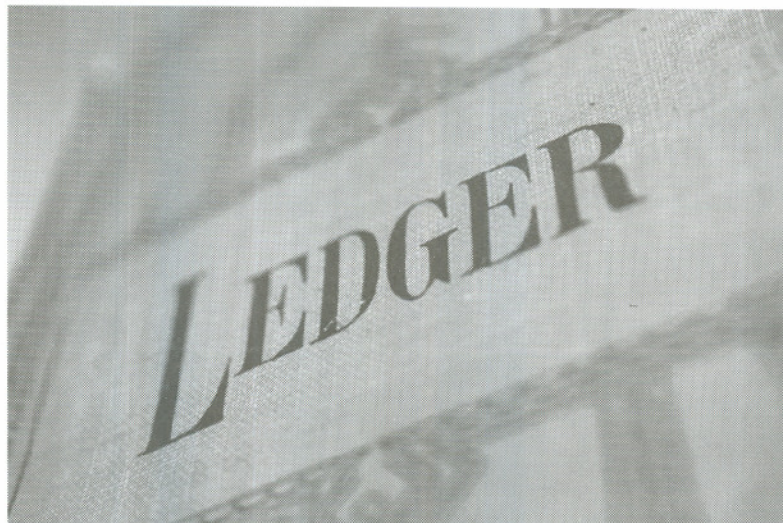


It's time for clarity.

Inside the Black Box: Reporting Budgetary Available Amounts

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM, CPA

There are two types of transitions concerning budgetary authority available that must be recorded in the current SGL: those that result from an action by a government agency, and those that occur automatically. The action-activated transitions are very straightforward to record. A typical appropriation would have the following transitions: when the authority is granted, credit 4450 (Unapportioned Authority); when OMB apports, debit 4450 and credit 4510 (Apportionments); when the agency allocates, they could debit 4510 (Apportionments) and credit 4540 (Allocations); when the agency allots, they could debit 4540 and credit 4610 (Allotments - Realized Resources); and when the agency commits the funds, they debit 4610 and credit 4700 (Commitments). There should be no problems in recording these transitions, as they are all associated with an action that has general ledger impact, and so procedures should be in place to have these recorded in the agency's accounting system.



The problem comes when transitions occur automatically, with no action taken by the agency. The primary occurrence of this is at year end, when funds carry over, expire, or close. When the year ends, the agency should debit the available account (from 4450 through 4610) and credit 4450 (Unapportioned Authority) for a no-year fund, or a multi-year fund which has to be apportioned each year. For single-year funds, or multi-year funds in their last year, the credit is to 4650 (Allotments - Expired Authority). And, for funds that have been expired for five years (unless an exemption has been granted), the credit is to 4350 (Canceled Authority).

Problem number one is getting these transactions recorded. Many agencies have this transition programmed into their annual close process, but Treasury FMS requires that this transition be reported for the final SF-133 (Report on Obligations), and will probably require it for the final FACTS II submission for the year as well (this system is new, and the edits haven't been finalized yet). This would require that agencies run a special pre-close process, to automatically generate these entries before the year is actually closed, similar to the requisition back out that many agencies currently run. With all the accounting

activity that already goes on at year end, this additional requirement is probably not welcome at most agencies.

Problem number two has to do with how agencies normally post changes to their available amounts. Each agency, and sometimes each fund within an agency, has its own series of accounts that are posted to show the stage of the internal budget process: allocations, suballocations, allotments, suballotments, and so on. The SGL Board allows agencies to use the accounts 4520 and 4580 for this purpose. However, Treasury FMS currently requires agencies to ensure that these accounts' balances

net to zero at year end, and all authority show up in the 4350, 4450, 4620, and 4650 accounts. Thus, agencies lose the ability to track budget processes within funds at the end of the year, and any budget processes that get posted the next year are separated from the prior year's activity. For example, if an agency uses 4540 to represent allocations that have not been allotted, and at year end the balance of 4540 (which is left there because the

agency knows there will be some cost overruns on existing obligations, but they don't know which object classes will be affected) gets closed to 4650 for a single-year fund, then the agency can't tell from the trial balance how much has yet to be allotted, and the next year's allotment posting will create an unnatural debit balance in account 4540.

Given that both the SF-133 report and FACTS II system record the full treasury symbol of the fund, and that based on the symbol Treasury knows if the fund is open, expired, or closed, why does Treasury require that specific SGL accounts be posted to also reflect this? If the results are summarized across funds, couldn't it be sufficient for the agency to use an attribute for SGL accounts 4510 and 4610 to indicate the open/expired/closed status? This would greatly reduce the accounting burden on several agencies at year end.

Comments, suggestions, and critiques are welcome. Send them to Simcha_Kuritzky@amsinc.com and not to the AGA.

**JFMIP Conference Agenda
March 14, 2000**

Federal Financial Management for the 21st Century—Celebrating JFMIP's 50th Year
Hilton Washington and Towers, Washington, DC

7:00 Registration Begins

8:00 Welcoming Address

8:10 CFO Council Awards

8:30 Computer Security — John Puckett, Chief Information Officer, toysmart.com

9:15 Keynote Address — Sally Katzen, Counselor to the Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

10:30 Morning Concurrent Panel Sessions

The Future of Accountability Reporting and Accounting Standards - Leader: Sheila Conley, Acting Deputy Controller, OMB

- Bert Edwards, CFO, Department of State
- Thomas Staples, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Financial Policy and Operations and Deputy CFO, SSA

Hot Topics in Technology - Leader: Jeff Steinhoff, Acting Assistant Comptroller General, Accounting and Information Management Division, General Accounting Office (GAO)

- W. Daniel Garretson, Senior Analyst, eCommerce Research, Forrester Research
- Keith Rhodes, Director, Office of Computer Technology and IT Assessment, GAO
- Van Zeck, Commissioner, Bureau of the Public Debt, Department of the Treasury

Agency Performance Reports and Measures—What's Next? - Leader: Chris Wye, Director, Center for Improving Government Performance, National Academy of Public Administration

- D. Mark Catlett, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Department of Veterans Affairs
- J. Christopher Mihm, Associate Director, General Government Division, GAO
- Robert Shea, Counsel, Senate Governmental Affairs Committee

Noon Luncheon Session - Donald L. Scantlebury Awards Presentation by JFMIP Principals and Remarks on JFMIP's 50th Year

1:30 Keynote Address — David Walker, Comptroller General of the U.S.

2:30 Afternoon Concurrent Panel Sessions

Investing in Human Capital - Leader: Kenneth Bresnahan, CFO, Department of Labor

- Rhoda Canter, Vice President-US, DMR Consulting Group
- Ernest Gregory, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Operations
- Nancy Kingsbury, Assistant Comptroller General, General Government Division, GAO

Implementing the FAIR Act - Leader: Deidre Lee, Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy

- Thomas Bloom, Director, Defense Finance and Accounting Service
- Nancy Saucier, Manager, Domestic Policy, American Electronics Association
- Sally Thompson, CFO, Department of Agriculture

A New Look at Financial Systems - Leader: Karen Cleary Alderman, Executive Director, JFMIP

- Earnest J. Edwards, Senior Vice President and Controller (retired), Alcoa, Inc.
- R. Schuyler Leshner, Deputy CFO, Department of the Interior
- John Mitchell, Deputy Director, U.S. Mint, Department of the Treasury

4:30 Conference Ends

Chapter Officers, Directors, and National Representatives

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