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MISSION STATEMENT

AGA fosters learning, certification, leadership and collaboration for professionals and stakeholders committed to advancing government accountability.

VISION

AGA is the premier association for advancing government accountability. AGA defines government accountability as a government’s obligation to the people for its actions and use of resources.



Thank you April Luncheon Speaker!
Rear Admiral Andrew Tiongson, CFO, U.S.
Coast Guard

Thank you May Luncheon Speaker!
Ms. Wendy Payne, Executive Director,
FASAB

June Luncheon Speaker



Jose Arrieta
Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Acquisition
Department of Health and Human Services



President's Message



Colleagues,

The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) Washington DC Chapter continues to demonstrate its commitment to advancing government accountability and service to members and the profession. As we approach the end of our 67th year, the chapter continues to lead by example in providing cost-effective education and training, networking opportunities, and service to our community. As I reflect on this past year, I'm proud to share the following highlights of the 2018 program year:

- **Education** – The DC Chapter provided over 4,700 **Continuing Professional Education** (CPE) credits to our members using a suite of educational and professional development training opportunities by providing over 40 hours of CPE to our members through various training programs, conducting the 17th annual Federal Financial Management Training in April 2018 and hosting eight luncheon meetings throughout this past year!
- Promoted the **Certified Government Financial Manager** (CGFM) certification both internally and externally, and provided exam preparation materials.
- Honored to receive **Awards of Distinction** for Community Service and Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) designation at the 2017 Professional Development Training (PDT) in Boston, Massachusetts.
- **Chapter Recognition Program** (CRP) – received recognition for the Platinum level points and recognized for the platinum achievement at the 2017 PDT and is on pace to surpass this achievement for 2018.
- **Community Service** – raised \$2,644 in monetary donations to support the community, achieved 119 volunteer hours, collected 30 pounds of food, 30 school/art craft supplies, and 25 toys. Recipients include DC Child and Family Services, Junior Achievement, Miriam's Kitchen, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, A Wider Circle, Capital Area Food Bank, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, and Toys for Tots.
- **Social Media** –@AGA_DC on *Twitter* more than doubled from 102 to 205 new followers. Additionally, we re-launched the Facebook and LinkedIn DC Chapter activities and profile.
- **Membership** – Chapter membership continues to grow with over 2 thousand members.
- **Accountability and Outreach** – Chapter earned **Certificate of Excellence in Citizen-Centric Reporting** (CCR) highlighting the Chapter's goals and achievements with emphasis on performance measures and accomplishments.
- **Self-Defense Class** – The Chapter conducted its inaugural Self-Defense training to improve member self-awareness, avoid contact, and effectively respond to adverse physical situations.
- **Networking and Fellowship** – Chapter offered networking and fellowship opportunities for its members, corporate sponsors and guests throughout the program year with key highlights including, annual picnic, Awards Gala, annual winery tour, and fiscal year-end celebration.
- **Early Careers** – Collaborated with the NoVA and MPGC chapters, as well as with Member Services and Mentoring committees to provide members with networking opportunities and social events, including the Annual Program Year Kickoff Picnic, Annual post-NLT Happy Hour and tour of the U.S. Capitol.

Thank you to Members, Sponsors, Officers, and Directors for your ongoing support throughout the year, volunteer efforts, and dedication to the Chapter and the profession. I appreciate the tireless contributions of my outstanding leadership team. The Chapter is positioned for greater accomplishments under the leadership of President-Elect Mr. Jorge Asef-Sargent, CGFM, CPA beginning July 2018.

Sincerely,

Salim R. Mawani, CGFM, CPA
2018 AGA Washington, DC Chapter
President

*“Life's most persistent and urgent question is,
'What are you doing for others?’”*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

April Luncheon Highlights!

A special thanks to Rear Admiral Andrew Tiongson for his insights!



May Luncheon Highlights!

A special thanks to Wendy Payne for her thoughts and insights!



Look Ahead: Get to Know June Luncheon Speaker!



Jose Arrieta,

Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition, Department of Health and Human Services

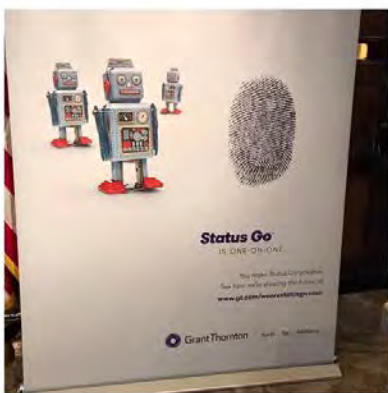
Jose Arrieta is the Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition for the US Health & Human Services (HHS), Arrieta is bringing his work with emerging technologies, more specifically blockchain, the proven benefits of its foundational proponents and the power of accurate data to public procurement and the federal health sphere. He has pushed for a broader policy view of blockchain technology and created government-wide communities (e.g. ACT IAC Blockchain Working Group) focused on identifying blockchain use cases and best practices. As the Former Director of Schedule 70 Operations with the General Services Administration (GSA), Jose led the largest IT contract in the world. Yearly, it averaged approximately \$15B in business volume, providing IT products and services to 1,000 federal, state, and local customers. Arrieta executed on making these processes more efficient, flexible, secure, transparent and data-driven, while also creating a better business network and operational structure.

Jose began his Government career as an acquisition intern at the General Services Administration (GSA). In his last position at GSA, he served as a Lead Contracting Officer with an unlimited warrant planning; high dollar value, highly complex, politically sensitive supply chain, 4th party logistics acquisitions supporting military activities in the United States and the Middle East. During his time at GSA, he led acquisition teams that planned, negotiated, and awarded multiple enterprise wide Federal acquisitions for military clients ranging in value from \$29M to \$500M per year. He also created and staffed an emergency contracting branch to support FEMA in national emergency response.

17th Annual AGA DC Chapter Training Embracing Disruptions to Achieve Positive Outcomes Recap!



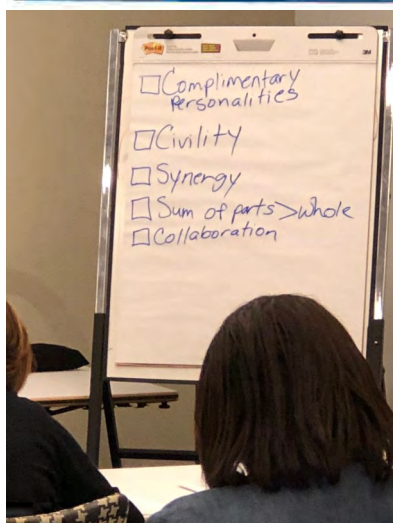
Thank you for Attending Washington Women Speak!



Thank you for Attending AGA Washington Chapter Baseball Game Outing!



Thank you for Attending Mentoring Lunch and Learn!



On May 2, 2018, the Mentorship Committee sponsored a 2 hour Lunch and Learn Leadership program highlighting “The Science Behind Effective Teams” where 23 chapter members actively participated. This interactive program highlighted how Chemistry can serve as a basis for understanding team development and performance, or lack thereof. For this reason, people often use the word “chemistry” to describe an intangible, but positive effect on team performance.

Choosing team members is like choosing elements for a chemistry experiment—they are the basic building blocks. Assembling team members together in the right way—leveraging strengths—is like creating a balanced chemical equation. Monitoring how team members interact is like observing a chemical interaction, and measuring team results is like analyzing the results of a chemistry experiment. Specifically, participants were able to accomplish the objectives below after attending this leadership learning session:

- Explain how to choose team members to create a high performing team.
- Leverage the strengths of team members to maximize team performance.
- Implement strategies to promote positive interactions.
- Evaluate team processes and team results.
- Receive tips for how to build team chemistry when you “inherit” a team.

Annual Awards Gala Recap & Showcase!

Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Awards Gala!



Congratulations to AGA Gala Awards Winners!

25+ Years of Involvement with AGA DC Chapter!



We recognized our longest tenured members, with more than 25 years of contributions to the chapter, in attendance.
Pictured: Evelyn Brown, Karl Boettcher, Pat Wensel, John Roland, Virginia Robinson, Gerald Murphy.

AGA DC Chapter Past Presidents!



We recognized our past chapter presidents in attendance!

Pictured: Gerald Murphy, Pat Wensel, Wendy Morton-Huddleston, Christy Beck, Salim Mawani, Wendy Payne, Evelyn Brown, Eileen Parlow, Virginia Robinson.

Congratulations to AGA Gala Awards Winners!

We also celebrated the great accomplishments of our many award winners!

**Achievement of the Year Award
Winner: Carlos Sedeno**



**Frank Greathouse Distinguished Leadership
Award: Gary Engel**



Robert W. King Memorial Award : John Homan



Einhorn-Gary (Chapter) Award : Mark Reger



Congratulations to AGA Gala Awards Winners!

Emerging Leader Award Of Excellence:

Mobola Kadiri



International Achievement Award :

Scott Showalter



Educator Award: Teresa Tancre



Government Transparency Award : Tim Gribbens



Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans Recap!

AGA members and current and retired employees from New Orleans' Department of Agriculture National Finance Center (NFC) joined Past AGA National Presidents **Evelyn Brown, CGFM-Retired, CCS** and **Virginia Robinson, CGFM, CPA, DABFA, CFC** from the Washington, D.C. Chapter; **Kevin Shers, CGFM, CDFM, PMP** from the Northern Virginia Chapter; and his wife Roxy and Jeff Hart from the Denver "Mile High" Chapter, for our 12th annual project April 17-19, 2018. We again worked with Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans in support of our continuing Hurricane Katrina relief effort. Our devoted local volunteers joining us at the Habitat worksite included **Marcie Tureaud, Amanda Green, and Pam Lincoln** from the NFC.



Thank you for Attending June Wine Tour!



Save the Date!

Thank you for a Great Year!

We look forward to seeing you all at our events in the 2018/2019 Program Year!



2017-2018 AGA DC Audio Training Schedule

The AGA DC Chapter will host the following National audio trainings throughout this program year at the Ford House Office Building, 441 2nd Street SW, 3rd Floor, Room #H2-396, Washington, DC 20515, across from the Federal Center, SW Metro Station. Registration links will be distributed to members the week before each training.

Cost:

There is no charge for AGA members in good standing for these events and attendees will earn two (2) CPE credit hours.

When:

June 13: Leadership



2018 Year Luncheon Speaker Schedule

Date	Speaker	Title	Organization
6/14	Jose Arrieta	Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition	Department of Health and Human Services

CGFM Committee Update - by Wendy Allen

Why CGFM? The CGFM is a respected credential that recognizes the specialized knowledge and experience needed to be an effective government financial manager. Click [here](#) to watch a one-minute video on the value and benefits of CGFM.

For CGFM Candidates: Be sure to take advantage of all these benefits we are offering our AGA DC Chapter members! Get it done this summer!

◆ **We extended the Exam Rebate Initiative!** Take the exam and pass it from now through **June 2018** and we will reimburse you the cost of your exams! The cost of each exam is \$125. First come, first served. Join those members who have recently passed exams and taken advantage of our rebate program! You must submit the following to qualify:

- Copy of passing certification
- Proof of payment
- Mailing address
- AGA member number

◆ **Loaner Study Guides/Practice Exams** – Studying for the exam? Need the materials? AGA DC has purchased electronic versions of the study guides as well as practice exams which are available to AGA DC members on a short-term loaner basis. Contact Shawn Syed at shawn.syed@syedandassociates.com if you are interested (available on a first come first served basis).

◆ **AGA National CGFM Intensive Review Course and Examinations**

AGA's Intensive Review Course (IRC) with CGFM examinations *included* is a great opportunity to review the course ma-

terial with a knowledgeable instructor and complete your CGFM! The next IRC, offering up to 18 CPEs, will be held in Orlando, FL **July 20-21, 2018** before the AGA Professional Development Training (PDT). The cost of the course for qualified participants is \$375 for AGA members/ \$425 for nonmembers. For additional information click [here](#).

Congratulations to our new CGFM's!

Congratulations to the following members who obtained their CGFM in February and March 2018! Way to go!

Adam J. Johnson, CGFM

Katherine J. Lira, CGFM

Daniel J. Allman, Jr., CGFM

Paul Richter, CGFM

Ms. Maria Markham Thompson, CGFM

Inside The Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM, CPA

Background

The general ledger account listing by the U.S. Standard General Ledger (USSGL) includes a designation of a normal debit or credit balance for each account that has been in use for over a decade. However, sometimes an agency has to back out activity, which could result in an abnormal balance.

Spending Adjustments - Disbursed

Back before 1990, only one USSGL account was used for obligations (4800) and another for expenditures (4900). Then Treasury wanted to track cash through the budgetary accounts, replacing the last zero with one for unpaid and two for paid; and OMB wanted to separate out deobligations and refunds from increases in spending from prior-year obligations, which changed the penultimate zero to seven for downward adjustments and eight for upward. So now this same activity is tracked through twelve USSGL accounts (plus an additional three for transfers, but I'm going to ignore those for this discussion). Suppose an agency receives a refund of monies disbursed in a prior year. Is that a downward adjustment (also referred to as a recovery)? The USSGL Transaction List shows debits to 497200 Downward Adjustments of Prior-Year Paid Delivered Orders - Obligations, Refunds Collected in entries such as C132 and C136, but these always credit available or unavailable funding such as 445000 Unapportioned Authority or 465000 Allotments - Expired Authority. On the Statement of Budgetary Resources (SBR), disbursements posted to 490200 Delivered Orders - Obligations, Paid show up in Section 2 Status of Budgetary Resources as new activity on line 2190, but collections posted to 497200 show up in Section 1 Budgetary Resources as an adjustment on line 1043. The reason downward adjustments show up in Section 1 alongside new appropriations is that OMB wants to apportion the funds, and can prevent an agency from immediately spending them by withholding the apportionment.

However, suppose the refund occurred while the contract is still live. Perhaps it was a refund of an overpayment with no impact on the total contract amount. In that case, the budgetary posting would back out B107 with a debit to 490200 and a credit to 480100 Undelivered Orders - Obligations, Unpaid. Since both those accounts are mapped to SBR line 2190, this entry has no impact on the top section of the SBR. OMB can't apportion the funds because they are not available; they have already been obligated.

The problem with backing out B107 is that it posts an abnormal debit in 490200. If the fund has a lot of normal activity, this debit will be overpowered by credits, and the trial balance for that symbol (TAS) will still show a normal credit balance. But if there isn't much activity against that TAS, or if the refund is for a very large amount, or occurs at the beginning of the year, then the trial balance will show an abnormal debit balance and could also cause SBR lines 3020 and 4185 Gross Outlays to go negative. Many auditors would see these as red flags for improper activity.

But what are the alternative treatments? Moving the debit entry or balance of 490200 to 497200 would show it as normal, but it would record a downward adjustment to obligations in SBR section 1 when there was none, and imply these are new funds that must be apportioned when they are already obligated. Offsetting the 497200 entry with 488100 Upward Adjustments of Prior-Year Undelivered Orders - Obligations, Unpaid wouldn't help, since 488100 appears in section

Inside The Black Box (Cont.)

I consider a credit balance in 487100 unsupportable, since it is specifically designed to gather downward adjustment debits. Account 490200, on the other hand, is used in many different types of activity. The USSGL Transaction Listing even shows debit entries to 490200 in entries C134 and C138 Refunds Collected, although those are supposed to be used for current-year activity. I think the main problem with 490200 is that it is a temporal account which begins each year with a zero balance. While it should be unacceptable for an asset to have a credit balance or a liability a debit balance, accounts which track annual activity can have negative balances.

Spending Adjustments - Obligated

This means that disbursements can go negative but obligations can't. Or can they? Back when there was only account 4800, it would never hold a debit balance because it was a permanent account. When the account was split into 4802 for orders with advances and 4801 for those without, it still shouldn't go negative because (1) advance applications shouldn't ever exceed advances paid and (2) advances issued should never exceed the balance of the obligations supporting them. The key here is that both 4801 and 4802 were permanent accounts. However, now that we have upward and downward adjustment accounts, it is possible for a fund to have significant upward adjustments entered in 488100 that are liquidated the same year in 480100, causing 480100 to have a debit balance. So when looking to see if balances are normal, one has to sum 480100, 487100 and 488100 for unpaid and 480200, 487200 and 488200 for paid undelivered orders, i.e., look at the pro forma post-close balances.

Red Flags

Just as there are good reasons for abnormal balances, there are also bad ones. Abnormal balances should be treated as a red flag that calls for investigation, but not something wrong *per se*. For debit balances of 490200, these should be caused by refunds against legitimate contracts that are still open. If an agency creates a catchall order to prevent funding from expiring at year end and increases its open balance by assigning various collections against it, then that is a problem. However, the catchall obligation is a concern even if it doesn't result in abnormal balances. It could be considered an attempt to thwart the will of Congress or OMB. Similarly, if the debit balance in 490200 is caused by large accruals of disbursements that are reversed in the new year and not offset by reconciled disbursements soon, that is an indication that the agency is not reconciling their fund balance with Treasury in a timely manner.

Conclusion

Abnormal balances are a serious problem for permanent accounts, but are only an indication there may be a problem for temporal USSGL accounts (or permanent accounts whose activity is partially recorded in temporal accounts). The USSGL Board needs to address situations where abnormal balances are valid, for example, adding a transaction where a refund is re-obligated in a prior-year fund. If the USSGL Board wants to make abnormal balances an error, then new accounts are needed to hold transactions that can cause abnormal balances, such as an alternate 4902 for



Contact Us

Whether you're looking for more information, or you'd like to give us your suggestions or comments, you'll find easy ways to contact us right here.

The most direct way to get your question answered is to send an email to the AGA DC Board Member via agadc.org. Check out the Officers and Directors for their contact information. For example, if you have a question about the AGA DC monthly luncheon, contact Eric Schaefer at eschaefer05@yahoo.com.

AGA DC Chapter

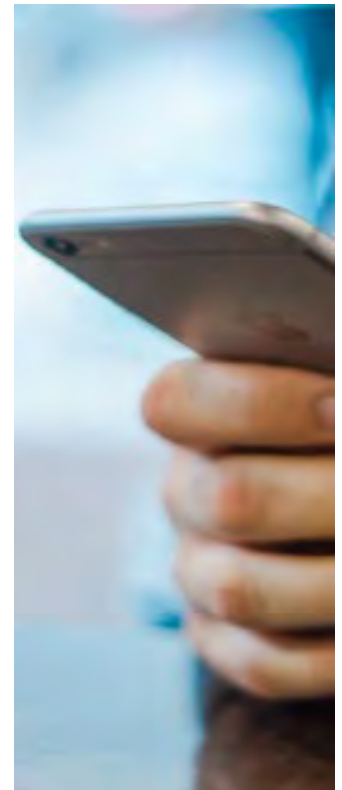
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Thank you for your Sponsorship!

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