

ASSOCIATION OF
GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTANTS

AGA

NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON CHAPTER

SEPTEMBER 1987

WEDNESDAY September 9, 1987

LUNCHEON MEETING TO FEATURE



JOHN CHERBINI
Deputy Director, Accounting
& Financial Management Division, GAO

Topic

*Update On Current Financial
Management Initiatives*

at the

TOUCHDOWN CLUB
2000 L St., N.W.
(Near Farragut West Metro Stop)

Social	
Period	11:30 (Cash Bar)
Luncheon	12:00
Cost	\$15.00 (Members with reservation)
	\$17.00 (Non-members)

For Luncheon Reservations Call 649-4399
Telephone Reservations Accepted Thru Sept. 7, 1987

NON MEMBERS WELCOME

All Reservations Guaranteed

Meeting Schedule: Oct. 1 • Nov. 5 • Dec. 3 • Jan. 7 • Feb. 4 • Mar. 3 • Apr. 7 • May 5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Terry Conway

As summer is drawing to a close, and we all start planning for the year ahead, I hope that your summer respite has been refreshing. In many ways, the summer season is the busiest of all, with students home, vacations to take, and still get some work done when everyone else is on vacation. I know that this has been a busy time for me and for several of the Chapter Executive Committee members. But first, let me thank you for the honor and privilege of being your chapter president for the next year. I will try to provide the leadership that the chapter deserves, and ask your help and indulgence in so doing. I look forward to a satisfying and rewarding year for AGA.

For those of you who were able to attend the PDC in New Orleans in June, I am sure that you will agree that the conference was a success. The National Education Committee put together a highly interesting and diverse program of speakers and technical sessions and the New Orleans Chapter did a tremendous job with support services. The National Capital Region is on the spot for this task for 1988, and we have a tough act to follow. How do we top a President's Reception on a Mississippi Stern-Wheeler? While there, I had the honor of accepting a recognition certificate for our chapter newsletter editor, Lee Beaty, who was unable to attend himself. Congratulations, Lee.

Closer to home, preparations are well under way for the upcoming year. As you may know, our monthly meetings will be held at The Touchdown Club, 2000 L Street, NW. We hope that this will be a change for the better. If it has been awhile since you have been to a monthly luncheon meeting, please come back. John Simonette, Programs Director, has been busily tracking down luncheon speakers and has an interesting, timely schedule developing. The Chapter also sponsored a workshop in July on A-127 that was well attended and well received. We are also looking into the possibility of holding joint mini-sessions with other professional organizations. Stay tuned.

NEW LUNCHEON MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

*By Judith T. Parson,
Meetings Committee Chairperson*

Another year is about to begin for the Washington Chapter of AGA. First off, the luncheon meetings for the 1987-88 program year will be held at the Touchdown Club. We sincerely hope you will enjoy the change. Generally, our luncheon meetings are the first Thursday of every month, September through May. However, due to the Labor Day holiday, our first meeting will be held on *Wednesday* September 9. You may call 649-4399 to make reservations beginning August 24 through September 7. Nonmembers are welcome. **Reservations must be made. Sorry, no walk ins.**

This month's menu—*Appetizer*: Fresh Fruit Cup; *Entree*: London Broil/Mushroom, Stringbeans, Potatoes AuGratin; *Dessert*: Sherbet/Orange.

Regretfully, season tickets will not be offered this year. A very stimulating meeting has been prepared for you. We are looking forward to your presence.

FMS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Treasury's Financial Management Service (FMS) has several openings in its Financial Policy Division.

- Manager, Accounting Policy Staff GS-510-14 (contact Dan McGrath 566-3717)
- Program Director (Systems Accountant) GS-510-14 for the Financial Analysis Program (contact Dan McGrath 566-3717 or Bill Holcombe 535-9697)
- 2 Systems Accountants GS-510 9-13 for the A-127 (Financial Management Systems) Lead Agency Program (contact Susan Lee 535-9693)
- 2 Systems Accountants GS-510 7-13, and one Secretary GS-318-5/6 in the Accounting Policy Staff (contact Jim Sturgill 566-5612 or Thurman Cary 566-2651)

**ASSOCIATION OF
GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTANTS
WASHINGTON
CHAPTER
EXECUTIVE
BOARD 1987-1988**

Officers

President

Terence J. Conway, DOD, 697-7296

President-Elect

Diane Bray, DOD, 695-0839

Secretary

Deatrice Russell, Financial
Management Service, 566-9693

Treasurer

Rolf Wold, DOT, 366-9874

Past-President

Gary Palmquist, 233-3411

Directors

*Cooperation with Professional
and Education Institutions*

Mike Merson, Financial
Management Service, 436-6842

Education

Sue Fields, NIH, 496-3417
Bill Henderson, EPA, 382-4467

Employment Referral

Joyce Shelton, DOT, 366-1306

Membership Services

Dan McGrath, Financial
Management Service, 566-3717

Newsletter

Lee Beaty, GAO, 275-9532

Programs

John Simonette, GAO, 275-9454

*Relations with National Office/
Special Projects*

Adam Shaw, DOD, 697-0585
Research/Professional Notes

Chuck McAndrew, Navy, 695-6615

Committee Chairs

Awards

Mary Lee Mason, Financial
Management Service, 535-9693

Chapter Evaluation

Ron Lynch, Arthur Andersen
& Co., 862-3324

Chapter Recognition/Competition

Jean Bowles, State, 235-8623

Meetings

Judith Parsons, Comptroller
of Currency, 447-1721 *Membership Ser-
vices (A'sst)*

Jim Goulden, Coast Guard,
267-0220

Newsletter

Herb McLure, GAO, 275-4905

Public Service

Paula Rubin, Financial
Management Service, 535-9696

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER THIS MONTH

JOHN R. CHERBINI

Mr. Cherbini is currently Deputy Director of GAO's Accounting and Financial Management Division. He joined GAO in October 1983 after ten years of professional experience with Arthur Andersen & Co. and the State of Louisiana. Since joining GAO, Mr. Cherbini has served as project director for Comptroller General Bowsher's project to develop a conceptual framework for improving federal financial management. He also was the Associate Director responsible for the Integrated Financial Management Systems Group in AFMD.

Mr. Cherbini received a B.B.A. (magna cum laude) from Northeast Louisiana University. He attended Louisiana State University Law School and has an MBA with a concentration in finance from George Washington University.

In 1984, Mr. Cherbini received the AFMD Director's Award for his outstanding effort in developing the report *Managing the Cost of Government: Building an Effective Financial Management Structure*.

MAY EXEC MEET

The Chapter Executive Committee, both incoming and outgoing members, met on May 28, 1987 at the Touchdown Club. Much information was shared and plans discussed between the incoming and outgoing members. Terry Conway announced the new Director and Committee Chair assignments (see new directory on page 3).

Motions were made and passed that (1) a new location for the monthly luncheons be explored, and (2) Terry Conway be authorized to select a new location and announce same in the September newsletter.

Doris Chew and Diane Bray reported that the Auditing Workshop netted \$400. Also, the year's TGIF Lunchshops were very successful and the Chapter anticipates continuing them.

ADD NOTE: Lee Beaty (275-9532) has to have any input (articles, et al) for the October newsletter absolutely NLT 8 September. The October luncheon is very early—October 1st—and any slippage would be a disaster.

Time To Renew Your Membership

Renewal notices were mailed in mid-August. If you do not receive yours please notify Ken Sullivan at National Office as soon as possible (703-684-6931). It is important that you send in your renewal as soon as possible since membership benefits are discontinued after two months on the delinquent list. Our new dues year begins October 1, therefore, anyone not remitting would be purged from our active mailing list and would cease receiving materials from AGA after the distribution of the December newsletter, which occurs the end of November.

MEMBERSHIP — NATIONAL ANNOUNCES INCENTIVES EARLY

*By Dan McGrath, Director
Membership Services*

AGA can only grow and, therefore, do more for its members by increasing in size. Accordingly, it is recognized that each member has a continuing professional responsibility to acquaint other financial management professionals with the advantages of belonging to AGA—the Association of Government Financial Management professionals. For the more aggressive recruiter, National Office has announced the continuation of the incentive program of cash awards established two years ago.

The cash awards to be provided individuals that sponsor new members are as follows:

- Top Sponsor—must sponsor over 20 new members to qualify **\$200.00**
- Second Highest Sponsor—must sponsor over 20 new members to qualify **\$150.00**
- Additional sponsors of over 20 new members **\$100.00**
- Sponsors of 16-20 new members **\$ 75.00**
- Sponsors of 11-15 new members **\$ 50.00**

Conditions: In order to qualify as a sponsor, the sponsor's name must be clearly printed in the space provided on the application for membership form at the time the form is submitted to National Office. A sponsor designation can not be added after the application form is submitted. Also, only paid memberships will be considered in determining sponsorship for the purpose of qualifying for awards. Tabulation of the final figures will be as of the postmark date April 30, 1987.

While all members are enthusiastically encouraged to actively pursue recognition under the cash incentives program, it remains essential to the vitality of the Chapter that all of us make the minimum effort to attempt to recruit one or two new members. Therefore, if you have not recently extended an invitation to a non-member to join the Washington Chapter, please do so as soon as possible. We need full participation in the program if the Chapter is going to reach the goal assigned to it by National Office of a 10% increase in membership. This equates to a projected growth of about 100 members. However, since even under the best of retention efforts we can anticipate to lose 10% of our existing membership in any given year, we will actually need to recruit approximately 200 new members to meet our assigned growth goal.

To facilitate your efforts a copy of the membership application is reprinted elsewhere in this newsletter. Please feel free to reproduce it if you so

desire. Those wishing to make your pitch using the full application brochure may pick one or more up at our regular luncheon meetings or may obtain them by calling me on 566-3717 at any time.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS FOR THE VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM [VITA]

*By Paula Rubin,
Public Service Co-ordinator*

Once again we are asking members to assist in the VITA program. The VITA program was established by the Internal Revenue Service in 1969 to provide free income tax assistance at community locations to lower income, elderly, handicapped and non-English speaking taxpayers who are unable to prepare their own returns or pay for professional assistance. IRS provides instructors and training materials free of charge. Training is usually on Saturdays and will cover the preparation of all tax forms and the new changes in the Tax Law. CPA's are not required to be tested or take training. A special toll-free telephone number is available for volunteers to call for technical assistance while at the VITA site. **THERE IS NO LIABILITY ASSOCIATED WITH THIS VOLUNTEER WORK.** Returns are not signed by volunteers. The VITA stamp is used in the signature block designated for preparer. The VITA program is an excellent vehicle for concerned groups like AGA to provide a valuable service to the community and create goodwill for our chapter and the profession. The work is very rewarding. For further information or to register at one of the work sites in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia, please contact me on 535-9694.

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD AUDITORS?

Treasury's Office of Revenue Sharing is terminating operations on September 30. The Office has six auditors (one GM-15, three GM-14's, and two GS-13's) who wish to stay with the federal government and need to find new positions. These auditors, five of whom are CPA's, are considered experts in governmental accounting and auditing, and financial reporting of state and local governments. They are experienced over a wide range of audit areas. Any federal agency with an interest in the services of these quality auditors should contact Vic Rock, Personnel Liaison, on 634-5164.

MAY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Richard P. Kusserow (left), Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services, receives Chapter's **Distinguished Leadership** award.



VIP visitors—**Gary Palmquist**, outgoing Chapter President, is flanked by luncheon speaker AGA National President **Jack Fawsett** (left), and retiring AGA Executive Director **Fletcher Lutz** (right).



Bruce Michelson (left), Group Director, Accounting and Audit Policy, General Accounting Office, receives Chapter's **Achievement of the Year** award, to applause of boss Fred Wolf.



Changing of the guard—new Chapter President **Terry Conway** presents appreciation gavel plaque to Gary. (Is that a look of relief we see, Gary?)



David J. Holland (right), of the Department of the Interior's Office of Financial Management, receives the Chapter's **Education and Service** award.



Terry eagerly assumes new duties. (He certainly looks presidential, wouldn't you agree?)

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ON THE STANDARD GOVERNMENT LEDGER

By Thurman Cary and
Daniel McGrath, Jr.

- Q. The current chart of accounts in my accounting system doesn't provide a one on one match with the SGL chart of accounts. How can I correct this?**
- A** Conduct a crosswalk first. Then, additional accounts may be added as long as any new accounts roll-up to the basic account structure provided.
- Q. The numbering system is not large enough to accommodate my agencies' needs. What can I do?**
- A** The numbering system can be expanded to a five digit or larger number to meet your agencies' needs. However, any expansion must continue to roll-up to the basic four digit structure.
- Q. My agency uses a lot of statistical and memorandum accounts for internal reporting purposes. How can I add these to the chart of accounts?**
- A** Statistical or memorandum accounts that are agency specific can be added. It is recommended that agencies use the 9000 series for these accounts.
- Q. The transactions codes in the SGL do not meet my agencies' needs. Can I add additional ones?**
- A** Yes. The transaction codes are not intended to be all inclusive. Agencies may use other transaction codes to meet their needs as long as the relationship between the budgetary and proprietary accounts is maintained.
- Q. Some of the transaction codes and crosswalks to the standard external reports are incorrect. Will changes and corrections be made?**
- A** Yes. The Financial Management Service will issue corrections to the transaction codes and crosswalks. Agencies should test each transaction code and crosswalk to determine if the designed accounting treatment is correct until Financial Management Service can make the corrections.

Through this column the Accounting Group, Federal Finance, which is part of the Financial Management Service will provide information and answer questions about the Federal Government's policies, procedures, and practices relating to its financial accounting, and reporting systems. Your questions are welcome and can be sent to Daniel McGrath Jr., Director, Financial Policy Division, Treasury Annex No. 1; GAO: 3011, Washington, D.C. 20226, or conveyed by telephone, (202) 566-3717.

"FULL SPEED AHEAD FOR FEDERAL AGENCIES' FINANCIAL REPORTS"

The Financial Management Service, a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, has been given the green light to require complete reporting for the *Federal Agencies' Financial Reports (ITFM 2-4100)* for fiscal yearend 1987. This became official when the Fiscal Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Gerald Murphy signed off on a memorandum dated May 27, 1987, to heads of departments and agencies. This step conveys the goal of government officials to attain full disclosure of the government's financial resources and activities while eventually achieving the generation of consolidated agency reports. For fiscal 1986, only the "Report on Financial Position," its supporting schedules, and the "Report on Operations" (entities with revolving funds and trust revolving fund only) were required at yearend. All reports will be required this year including the "Report on Cash Flow," "Report on Reconciliation," and complete reporting by all reporting entities for the "Report on Operations."

To reduce the paper flow of reports to Treasury as well as to standardize the quality of data, the Service will expand for fiscal 1987 the Government On-Line Accounting Links System (GOALS) to include the "Report on Financial Position" (SF 220), "Additional Financial Information" (SF 220-1), and the "Direct and Guaranteed Loans" (SF 220-8). The "Accounts and Loans Receivable Due from the Public" (SF 220-9) report is already on GOALS and is submitted quarterly and annually over the system by agencies. The remaining reports are scheduled for implementation on GOALS in FY 1988.

In its efforts to service agencies, the Financial Reports Branch of the Financial Management Service has designated representatives to each agency to provide technical assistance concerning reporting under ITFM 2-4100 requirements. These representatives will provide an array of services such as addressing reporting problems so as to reach accord Governmentwide; ensuring that updates to requirements are in the hands of report preparers so they may be implemented with minimum disruption; and conducting on-site seminars to clarify requirements.

If you have any questions about the program or if you are not aware who your designated representative is, please call the Financial Reports Branch on 566-4663. With questions about the ITFM 2-4100 reports over GOALS and training sessions, please call the Evaluation Branch on 566-9636.

Submitted by Holden Hogue, FMS Financial Reports Branch.

Application for Membership

Association of Government Accountants

Section I

NAME OF APPLICANT: Mr. _____ Ms. _____
 Mrs. _____ Miss. _____

LAST NAME FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME JR, II, III, OTHER

MAIL ADDRESS: _____
 STREET NUMBER STREET NAME
 CITY STATE ZIP

OFFICE TELEPHONE _____ HOME TELEPHONE _____
 AREA CODE NUMBER EXTENSION AREA CODE NUMBER EXTENSION

Section II

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP APPLIED FOR FULL ASSOCIATE SPECIAL ASSOCIATE

I wish to join the Washington, D.C. Chapter.

Section III

EMPLOYER _____ Government: Federal State Local
 Private Employer Academia Other _____

TITLE OF MY POSITION _____
 TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED: Accounting Auditing Budgeting ADP Other _____
 DESCRIPTION

Section IV

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

SCHOOL	LOCATION (STATE)	YEAR FROM TO	MAJOR	DEGREE

Section V

ACCREDITATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS:	STATE	CERTIFICATE NUMBER	YEAR
<input type="checkbox"/> CPA			
<input type="checkbox"/> CIA			
<input type="checkbox"/> CMA			
<input type="checkbox"/> CISA			

Section VI

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE: (List most recent experience first) **Completion of this section is optional if applicant has one or more of certificates indicated in Section IV, completion for more than 3 years experience is optional if applicant has listed a 4 year degree in a financial management field in Section IV, and listing more than 6 years experience is optional for all applicants.**

EMPLOYER	LOCATION	TITLE	POSITION SERIES AND GRADE	FROM TO	MONTH/YEAR

Date of application _____ Signature of applicant _____
 Sponsor (optional) _____ NAME (PRINT) _____
 SPONSOR'S AGA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____
 Remitted herewith is \$ _____

Send one year's dues with this application to:
 AGA, 727 South 23rd Street, Arlington, VA 22202
 Make check payable to AGA.

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- FULL MEMBERSHIP-- (DUES \$47.50)** An individual who has a minimum of 6 years of experience in accounting, auditing, budgeting, or other financial management fields. A graduate of an accredited college or university with a major in the financial management or allied fields may substitute education for experience. A four-year degree counts as 3 years of experience. Holders of CPA, CMA, CIA, and CISA certificates are qualified for full membership without further experience requirements.
- ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP-- (DUES \$33.00)** A colleague that has less than the experience requirement for full membership. Except for holding an elected national office, all other services and privileges of membership are provided. It is anticipated that associate members will become full members through additional experience.
- SPECIAL ASSOCIATE (DUES \$19.00)** Only for junior associates in their first year of employment and full-time students.

ABOUT CHAPTER MEMBERS

Most readers have by now heard about long-time Chapter member **W. Fletcher Lutz's** retirement from his position as AGA Executive Director. Fletcher was appointed to the position in 1981 following an already distinguished career in the federal government, public accounting, and consulting. As most readers know also, he has served AGA with distinction in a multitude of capacities over a very long period of time, including a stint as National President in fiscal year 1967. In 1970 he received AGA's highest award, the Robert W. King Memorial Award, for exceptional service to the Association. We join AGAers everywhere in wishing Fletcher every happiness in his retirement and success in his future endeavors.

Another significant retirement is that of Professor **Raymond Einhorn** from The American University. Professor Einhorn is a long-time member and active supporter of AGA and the Washington Chapter, including service as Chapter President in fiscal year 1957. He joined AU in 1973 and founded what is now the University's Center for Public Financial Management. In 1978 he received the coveted University Faculty Award for Outstanding Contribution to Academic Program Development, which recognizes the success of the program and its importance for both the University and the government agencies involved. In this Spring's Commencement ceremony, he received a plaque designating him "Professor Extraordinaire", amid a standing ovation from his faculty colleagues and students. We take great delight in joining them in wishing Professor Einhorn every happiness in retirement, with deep appreciation of his many contributions to public financial management and accounting education.

We were saddened to learn of the death in July of distinguished long-time Chapter member and AGA supporter **Frank H. Weitzel**. Mr. Weitzel served a 15-year term as Assistant Comptroller General preceding his retirement in 1969. He

joined GAO as a messenger when he was 16 and rose through the ranks to the Assistant CG job, to which President Eisenhower appointed him in 1953. Our deepest sympathies to Mr. Weitzel's family. He will be greatly missed by his many friends in AGA and throughout the government community.

Please call us with your news About Chapter Members (Lee Beaty; 275-9532)

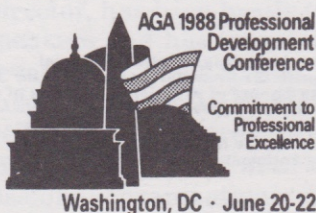
NOTICE

We still need a lot of volunteers to serve as Agency Liaisons. If interested contact Jim Goulden on 267-0521.

NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED BY THE WASHINGTON CHAPTER
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS
P.O. BOX 423
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20044
SEPTEMBER 1987

First Class Mail
U.S. Postage
Paid
Merrifield, VA.
22116
Permit No. 485



FIRST CLASS MAIL —
PLEASE EXPEDITE