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Key Points from Don Hammond at January Luncheon -

Donald Hammond, Treasury Fiscal Asst. Secretary, soon to be Federal Reserve System board of governors.

The opinion on the Governmentwide Financial Report (FR) really hasn't changed overall, but there are the beginnings of a remarkable difference. Between 2005 and 2006, a lot of issues dropped off (though this did not change the conclusion). Data management and quality is improving, there is greater clarity on what disclosures are required, so attention is now focused on what is material and meaningful. Treasury started the FR process from

February Luncheon Series

Ethics Leon Young

February 15th, 2007

Thursday, February 15th Luncheon:
11:30am - 1:30pm • Members: \$25.00,
Non-Members: \$30.00

For more details, see <http://agadc.org/mlunch2.php>
Register online at <https://secure.serve.com/AGADC/lform2.php>
Zola restaurant - 800 F Street, NW - next to the International Spy Museum
(one block from the Gallery Place/Chinatown red/yellow/green line Metro)
Do not forget to bring donations of used eyeglasses and cell phones.

Recruit New Members and WIN PRIZES

SAVE THE DATE

Meeting the Accountability Challenge

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2007
WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2007



Click here to sign up to get newsletter and meeting notices automatically e-mailed
<http://agadc.org/mlistsubscribe.php>

Donald Hammond, Cont'd from pg. 1)

scratch, the prototypes (starting in the 1970s) weren't read thoroughly, and only now is the process starting to stabilize. It is possible the FR may get an opinion within 5 years (though not a clean opinion). The first goal was to be complete and timely. NASA and DoD have huge accounting issues in that they have been using systems that don't capture the necessary data. Eliminations are still the #1 issue. Treasury has put in place intergovernmental business rules to tackle the eliminations issue, and these should pay off soon. OMB is assisting currently by developing meaningful metrics and forming a dispute resolution committee.

June 2008 is the first quarter where agency complete financial information is required for the quarter, first governmentwide interim statement. BPD will soon be issuing balances daily for the federal debt.

TAS-BETC (pronounced taz betsy) will be required on all cash transactions soon (August 2008). This will free up people from bookkeeping to do real financial management.

Integrated reporting: same information is currently sent to many different systems on different reports. FMS will be consolidating reporting requirements.

Cost accounting: agencies should want to do it, assists management in making decisions. Very time intensive, need FTEs in place at start. Need commitment of program people. A good handle on costs and how they relate to outputs helps under budget constraints to maximize outputs, also helps with budget formulation.

SAVE THE DATE

*The Association of Government Accountants
Washington, DC Chapter and the Greater
Washington Society of CPA's are co-hosting their
6th Annual Conference*

Meeting the Accountability Challenge

on May 8 and 9, 2007.

**This 2-day conference
will address emerging issues
related to federal financial
management and systems.**

Dates: Tuesday, May 8 and
Wednesday, May 9, 2007
Time: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Location: Ronald Reagan Building

Continuing Education: 15 CPE

For more information visit:
www.agadc.org

President's Message



by **Scott Bell, President**



February is a busy month for the Washington, DC Chapter. The National Leadership Conference (NLC) will be held February 12-13 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC. The NLC will feature an awards ceremony honoring leaders in the financial management community. Our chapter nominated several individuals for

these prestigious awards, and I am pleased to announce that all of our nominees were selected by AGA's National Award Committee.

The chapter congratulates Sallyanne Harper, Chief Administrative and Chief Financial Officer of the Government Accountability Office, who will be honored with the Elmer Staats Award. Congratulations also to Mark Everson, Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, and The Honorable Todd Russell Platts, U.S. Representative for Pennsylvania's 19th district, who will both receive the Distinguished Federal Leadership Award, to Natwar Gandhi, Chief Financial Officer for the government of the District of Columbia, who will receive the Distinguished Local Government Leadership Award, and to John Cherbini, who will receive the Andy Barr Award. We especially commend and thank John for his service to the chapter as our Sponsorship Director. We will recognize these and other honorees at our 50th Anniversary Member Appreciation and Awards Gala in June.

A near capacity crowd attended our January luncheon, which featured Don Hammond, Fiscal Assistant Secretary for the Department of the Treasury, as our speaker. As Don prepares to embark on his new challenges at the Federal Reserve, he found some time to share his thoughts with us on the Federal government's looming challenges and priorities. Our next luncheon will be held on Thursday, February 15, and will feature a discussion of ethics led by Leon Young. Mr. Young is an adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Maryland University College where he teaches and evaluates in the Experiential Learning Program and Behavioral and Social Sciences.

April 15 is always closer than we think, so we are pleased to spotlight the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Program as our featured charity for February. The VITA Program offers free tax help to low- and moderate-income people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. In addition, I am pleased to announce that the chapter collected over \$130 in spare change at our January luncheon to benefit the 'Make A Wish' Foundation. Many thanks to all who contributed.

On the education front, The Chapter will participate in an audio conference, hosted by AGA National, on Wednesday, February 28 from 2 to 3:50 p.m. entitled, "Practical Guidance for Auditors and Management in Effectively Assessing Risk and Controls. Space is limited, so please check our website for information on how to register.

Reaching out to the next generation of financial management leaders remains a top priority for AGA both at the National and Chapter levels. Our next Early Careers luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, at the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and will feature Jeanette Franzel, GAO's Director of Audit Standards and Methodologies as guest speaker. Please encourage any 'Early Career' professionals in your organization to participate in these free events. Please contact our Early Career coordinators, Laura Glass and Ross Simms for more information.

We plan on doing our part to fight the 'winter doldrums' by offering a number of exciting events for our members in February, including, a downtown ice skating outing on Thursday, February 1 and our grand Chinese New Year dinner on Thursday, February 8, Be sure to register early as this event has become the highlight of our social calendar in recent years. Please contact Lisa Robenseifner or Caitlin Holmes for more information.

Thanks, as always, to our corporate sponsors for all of their support. Please contact any of the chapter officers if you are interested in helping out with any of our many efforts throughout the year. We are always looking for volunteers.

All of the year's upcoming activities, as well as contact information for all of our program coordinators and directors, can be found on the chapter website at www.agadc.org.

Sincerely,

Scott Bell

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Diamond Sponsor



Gold Sponsors





Biography: Leon Young

Leon is a trainer, a teacher, and a motivational speaker.

He has developed a reputation for his strong facilitation skills as well as an ability to deliver his message with humor and relevance.

Leon has spoken on ethics at the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) PDC in 2005, and to AGA chapters in New York and New Mexico and the State Auditors of Maine. He has also presented to the Armed Services Military Comptrollers PDI in 2005 and 2006.

Leon conducts training for Management Concepts on ethical decision making for financial managers and ethics in the grants environment. He is an adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Maryland University College, where he teaches and evaluates in the Experiential Learning Program and Behavioral and Social Sciences.

Early Career Luncheons Now Hosted at GAO!

The Washington DC Chapter sponsors three catered luncheon's per year so that early career members can get to know eachother as well as hear from some of our experienced members. The first luncheon was well attended by over 20 early career government accountability professionals. The next two luncheons will be held on February 21st and June 6th at the GAO Building.

In November, Wendy Comes discussed her government career and invited us all to get involved in writing opinions on FASAB Exposure Drafts, including the concept of Accounting for Social Insurance. She encourages all of us to be thought leaders in accounting policies, at any stage of our career.

On February 21st, we'll hear from Ms. Franzel, the Director of Financial Management and Assurance at GAO. The luncheon will be held at the GAO Building (Room 7B16, 441 G St.) from noon to 1. If you are interested in registering, please email Ross Simms at SimmsR@fasab.gov.

Member Services



The Washington, DC Chapter is here to help you fight the 'winter doldrums'! Come join us for several exciting events in the coming weeks.

We will kick-off with an informal ice skating event on Thursday, February 1. This event, sponsored by Savantage, will be held at the Pershing Park Ice Rink at the corner of 15th & Pennsylvania NW. Admission for adults is \$6.50 and \$5.50 for children. Come join us for some ice skating and hot chocolate! Skate rentals and hot chocolate will be provided. We will meet at 6pm, but please feel free to just drop in at anytime during the evening and say hello! Please RSVP to Caitlin Holmes at the email below if you will be attending.

Our much-anticipated, Annual Chinese New Year dinner will be held on Thursday, February 8th from 6:30pm - 9:00pm at the China Garden in Rosslyn. Cocktail hour will be from 6:30pm - 7:30pm (cash bar) and dinner will be served at 7:30pm. The dinner, sponsored by Savantage, PwC and KPMG, will be \$25 per person payable on the evening of the event. Please RSVP to Caitlin Holmes no later than Friday, February 2 at Caitlin.B.Holmes@us.pwc.com to secure your spot at this fun event.

On Saturday, February 24, the chapter will host a ski trip to Ski Liberty. More details to follow via e-mail and the Washington, DC chapter website: www.agadc.org

Please direct any questions on the upcoming events to Caitlin Holmes at Caitlin.B.Holmes@us.pwc.com. We hope to see everyone at one (or all) of our fun events this month!

WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER

AGA-DC Calendar of Events

2 0 0 7

| Month | Board Meetings (Dept. of Veteran's Affairs) | Luncheon Meetings (Zola's) | Community Service (CS) | Member Services | Education CGFM | Early Careers |
|--------------|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| Coordinators | <i>Christina Pfeffer Jay Ahuja</i> | <i>Ken Bresnahan Corbine Neiberline</i> | <i>Tonya Allen-Shaw Lloyd Farmer</i> | <i>Lisa Robenseifner Caitlin Holmes</i> | <i>Mike Allen Susan Johnson Audrey Duchesne Rhea Riso</i> | <i>Laura Glass Ross Simms</i> |
| August | August 1 11:30am - 1:30pm | No Meeting | No Meeting | August 17 Happy Hour / Meet & Greet | No Meeting | |
| September | September 7 11:30am - 1:30pm | September 20 Speaker: Danny Werfel, OMB | American Cancer Society (ASC) | September 23 Potomac Cruise | September 14th 2pm-4pm Audio Conference: Risk Assessment for Performance Auditing - @ VA | |
| October | October 10 11:30am - 1:30pm | October 18 Speaker: Mike Hettinger (Hill Staff: Platts) Topic: Gov't Reform | October 22 ALS Walk | October 19 Oktoberfest | No Meeting | |
| November | November 7 11:30am - 1:30pm | No Luncheon Scheduled | Project Harvest | November 15 Opera Night@ Café Mozart | November 7-8 November 14-16 Early Careers CGFM Training @ Deloitte | |
| December | December 5 11:30am - 1:30pm | December 7 Speaker: Tim Clark Topic: Military: Perspectives from the Joint Chiefs of Staff | Toys for Tots | TBD Ice Skating & Holiday Get Together | December 6 2pm-4pm Audio Conference: Procurement Cards - Success and Challenges - @ VA | December 13 Early Career Lunch @ Deloitte Speaker: Wendy Comes |
| January | January 10 11:30am - 1:30pm | January 18 Speaker: Don Hammond, FMS | Make-A-Wish Foundation | | No Meeting | |
| February | February 6 11:30am - 1:30pm | February 15 Speaker: Leon Young Topic: Ethics | Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) | February 8 Chinese New Year February 1 Ice Skating Party February 24 Skiing - Liberty, PA | February 28 2pm-4pm Audio Conference: Internal Controls - @ VA | February 21 Early Career Lunch @ GAO |
| March | March 6 11:30am - 1:30pm | March 15 TBD | "Dress for Success Suite Drive" | TBD Spy Museum Event | No Meeting | |
| April | April 3 11:30am - 1:30pm | April 19 TBD | Rebuilding Together (Christmas in April) | TBD Virginia Vineyard Tour | CGFM Training- TBD | |
| May | May 1 11:30am - 1:30pm | May 17 TBD | Collect used eye glasses for the Lion's Club used cell phone collection for HopeLine | TBD Boat Ride/ Paddle Boats (tentative) Member Appreciation & Awards Dinner | May 8th and 9th Spring Conf. at Ronald Reagan Building | |
| June | June 5 11:30am - 1:30pm | | | TBD Golf Tournament National Game | No Meeting | June 6 Early Career Lunch @ GAO |

RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS & Win Prizes

AGA Member-Get-A-Member Campaign

Recruit new members now for AGA's Member-Get-A Member campaign and everyone wins! You get a chance to win prizes, including a free trip to AGA's 2007 Professional Development Conference in Nashville, and your recruits get to enjoy the many benefits of AGA membership. A special prize goes to the national member who recruits the most rising stars, or young professionals with less than 3 years of experience.

Who and How to Recruit

Any of your colleagues who work in government accountability are eligible for AGA membership, including accounting, budgeting, financial management, grants, IT, auditing, reporting, fraud, and administration.

When recruiting new members, keep these tips in mind to make it easy on yourself and the recruits: print out membership applications in advance, refer colleagues to the AGA web site, have a copy of AGA's Journal handy, tell your colleagues about how you have benefited from AGA, invite colleagues to come to an AGA chapter event, be sure to make yourself available for questions, and follow up with colleagues on their membership interest.

Be sure to let recruits know about the many benefits of AGA membership, including continuing professional education; networking opportunities; keeping up-to-date on current issues, the latest technologies, and financial systems through AGA events and publications; professional guidance and certification; leadership opportunities through committee involvement; and award and scholarship opportunities. Members also receive discounted rates to the annual PDC and other professional development opportunities.

Help AGA Grow

New members help AGA to further develop and become an even stronger organization that can better serve member needs. New members enrich our local chapters with their knowledge and resources. Through their dedication to government accountability, they advance our profession. Be sure to let potential new members know how AGA can benefit their career.

For more information on prizes and other membership details, see the national AGA site:
http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/mem_campaign.aspx
 or contact your DC Chapter Membership Co-Directors:
 Marguerite Nealon e-mail: wnealon01@aol.com
 LeAnn Corcoran e-mail: lcorcoran@savantage.net

CONGRATULATIONS TO NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Help us congratulate the following Washington Chapter nominees who were selected to receive AGA National Leadership awards. These awards will be presented at the annual National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., February 12-13, 2007. Take the opportunity to attend the conference and congratulate the award winners.

Distinguished Federal Leadership Award -

Mark Everson, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service
Honorable Todd Russell Platts, U.S. Representative, 19th District of Pennsylvania, Chairman Subcommittee on Government Management, Finance and Accountability

Elmer Staats Award - Sallyanne Harper, AGA's Washington, D.C. Chapter, Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Government Accountability Office

Andy Barr Award - John Cherbini, CGFM, CPA, AGA's Washington, D.C. Chapter, Partner, National Federal Advisory Services, KPMG LLP
Distinguished Local Government Leadership Award: Natwar Gandhi, Ph.D., CGFM, AGA's Washington, D.C. Chapter, Chief Financial Officer, Government of the District of Columbia

Time is Growing Short to Submit Nominations for AGA's National and Chapter Awards

Happy New Year! Similar to previous years, we have the good intention of truly accomplishing our New Years resolutions. We welcome change, new beginnings, and future successes! Speaking of successes and achievement, we do not want to forget about those AGA-DC members who were strong contributors to our organization in 2006. Please take a couple minutes to reflect on the past year and send us the names of AGA-DC members and professional colleagues who fit the descriptions below. We have received some nominations at this point but we know there are many more contributors who deserve recognition!

Again, please remember the members and colleagues that you have seen put forth remarkable effort, integrate "out-of-the-box" ideas, creatively influence the organization, and/or participate in the industry in a way you have not seen before. Please submit these individuals' names and the specific award titles to Jeff Green (jgreen@kearneyco.com / fax-703-931-3655) to be considered for the 2006 AGA-DC Awards. We need

all nominations by February 15, 2007. If you have questions about the specific awards or about the nomination process, please contact Pat Wensel (dpwensel@verizon.net) or Jeff Green. The committee is available to help you complete the nomination forms that are available on AGA's website at www.agacgfm.org/membership/awards. Help us ensure that the many chapter members who have contributed so much to AGA are formally recognized for all their efforts. Thank you for taking time to nominate your colleagues, friends, and members for these special honors!

Einhorn/Gary Award: For extraordinary commitment and dedication to provide better accountability to the American people by enhancing the role of financial management in decision making across the Federal Government.

Robert W. King Award: For extraordinary commitment, tireless dedication and sustained outstanding leadership in moving the AGA forward to better serve its members, the entire government financial management community and the public.

Frank Greathouse Distinguished Federal Leadership Award: For extraordinary leadership and accomplishments in improving federal financial performance, and for demonstrated management and leadership expertise in complex, competitive, and changing environments.

Chapter Service Award (James W. Saylor Award): For sustained outstanding commitment and dedication in service to its members of the Washington D.C. Chapter

Achievement of the Year Award: For leadership or outstanding achievement in developing, implementing and improving financial management in government service in the past year.

Educator Award: For exceptional education and training provided on behalf of government accountability professionals to improve financial management at all levels of government in our Nation and around the globe.

Cornelius E. Tierney/Ernst & Young Research Award: For continuing outstanding service to the federal accounting community by their direct participation in research activities and/or through their encouragement and support of others engaged in government financial management research.

Emerging Leader Award of Excellence: to nationally recognize younger government financial managers for notable contributions toward excellence in financial management.

International Achievement Award: to recognize leadership or outstanding achievement in international government financial management.

The National awards will be presented at the 56th Annual Professional Development Conference and Exposition to be held June 24-27, 2007 in Nashville. Chapter awards will be presented at the 50th Anniversary Member Recognition and Gala on June 2, 2007.

COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

December was a very exciting month for the AGA's Washington D.C. Chapter in the area of community service. We had another successful Toys-for-Tots Campaign collecting approximately sixty toys and over \$200 dollars in cash. The Toys-for-Tots Campaign is directed and supported by the U.S. Marine Corps and they collect toys in over 290 communities nationwide and distribute these toys to needy children. In January, the AGA DC Chapter continued their support of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The Make-A-Wish Foundation is a non-profit organization that fulfills the wishes of children facing life-threatening medical conditions. This year we collected \$162.25 that will be sent to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

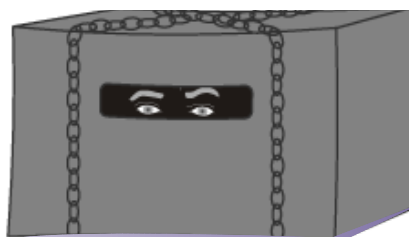
Upcoming events include the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) in February and the "Dress for Success Program in March. VITA offers free tax help by trained volunteers for low income citizens. Volunteers prepare Form 1040A, Form 1040EZ and Form 1040 with Form 1040 Schedule A&B. Volunteers must be accountants and trained to prepare tax forms. Volunteers are also needed to assist with filing copying and assisting VITA participants through the process. These volunteers do not require training. The program starts February 15th and continues throughout the tax season. Please contact Lloyd A. Farmer 703-516-9134 ext 11 or Tonya Allen Shaw 202-720-5026 if you are interested in this program. We need volunteers for tax preparation and program assistance.

Dress for Success is a not-for-profit organization that offers services to help low income residents to help them enter the workforce and stay employed. Each Dress for Success client receives one suit when she has a job interview and a week's worth of separates when she gets the job. The AGA will be collecting used woman's suits at our March Luncheon. Cash donations will be accepted. Make checks payable for the Dress for Success Program.



Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA



Use Standard General Ledger Account or Accounting Code?

Background

Last month, I commented generally on the exposure draft on a Common Governmentwide Accounting Classification (CGAC) system. This month, I tackle one of the on-going debates within the federal accounting community: just what should the Standard General Ledger (SGL) account include?

Structure

In the private sector, companies get to determine their own general ledger structure and nomenclature. GAAP requires certain kinds of accounts, but does not dictate how detailed the chart should be or how to number them. For example, a company can use one general ledger account for all of their time-deposit accounts, or could assign each one a separate general ledger account. The federal government's SGL structure not only meets GAAP requirements, but also a number of reporting requirements unique to the federal government. However, it does not meet all of them.

Reducing Extra Codes

In order to supplement SGL accounts, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Treasury's Financial Management Service (FMS) have added a number of codes. For example, it is not enough to know whether interest revenue was earned on loans, investments, or other transactions (this split-out was introduced in FY2004, before then, there was only one interest revenue SGL account); additional codes are required to identify whether the revenue is custodial or part of an exchange transaction. This effectively makes the account code six characters long. But why use additional codes instead of adding more SGL accounts? For custodial, there are only ten asset accounts (mostly receivables), one liability, 14 revenue and one expense account that could be either custodial or not. This field could be eliminated by adding 26 new SGL accounts. Similarly, the exchange flag could be eliminated by adding 25 new accounts. If this information is important enough to track, it's probably important enough to track as part of the SGL. Also, it is likely that there are some accounts that don't need these flags. If anyone can explain how interest on investments can be nonexchange, please email me.

A better example is the subsequent/current availability flag for 4510 Apportionments and 4590 Apportionments - Anticipated Resources - Programs Subject to Apportionment accounts. It is really important for an agency to know if funding is available. So important that 4610 Allotments - Realized Resources is in a separate account from the aforementioned 4590, 4630 Funds Not Available for Commitment/Obligation, and 4650 Allotments - Expired Authority. So why not split 4510 into 4511 for current and 4512 for subsequent availability, and 4590 into 4591 and 4592, and eliminate the flag? Currently many agencies create their own general ledger accounts to capture this information anyway. 🤔

(Inside the Black Box Cont'd)

Reducing Extra Accounts

Conversely, if the SGL chart of accounts is getting too cluttered, why not replace many of the current accounts with flags? For example, use 4600 for available funds and include a flag indicating whether it is subject to apportionment, has been apportioned, is expired, is unavailable, or available? Or we could eliminate many of the accounts 4130 through 4150 for borrowing, contract, and reapportioned authority and use the existing Authority Type flag with the regular appropriation accounts, just as this flag is used for most of the authority reduction accounts in the 4382 to 4397 series.

Conclusion

Standardizing federal agencies' accounting structure could yield many benefits, but we should be careful not to freeze in place make-shift practices. The current GCAC proposal accepts without question that all FACTS codes are necessary. If we are really serious about meaningful standardization, we need to take a hard look at how the SGL is structured and see whether some of these extraneous codes could be incorporated. At a minimum, the level of detail should be consistent across SGL accounts—we should either capture an attribute in the SGL for all accounts, or use a separate flag for all accounts. 🙅



Comments and critiques, as well as specific questions or suggestions for future topics, are always welcome. Send them to Simcha.Kuritzky@CGIFederal.com, and not to the AGA.

Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA

This column is provided as part of a free exchange of ideas in federal accounting, and is not reviewed substantively before publication.

JANUARY CHAPTER MEETING



Join the AGA-DC Mailing List

To sign up on the AGA-DC mailing list and receive periodic updates, go to <http://agadc.org/mlistsubscribe.php>, enter your email address and click "Subscribe."

To unsubscribe to the AGA-DC mailing list at any time, go to <http://www.agadc.org/mlistunsubscribe.php>, enter your email address, and click "Unsubscribe."

Annual CGFM Renewal Time

It is time to renew your CGFM designation and/or AGA membership! Below you'll find answers to frequently asked questions about CGFM renewal:

Q: How often do I have to renew my CGFM designation?

A: CGFM certification is renewed on an annual basis. A renewal invoice is sent out in February and the payment is due by March 31st. If you do not receive an invoice by mid-March, please call AGA at 1.800.AGA.7211.

If your address has recently changed, please be sure to update your contact information with AGA and pay your dues in the "Members only" section of AGA website (www.agacgfm.org).

Q: What are the requirements for maintaining the CGFM certification in an active status?

A: To maintain the CGFM certification in an active status, CGFMs are required to:

- Pay the CGFM renewal fee by the due date every year.
- Complete at least 80 hours of continuing professional education (CPE) every two years in government financial management topics or related technical subjects.
- Maintain and, if requested by AGA, provide detailed information on CPE hours completed.

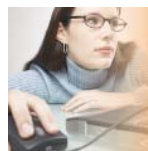
To retain the CGFM certification, all CGFMs must adhere to the AGA's Code of Ethics. By submitting their annual renewal payment, CGFMs affirm that they have and will continue to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics and that they have fulfilled the minimum CPE Requirements.

Q: How do I determine my CPE cycle?

A: Your first two-year CPE cycle starts on January 1st of the year following the one when your CGFM was awarded (for example, if your CGFM was awarded in 2001, your first CPE cycle was 1/1/02-12/31/03). The



Connections at your Fingertips ...Just Click



- AGA Membership Information
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- CGFM Program Information
- CGFM Program Application
- AGA National Home Page
- AGA-DC Home Page (Washington DC)
- AGA-Northern Virginia Home Page (Virginia)
- AGA-Montgomery/PG Home Page (Maryland)
- MACPA Home Page (Maryland)
- VSCPA Home Page (Virginia)
- GWSCPA Home Page (DC)
- AICPA Home Page

(Second Career... Cont'd)

award date is listed on your CGFM certificate. Your current CPE cycle is listed on your renewal invoice. For a table of all CPE cycles visit www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/cgfm_calendar.aspx.

Q: My two-year CPE cycle just ended on December 31, 2006, but I did not complete 80 CPEs in 2005-2006. Can I make up the deficiency?

A: Yes. CGFMs who have not completed the 80 CPE hours in 2005-2006 cycle have until March 31, 2007 to make up the deficiency. Any CPE hours completed toward a deficiency in one period must be documented in the CPE records and may not be counted toward the requirements for the next two-year period. More information on CGFM CPE requirements can be found on www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/cpe_requirements.aspx.

Q: I just retired. Do I need to do anything to adjust my CGFM status to "retired"?

A: Yes. Individuals who are retired from AND are no longer substantially working in the government financial management community can request an adjustment of their status to "retired" by contacting AGA's Office of Professional Certification (by mail or e-mail at agacgfm@agacgfm.org - please provide the date of retirement and confirm that you are no longer substantially working in the government financial management community). CGFMs in retired status are not required to remit the CGFM renewal fee or earn the 80 CPE hours.

If retired CGFMs return to work (substantial employment or contracting) in the government financial management community, they must contact AGA to change their status back to "active."

More information on CGFM renewal policies can be found on www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/.



-by Christina Camara

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Happy Anniversary!

Congratulations to the Washington, DC Chapter on 56 years!

Commonly referred to as AGA's "Mother Chapter," the Washington, DC chapter was founded in September 1950 when AGA was known as the Federal Government Accountants Association (FGAA). From 1952 until the National Organization was established in July 1956, the DC chapter served as both the National Organization and the local chapter. Thus, the accomplishments of the National Organization were those of the Washington, DC chapter.

Under the guidance of the first chapter president, Robert W. King, the chapter started out 600 members strong. Wasting no time, monthly newsletters and meetings set the ball rolling. Until inflation raised prices to unaffordable highs, monthly dinner meetings were held nine times a year at a local restaurant. From that point, lunch meetings were instituted as an affordable alternative and worked into members' busy schedules. A proud tradition that continues to this day, the chapter initiated an annual chapter awards program in 1960 to honor member anniversaries and other momentous occasions from the past year. Currently, the Washington DC chapter is AGA's largest, proudly boasting well over 1400 active members.

Congratulations to Scott, the DC chapter committee and all DC chapter members on 56 years!



Recruitment*

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Request for Newsletter Submissions, Comments, or Suggestions

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter? Do you have an article you would like to see in print? Have you developed a time-saving process or procedure on the job? Have you traveled to any interesting locations? The Washington Connection requests that you submit any and all items of interest to our federal, state, and local members including: reviews of recently published books related to financial management; unique travel experiences or assignments; lessons learned on roll-outs of new systems; appointments or promotions; employment opportunities; and noteworthy accomplishments by our members. We also welcome digital photos that accompany your submission.

The Washington Connection will not be issued in July or August. The deadline for submitting articles to appear in the September 2006 issue is August 11, 2006. Please send your comments and contributions to Don Geiger, the newsletter editor for the 2006 - 2007 program year, at donald.geiger@do.treas.gov, or to Sarah Suchland, the newsletter assistant for the 2006 - 2007 program year, at sjsuchland@deloitte.com.

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To find out what's happening at other AGA chapters in the area:

Visit the Baltimore chapter's website at <http://www.aga-balt.com> to learn about their upcoming events.

Visit the Northern Virginia chapter's website at <http://www.novaga.org> to learn about their upcoming events.

Visit the Montgomery/Prince Georges chapter's website at <http://www.marylandaga.com> to learn about their upcoming events.

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Are you, or someone from your chapter planning to attend a career fair, or an event for college students? AGA now has an eye-catching brochure that offers information about government financial management careers and answers questions for aspiring government financial managers regarding the qualifications and skills needed to get started. It also includes a bookmark for students that directs them to the Tomorrow's Professionals website for more information. To order free copies of the brochure, please submit the collateral order form found in the Members Only section or contact Jessica Jones.

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Highlights

Attend AGA's Fifth Annual NLC

Join AGA February 12-13 in Washington, D.C. for the Fifth Annual National Leadership Conference. The conference, to be held at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, is built around the theme, **Forging New Paths to Improved Accountability**. Learn practical skills to improve your agency, hear from the top opinion leaders in the accountability business, and exchange problem-solving ideas with colleagues from around the country.

[Visit the site for program and registration information.](#)

Take the CGFM Examinations Before the NLC



AGA is once again offering a great opportunity to take the CGFM Examinations and earn your CGFM at the annual National Leadership Conference (NLC) in Washington DC. Whether you've found it difficult to find time to complete the three exams or just need an extra reinforcement of the material, this is your chance to get it done!

To help you reach that goal, we are offering a two-day Intensive Review Course on Thursday, February 8, and Friday, February 9, 2007, and an opportunity to take the CGFM Examinations on February 10-11, 2007. The cost of the course is only \$249 for qualified participants, and it offers 18 CPE hours. Special Bonus: The CGFM Examinations are offered at no cost to course attendees.

This course is designed as a supplement to previous preparation for the CGFM Examinations, so this is a perfect opportunity for those individuals who have already attended GFM training courses or have been preparing by using the CGFM Study Guides. Enrollment is limited and popular exam time slots are reserved quickly, so don't delay.

More information and a registration form for this event are available on the [AGA website](#). If you have any questions, contact [Katya Silver](#) at 703.684.6931 ext. 305.

You are receiving this e-mail because you are currently enrolled in the CGFM Program. If you don't wish to receive such e-mails from AGA in the future, [please notify us](#).

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Other AGA links

[CGFM Certification -Take the AGA CGFM Exams Today!](#)

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[Register Now for AGA's 56th Annual Professional Development Conference, June 24-27, 2007, in Nashville](#)

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Regional Highlights and Activities

Karl Boettcher, CGFM

Capital Region Vice President

A Message of Thanks...

As Regional Vice President (RVP), I wish everyone in our AGA family a belated "Happy New Year". Thanks for your continued support of Local, Regional and, National AGA activities. The extraordinary efforts of the DC Chapter President, Scott Bell and the other DC Chapter Officers and Directors make the DC Chapter one of the best in AGA. They are hard at work developing an outstanding program for the balance of the 2006-2007 chapter year.

Thanks also goes to my "Regional Leadership Team,": Mia Leswing (Past PVP), Doreen Shute (RVP Elect), and the five regional coordinators; Eva Williams (Membership), Jim Davis (Early Careers and Community Service), Stu Sklamm (CGFM), Kay Daly (Education), and Evelyn Brown (Chapter Development and Assistance). They provide extremely valuable on-going regional subject matter advice and support to me, the National office "National Coordinators" and the DC Chapter, and the Northern Virginia and Montgomery/PG Chapter Directors and Chairpersons.

I appreciate the graciousness of the DC and other Regional Chapter members while attending their chapter lunch/dinner meetings, and their educational, member services, community service, member services and early career event activities. Additional thanks goes to members of other AGA Chapter Regions within our Section who have supported our activities and who have invited me to attend their "Chapter Meetings" and "Regional Educational Conferences."

Special gratitude goes to Jeff Hart (National President), Deby Davis (Section IV Senior Vice President), and Relmond Van Daniker (National Executive Director), and his National Office staff. They not only offer their untiring assistance and support to our three regional chapters, but to all 88 chapters nationwide. Thanks and congratulations to Sam Mok, the Department of Labor CFO, and DC chapter member for his many years of service and on being elected as AGA National President for 2008 - 2009. The unselfish service to our profession in "Advancing Government Accountability" demonstrated by our Local, Regional, and National leadership, together with your support, has made AGA the "Thought Leaders in Government Financial Management." and the "Premier Association for Government Accountability Professionals."

Please continue to check your "DC - Calendar of Events Chart" in your newsletter and your "DC Chapter website" at www.agadc.org, to obtain updated chapter activities information. The presidents of the other two Regional Chapters - John Homan (Northern Virginia) and Flora Milans (Montgomery/PG) also would like to invite you to attend their activities. Look at their "Calendar of Events Chart" below and visit their websites at www.novaga.org and www.marylandaga.com for additional events and updated information. Remember to visit the AGA National website at www.agacgfm.org to access the wealth of professional Financial Management information available. Take advantage of the CGFM and the CEAR/SEA training opportunities and plan to attend the upcoming Leadership and Professional Development Conferences. For those members who have not, use this opportunity to get involved with the many AGA activities on a Local, Regional and National basis.

Thank you all again for your continued support.

Karl

Karl

AGA - N. VA Calendar of Events

2 0 0 7

| Month | Evening Meetings Old Town Embassy Suites | Community Service (CS) | Member Service | Education CGFM | Early Careers |
|----------|---|--|----------------|---|--|
| February | 21--Early Careers (Part 2) | 21--The Climate Institute | | | 21--Understand Your Boss; Mentoring, etc (Part 1) |
| March | | 10--USO Care Packaging Party (FT Belvoit) | | 21--All day Training: Internal Controls are Key | |
| April | 18--How to Read Govt Financial Statements | 15--MS 2007 Walk 18--Friends of Homeless Animals | | | |
| May | 16--Annual Awards Banquet | | | | |

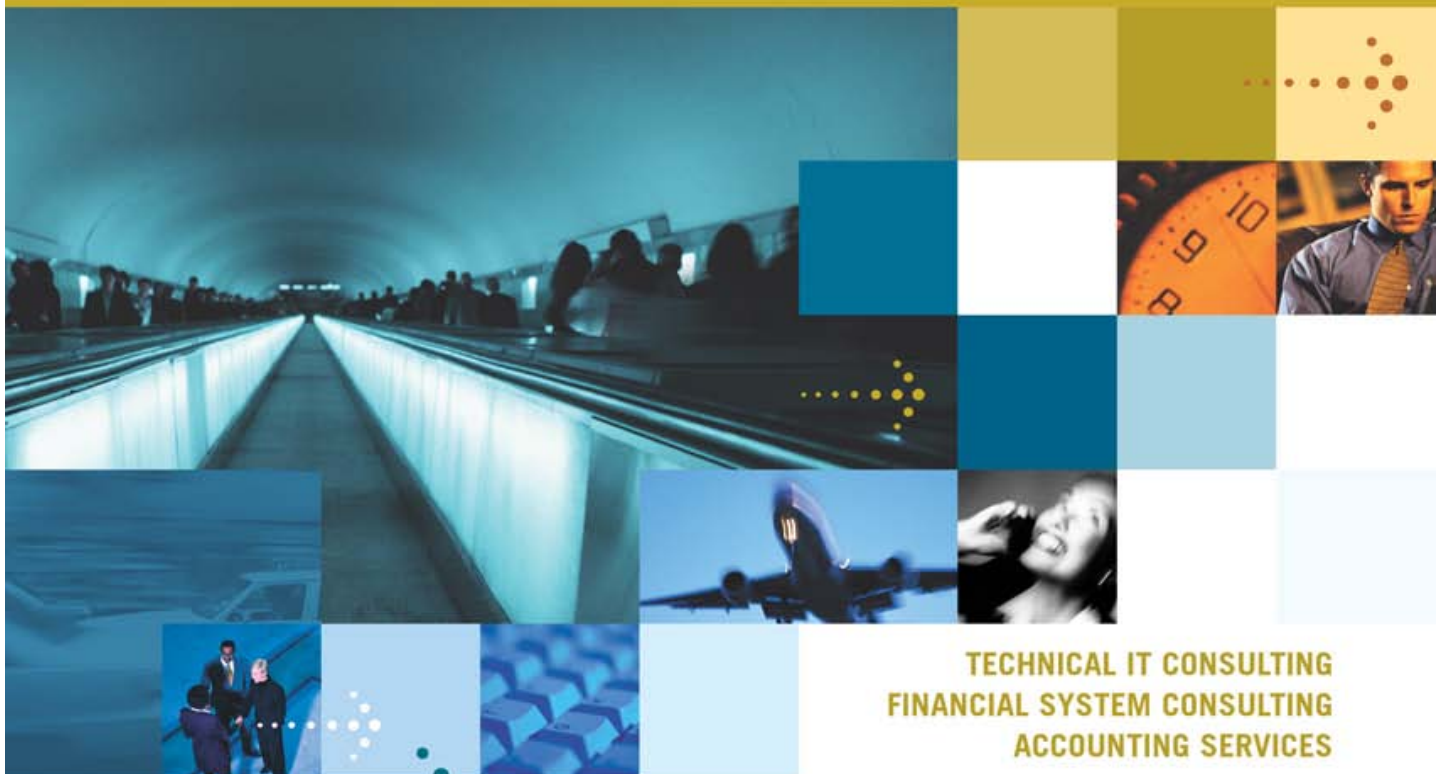
AGA - PGC Calendar of Events

2 0 0 7

| Month | Dinner Meetings* Board Meetings | Community Service (CS) | Member Service | Education | Early Careers (EC) |
|----------|---|---|----------------------|--|--|
| February | 21 - Dana James, OMB 14 - Noon Conf. Call | | | 12-13 - NLC Wash. DC, AGA Nat'l Conf. - 14 CPE | 8 - SH - Timpanos 21 - Career Fair at DoubleTree |
| March | 21 - Tom Dagley, Mont. Co. IG 13 - Noon Conf. Call | | | 28 - AC - 2 CPE - Procurement Fraud at KPMG | 8 - SH - Dave & Busters |
| April | 18 -- TBD 10 - 6 p.m., Rest. TBD | 28-29-- Avon Walk for Breast Cancer (EC) Christmas in April with DC Chapter | CGFM Luncheon TBD | TBD - Workshop - 2 CPE - at NIH | 12 - SH - DoubleTree CGFM Luncheon - TBD 28-29 - CS - Avon Walk for Breast Cancer |
| May | 24 -- Awards Dinner, Jeff Hart, National Pres. 15 - Noon Conf. Call | | | 9 - AC - 2 CPE - Ethics at CG | 24 - Awards Dinner - MVP Award presented |
| June | | 24-27-PDC Chapter item raffled at PDC and chapter gift to National for charity selected | | | |

* Dinner speakers' topics will relate to financial management.
The location is the DoubleTree Hotel from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. with one hour CPE.

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