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MISSION STATEMENT

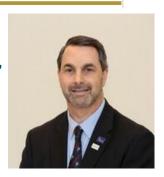
AGA fosters learning, certification, leadership and collaboration for professionals and stakeholders committed to advancing government accountability.

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 February 2020
Speaker: John H. Lynskey,
Controller and Deputy
Division Director, U.S.
National Science
Foundation





Thank you January 2020
Speaker: Monica Valentine,
Executive Director, FASAB





President's Message



Greetings, Members

Welcome to our March edition of the Washington Connection!

The 2019-2020 program year is well underway. In February, we hosted DC Chapter's very own Past President, John Lynskey who shared insights on professional resiliency. This month, we look forward to welcoming Tim Soltis, Deputy Controller Office of

Management and Budget, and hearing about the evolution of federal financial management modernization.

Also, in February, countless AGA DC Chapter members attended, and some were presenters, a very successful AGA National Leadership Training. I am honored to share that several Chapter members were recipients of NLT awards, including the Distinguished Local Government Leadership award, the Distinguished Federal Leadership award, the Elmer Staats award, and the Andy Barr award. Thank you, DC Chapter, for your continued leadership in the federal financial management community!

I regret to announce that we are postponing the 19th Annual AGA DC Chapter Training on Federal Financial Management on March 18 and 19 due to recent events regarding the COVID-19. Normally, this training program offers 16 continuing education credit hours, including instructor-led ethics training, and opportunities to network with fellow colleagues. We are also postponing the following events:

- AGA DC Chapter Bowling Social March 4, 2020
- AGA DC Audio Conference Improper Payments March 5, 2020
- AGA DC Monthly Luncheon featuring Tim Soltis, Deputy Controller Office of Management and Budget March 11, 2020
- AGA DC Audio Conference Cybersecurity March 25, 2020
- 19th Annual AGA DC Chapter Training on Federal Financial Management March 18-19

I would like to thank all our committee members for their continued efforts and commitment to our Chapter. Together, they constitute a dynamic team that is responsible for our successful Chapter. I also want to thank our generous sponsors for their continued support that enables the DC Chapter to provide the Chapter's many educational and other beneficial member services.

With warm regards,

Malena Brookshire



January 2020 Luncheon Highlights









Thank you Monica Valentine for your ABCD's of GAAP and Beyond presentation!



February 2020 Luncheon Highlights









Thank you John H. Lynskey on your insight on Professional Resiliency!



Look Ahead: March 2020 Luncheon Speaker: Tim Soltis, Deputy Controller, Office of Management and Budget



As Deputy Controller, Mr. Soltis serves as a senior member of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) management team supporting the President's Management Agenda (PMA) and other cross agency priority goals of the financial management community. He also provides leadership to the federal financial management, financial assistance, and real property communities to support their mission, service, and stewardship responsibilities.

Mr. Soltis leads the critical work of OMB's statutory Office of Federal Financial Management (OFFM) across a diverse portfolio and on major initiatives. He routinely engages key stakeholders within OMB and across the federal government, the oversight community (such as the Government Accountability Office and the federal Inspector's General community), the financial assistance community (which includes state/local/tribal administrators and financial aid recipients) and external stakeholders (such as the legislative branch, Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board and private and not-for-profit partners).

Prior to joining OMB, Mr. Soltis served as acting Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Chief Acquisition Officer from May 2016 – January 2018 and as Deputy CFO from March 2013 – June 2018. In those roles, Mr. Soltis led multiple financial and acquisition management programs and activities for the Department of Education, to include accounting for a loan portfolio of over \$1.2 trillion in assets and almost \$70 billion in budget authority. Mr. Soltis held various senior leadership and audit positions in the Department of Defense, including assignments in Korea and Germany, and in the Intelligence Community where he gained extensive experience leading day-to-day operations of large and complex mission support functions, compiling annual financial reports, and driving large-scale change initiatives to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operations.

January 2020 Uniform Guidance Webinar



AGA National invited our fellow DC Chapter Members to speak on the Uniform Guidance for the January 8th webinar. Thank you all for your great efforts!

Save-the-Date - Training and Conferences



2019-2020 AGA DC Audio Training Schedule

This year the AGA DC hosted programs will take place at KPMG LLP DC Office, 1801 K Street, N.W.; Washington, D.C. 20006 or Guidehouse LLP DC Office, 1730 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20006 (6th floor).

Cost:

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

When:

3/4/20 -— Improper Payments

3/25/20— Cybersecurity

4/8/20—Ethics

4/22/20—DATA Act

5/13/20—Fraud/ Data Analytics

6/10/20—Leadership

2020 Annual Awards Gala Save-The-Date!

Please Save the date! The Awards Gala will take place Friday,
May 15th at 6pm sharp onboard the Odyssey cruise boat.

The cruise will depart from Pier 4 at the DC waterfront!

More information to come!



AGA Annual Training Registration is live!

Don't miss this opportunity to hear firsthand from government leaders about the issues impacting Federal financial management and related functions. Excellent networking opportunities are offered at the sponsor booths and happy hour reception. Breakfast, lunch, break refreshments and happy hour reception are included in your registration. Space is limited so reserve your attendance now as this event sells out! Here is the link for the registration.

When: March 18th & March 19th, 2020

Where: Ronald Reagan Building

Save-the-Date: AGA DC Meetings

The luncheons will be held at the Hamilton at 600 14th Street NW.

Date	Speaker	Title/Org.	Торіс
3/11/2020	Tim Soltis	Deputy Controller, Office of Management and Budget	Financial Management System Modernization
4/21/2020	TBD	TBD	TBD
5/20/2020	TBD	TBD	TBD

Please note - we will be posting previous luncheon presentation slides on the AGA DC Chapter website! Click <u>here</u> to access them.

CGFM Committee Update

March is CGFM Month!

Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) is a professional certification awarded by AGA, demonstrating competency in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting at the federal, state and local levels. CGFM is the 'must have' certification for all financial specialists in public sector accounting.



As we continue to strive for success in the new decade, be sure to add obtaining the CGFM certification to your list. You will not regret it! Learn more about the CGFM by clicking this <u>link</u>.

The AGA DC chapter CGFM Committee continues to support our members by providing the following:

- ◆ Exam Rebate Initiative Take the exam and pass it and we will reimburse you the cost of your exams! You must submit the passing certification per module in order to qualify for the rebate. Cost of each exam is \$125! You must submit the following information to qualify: Copy of passing certification, Proof of payment, Mailing address & AGA member number.
- ◆ Loaner Study Guides/Practice Exams AGA DC has purchased electronic versions of the study guides and practice exams, which are available to our AGA members on a short-term loaner basis. Contact Shawn Syed at shawn.syed@syedandassociates.com if you are interested. Additionally, if loaner exams are not available AGA DC will reimburse the cost of each practice exam purchased. We only have a limited amount of rebates available so it is first come, first served.
 - Proof of scheduled exam
 - Proof of payment
 - Mailing address
 - AGA member number

Annual Renewal Requirement

All active CGFMs must renew their certification annually. At the beginning of each year, invoices are sent to all active CGFMs. Annual CGFM renewal payments are due by **March 31.** Renew your certification <u>here</u>.

Here are some ideas to help you celebrate CGFM Month:

- •Encourage your friends and coworkers to visit the AGA website and watch the CGFM video and apply
- •Wear red to work as much as possible or a CGFM logo shirt
- •Recognize your CGFMs at a staff meeting or in an email
- •Bring a CGFM logo cake to your office to share



Congratulations To Our New CGFMs!

The following members have obtained their CGFM since November 2019! You should be very proud of your accomplishment!

Umang Sawhney, CGFM

Bobbie J. Bartz, CGFM

Mohammad Ali, CGFM

Courtney Timberlake, CGFM

Gladys Ramirez, CGFM

Have questions? Check out our CGFM chapter web-page at this link.

Alternatively contact Shawn Syed @ shawn.syed@syedandassociates.com



Treasury Guidance, Reimagined

In the complex world of federal financial management (FFM), managers need information that is contextualized, searchable, and easy to use on all devices. To support this, the Bureau of the Fiscal Service (Fiscal Service) is building a new way to access FFM guidance that seeks to improve the customer experience and make the financial manager's day-to-day tasks more streamlined and easier to accomplish. No more combing through the Treasury Financial Manual or pdfs hoping to find answers to your FFM questions!

In September 2019, Fiscal Service initiated development of the Treasury Financial Experience (TFX): **Your How-To Guide for Federal Financial Management.** This digital solution will be built as a user-centric resource, integrating information across multiple areas to streamline financial management guidance and provide a more personalized experience for those who use it. The TFX site will incorporate a modern design, intuitive navigation, robust search capabilities, and access to expanded resources. Development of the TFX site is underway with plans to launch the first instance by September

Planned Features of the New Treasury Financial eXperience (TFX)

User-Centric Design

A new sleek, modern design enhances usability and contributes to a more positive user experience. Home page links are based on top tasks identified by user interviews and site analytics. The site is also responsive, adapting for multiple mobile screen sizes and ensuring information is easy to access, regardless of what device you use.

Intuitive Navigation

The new solution will move away from old print editions of guidance that's broken into volumes, chapters, and parts. The task-based navigation structure of TFX reflects how people look for and use information within Treasury guiance, with intuitive FFM processes and multiple ways to find information.

Robust Search

With properly tagged and structured content, users will be able to get more meaningful search results to help them find answers to specific questions quickly and efficiently. Through a cutting-edge Content Management System, users will also be able to see information related to their specific search criteria to help provide more context and guidance for similar tasks.

Expanded Resources

The reimagined TFX combines guidance for a more comprehensive resource, including:

- Treasury Financial Manual
- FFM Use Cases
- FFM System Requirements
- USSGL Supplement and more......

Fiscal Service has been engaging users throughout the TFX development effort to ensure the right solution is being developed, key features are being included, and users have up to date information.

Join us at the Spring AGA Washington DC Chapter Training Event on March 18th and 19th, where we will be proving a TFX overview training session and demos of the TFX solution. Please stop by our table to ask questions and give us your feedback!

Additional user engagement activities and focus groups are also being planned for April and beyond to ensure FFM stakeholders have an opportunity to shape the TFX solution. We plan to send regular updates to share our progress and gather your input to ensure development of the new TFX site meets your needs. To join our listserv, email us at join-tfx-outreach@lists.fiscal.treasury.gov and stay up-to-date on events, focus group invites, quick surveys, and other activities about the TFX!

Student Outreach Program

During the Summer of 2019, the Membership, Mentorship, and Young Professional committees of the AGA DC Chapter came together to create the Student Outreach Program. The program was piloted this year at George Washington University (GWU) based on an alumni donation from a fellow AGA DC Chapter member and involved various outreach initiatives in an effort to recruit additional students and young professionals to AGA.

The Student Outreach Program volunteers presented several times at various accounting related courses on campus at GWU. The presentations contained information on AGA, the DC Chapter and opportunities within government financial management. Students were provided handouts on the DC chapter, upcoming webinars, the CGFM and student member information. Additionally, AGA National provided branded "swag" and the DC Chapter invited interested students to their upcoming luncheons, free of charge!

The DC Chapter hosts a series of monthly luncheons featuring a prominent speaker to address current events, issues and initiatives that impact the governmental financial management community. At the luncheons, students are paired with "AGA Ambassadors," who are well placed AGA members to assist the students with networking, answering questions, and guiding the students at the luncheons. The committees have begun to reach out to other DC based universities in hopes of expanding this effort for the 2020 – 2021 program year. At the writing of this publication, the program has had successful, ongoing, outreach with 18 current students and paired them across nine AGA Ambassadors. Several students have attended all AGA luncheons since October 2019. Additional AGA Ambassadors will be paired with students as the chapter on boards further students into final months of the 2020 – 2021 program year.

At the monthly AGA DC Chapter monthly lunches, the Membership Committee continues to recognize new members (students, young professionals, and professional members). New members and student attendees are also entered into a raffle for gift card prizes!

The chapter members of the Student Outreach Program look forward to engaging and incorporating other committees and initiatives to further refine our recruitment of

and benefits for new members of all career levels.

- Membership, Mentorship & Young Professional Committees

STUDENT

Awards Committee Announcement



AGA Seeks Nominations for Professional Development Training and DC Chapter Awards!

Recognize and nominate well-deserving professionals in all three levels of government and the private sector who have made outstanding contributions to the financial management, accounting, auditing, or budget fields!

These awards will be presented at **AGA-DC Chapter Awards Gala** to be held on **May 15, 2020**. We are now taking nominations for the 2020 Professional Development Training and DC Chapter awards. Take a moment and review the award categories below.

Completed nomination forms are due to the DC Chapter Awards Committee by **March 3, 2020** for Professional Development Training award categories and by **April 1, 2020** for DC Chapter award categories.

Professional Development Training Award Categories:

Robert W. King Memorial Award recognizes superior service that enhanced AGA's national prestige and stature.

Frank Greathouse Distinguished Leadership Award recognizes government employees who have demonstrated sustained outstanding leadership and notable contributions to financial management, and who have encouraged increased interest, growth, development and distinctive leadership in the field of financial management.

Einhorn-Gary Award recognizes an AGA member or an organization that has, over a sustained period of time, made major contributions to advancing government accountability at the federal, state, and/or local level.

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

Educator Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the education and training of government financial managers.

International Achievement Award recognizes leadership or outstanding achievement in international government financial management.

Awards Committee Announcement

Emerging Leader Award of Excellence recognizes younger government financial managers for notable contributions toward excellence in financial management; it is hoped that this recognition will encourage others to achieve early in their professional lives.

Cornelius E. Tierney/EY Award recognizes individuals who throughout their careers (minimum of 15 years) have made continuous contributions to governmental financial management by their direct participation in research activities and/or through their encouragement and support of others engaged in government financial management research.

Relmond P. Van Daniker Government Transparency Award recognizes outstanding reporting by a government in the past year through the generation of a report, website, dashboard, or information display, for the public and/or government officials.

For more information on Professional Development Training awards: https://www.agacgfm.org/ Chapters/Washington-DC-Chapter/Our-Chapter/Chapter-News/Professional-Development-Training-(PDT)-Awards.aspx

DC Chapter Award Categories:

Lifetime Achievement Award is given to an active DC Chapter member who has demonstrated significant and continuous contributions to governmental financial management, to the AGA DC chapter and to the AGA national organization throughout their career.

James W. Saylor Chapter Service Award recognizes an active DC Chapter member who has consistently made important contributions to the development and enhancement of the chapter during the past year.

Young Professional of the Year recognizes an active DC Chapter member under age 30 with 2-4 years of experience who has demonstrated passion, innovation and outstanding achievement or contributions to government accountability over the last year. This award is intended to recognize younger professionals who are beginning their career paths within financial management and encourage others to strive for excellence early on.

For more information on DC Chapter awards: https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Washington-DC-Chapter/Our-Chapter/Chapter-News/AGA-DC-Chapter-Awards.aspx

Contact Thomas Chin at t.chin@cncsoig.gov or Julia Duquette at Julia.duquette@us.gt.com for nomination submission or questions.

Inside The Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM, CPA

The Expenditure/Expense Tie Point

Introduction

Tie Points 4 and 18 compared the amount of expenditures in the budgetary general ledger (GL) accounts to expenses and purchases in the proprietary GL accounts. Treasury has added a number of special expense accounts to handle situations where the expense is not recognized at the same time as the expenditure, but there are still a few transaction definitions in the Treasury Financial Manual (TFM) which post funded expenses without posting an expenditure, and these can cause unnecessary reconciliation problems.

General Rule

The standard posting for an expenditure follows standard general ledger (SGL) transaction entries B102 for payroll and B107 for other unaccrued disbursements:

Debit 461000 Allotments - Realized Resources 610000 Operating Expenses/Program Costs Credit 490200 Delivered Orders - Obligations, Paid 101000 Fund Balance with Treasury

The debit in 61000 is offset by the credit in 490200. However, if an asset is purchased, 490200 is credited but the asset is debited. As the asset is expensed, a special unfunded expense account is posted, as in this example from E120:

Debit 671000 Depreciation, Amortization, and Depletion Credit 175900 Accumulated Depreciation on Equipment

This is just one of several special unfunded expense accounts that are to be used when the expense does not coincide with the expenditure. The entire set are:

650000 Cost of Goods Sold
660000 Applied Overhead
661000 Cost Capitalization Offset
671000 Depreciation, Amortization, and Depletion
672000 Bad Debt Expense
673000 Imputed Costs
679000 Other Expenses Not Requiring Budgetary Resources
680000 Future Funded Expenses

Special Case

One posting for expenses without an expenditure does not violate this rule. Entry D582 moves the balance of unfunded expenses to funded, but it is only posted along with an entry such as C138 (shown below) or C136, which posts expenditures when a public receivable is collected. The combined entry, which does offset expenditures and expenses, is:

Debit 490200 Delivered Orders - Obligations, Paid [C138]

101000 Fund Balance with Treasury [C138]

679000 Other Expenses Not Requiring Budgetary Resources [D582]

Credit 131000 Accounts Receivable [C138]

461000 Allotments - Realized Resources [C138] 610000 Operating Expenses/Program Costs [D582]

Problem Cases

There are ten transaction definitions in the TFM that appear to violate these tie points. For example, entry C102 for donated services:

Debit 610000 Operating Expenses/Program Costs

Credit 561000 Donated Revenue - Non-Financial Resources

If the Agency were allowed to run donations through their budget, they would debit an account like 426600 Other Actual Business-Type Collections from Non-federal Sources and credit 490200 Delivered Orders - Obligations, Paid, and then this entry would agree with the tie points. However, if no budgetary accounts are posted, then an unfunded expense should be used such as 679000.

Transactions E110 through E118 include several entries for adjusting overhead. Overhead is initially recognized by entry D514, when the asset is debited and 660000 Applied Overhead is credited. If overhead were under- or over-applied, i.e., if D514 were posted for the wrong amount, entries E110, E112, E114, and E116 show various valid adjustment entries, but they include 610000 as a possible offset. The whole purpose of entry D514 is to adjust expenses and assets without violating the expense-expenditure relationship. If overhead needs to be adjusted, it should only be adjusted by posting to assets or unfunded expenses such as 65000, 660000, and 671000.

There are several transactions that involve expensing assets that post to 610000 when an unfunded expense like 679000 should be used. These transactions include:

D510 Transfer of construction-in-progress to capitalized assets or expenses

D534 Damaged inventory, using the direct method

E414 Capitalize previously expensed repair costs using the direct method

E418 Lien against real and intangible forfeited property

E506 Commodity transferred to another federal agency

Conclusion

One test I perform of any general ledger posting model I propose is to bump it up against the tie points. If it causes a discrepancy, I either change the accounts used or, if I determine the problem is only a timing difference, I use a special account to match up the offsetting entries. Treasury should do the same with their transaction listing.



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. The Officers and Directors page is available here.

Do you have friends (or non-members) who are interested in learning more about all AGA DC Chapter updates and events? If so, please visit our homepage here to have them subscribe to our email updates!

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Al Pavot Treasurer



Christy Beck Treasurer-Elect



Kate Aughenbaugh Secretary



John Lynskey Senior Advisor



Karl Boettcher Senior Advisor



Ross Simms Senior Advisor

AGA DC Chapter Directors



James Gallagher Director, A & O



Swamy Arokiaswamy Director, Administration



Thomas Chin Director, Awards



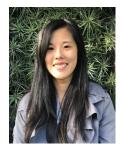
Heather Moreland Co-Director, Awards Gala



Diane Rudnick Co-Director, Awards Gala



Shawn Syed Director, CGFM



Wendy Cheung Director, Community Service



Charlonda House
Co-Director, Community Service



Eveka Rodriguez Director, Corporate Sponsors



Crystal Wolf
Director, Member Services



Daniel Lange Director, Young Professional



Caitlin McGurn Director, Education

AGA DC Chapter Directors



Eileen Parlow Historian



Veronica Baird Director, Meetings



Lance Rees Director, Membership



Sharnel Montgomery Director, Mentorship



Bo Shevchik Co-Director, Programs



Frank Peterson Co-Director, Programs



Gary Wong Director, Newsletter



Simcha Kuritzky Director, Publications



Lal Harter
Director, Strategic Direction



Heidi Williams Director, Social Media



Alex Yow Director, Webmaster