

December Newsletter

INDIANAPOLIS CHAPTER



In this issue

Announcements & Chapter Info	P.2
Interesting Articles	P.3
Sponsorship Information	P.4
Announcements	P.5
Announcements & Sponsorship	P.6
Announcements Cont.	P.7
Sponsorship Information Cont.	P.8
Members Page	P.9
Contact Us	P.10

President's Message

Happy Holidays everyone! We kicked off the holiday season this month with the AGA/ASMC holiday luncheon at the Garison on December 5th. We enjoyed good food, listened to holiday music performed by the Warren Central High School Choir, and participated in multiple sing-a-longs, including the "12 Days of Christmas" (with winning Powerball as the theme) led by DFAS employees Michael and Patricia Lacey. They did a fantastic job. As an added bonus, Mrs. McKay and Ms. Davis attended as special guests, wishing us all a happy holiday season.

With the giving season upon us, our chapter wanted to do its part in helping those who are less fortunate. We held our annual Angel Tree, sponsoring fifteen children referred by Indianapolis Public School #105. We collected approximately 75 gifts and \$705 in gift cards which is \$200 more than what was given last year! Thank you to all who donated to this worthy cause. We also partnered with fellow AGA chapters from across the country to purchase wreaths to be placed at gravesites of our country's fallen heroes. Our chapter donated 30 wreaths that were placed at gravesites of Indiana's fallen heroes at Crown Hill National Cemetery in Indianapolis.

The wellness program is starting the New Year with the fifth annual AGA/ASMC Biggest Loser challenge. The first weigh in will be Tuesday, January 8th. Prizes will be awarded to participants from both organizations that have the highest percentage of weight loss for the months of January, February, and March, as well as the overall highest total for the entire challenge period. AGA was the 2nd place finisher in 2012, so help us reclaim our Biggest Loser championship from previous years! This is a great program to help stay motivated to lose those extra holiday pounds and support wellness (contest rules and information will be coming to www.againdy.com).

On January 16, we will have our joint luncheon with ASMC.

The next audio conference will take place on January 23, 2013. The topic will be Performance Management.

(President's Message Continued on Page 2)

AGA Indianapolis Articles

These articles were picked for the AGA Member Audience:

Know any other good articles? Submit to the Newsletter Committee!

President's Message [Continued from Page 1]

We are planning a Speed Networking event for February. This is an exciting event where members will have the opportunity to meet and chat with leaders from DFAS-Indianapolis that they otherwise wouldn't have the chance to speak with. Watch your email for more details.

With so many events and opportunities, it can be easy to miss something. Make sure to check the website for event updates <http://www.againdy.com/Pages/default.aspx>.

Also, continue encouraging your co-workers and peers to attend AGA events!

Michael Leist
President
AGA, Indianapolis Chapter



Questions about Sponsorship?

AGA Corporate Sponsors support the Chapter for an entire program year. The benefits and engagement opportunities run from January through December. Between October and January, we solicit Sponsors for the upcoming program year.

We currently have four sponsorship echelons ranging from Bronze to Platinum, each with increasing support levels and engagement opportunities. All Sponsors receive advertising space on our website and in our Chapter Newsletter which publishes six editions per year, with distribution to over 300 members.

Several other benefits are offered depending on your giving level, including complimentary access to our Holiday Party, Awards Banquet, & monthly luncheons for employees from your company. Speak with an AGA Corporate Sponsorship representative for more details.

Contact Andrew Tyler at andrew.tyler@dfas.mil
www.againdy.com

VITA: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

What is VITA?

The VITA Program offers free tax help to low- to moderate-income people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. Certified volunteers sponsored by various organizations receive training to help prepare basic tax returns in communities across the country. VITA sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations.

AGA Offering DFAS VITA Training in January 2013!

Kate McKnight, from the IRS, will be providing training.

VITA Training Sessions
Tuesday/Wednesday, January 15th & 16th, 2013

Contact Amy Sargent (212-6630/amy.sargent@dfas.mil) for more information

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AGA Indianapolis Articles

These articles were picked for the AGA Member Audience:

Know any other good articles? [Submit to the Newsletter Committee!](#)

President, Defense Leaders Praise Schwarzkopf's Service, Legacy

By American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28, 2012 – President Barack Obama, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and Joint Chiefs Chairman Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey praised the service and legacy of retired Army Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, who passed away yesterday at age 78.

Schwarzkopf was a Vietnam veteran and one of the architects of the western flanking movement that helped to defeat the Iraqi army during the Gulf War in early 1991. As the commander of U.S. Central Command, Schwarzkopf led the international coalition assembled by then-President George H.W. Bush that expelled Iraqi troops who had invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The four-star general and West Point graduate retired in August 1991 after 35 years of Army service. Schwarzkopf died in Tampa, Fla., of complications from pneumonia, according to press reports.

Obama saluted Schwarzkopf's service in a statement issued yesterday. "With the passing of Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, we've lost an American original," Obama stated. "From his decorated service in Vietnam to the historic liberation of Kuwait and his leadership of United States Central Command, Gen. Schwarzkopf stood tall for the country and Army he loved. Our prayers are with the Schwarzkopf family, who tonight can know that his legacy will endure in a nation that is more secure because of his patriotic service."

Panetta also honored the general. "The men and women of the Department of Defense join me in mourning the loss of Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, whose 35 years of service in uniform left an indelible imprint on the United States military and on the country," Panetta said in a statement released yesterday. "The son of a decorated Army officer, Gen. Schwarzkopf followed his father's legacy of service by enrolling in West Point in the 1950s." "His bravery during two tours in Vietnam earned him three silver stars, and set him on the path to lead our troops into battle in Grenada, and then to take charge of the overall allied effort in the first Gulf War as Commander of United States Central Command," Panetta continued.

Read More <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=118883>



Spotlight returns to missile defense

By Michael Hoffman

Missile defense programs have gained scant attention in the past decade as the U.S. has fought two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan where U.S. forces have faced little to no missile threat.

With the success of the Iron Dome missile defense system in Israel and the new defense strategy that shifts the focus to the Pacific, the spotlight is returning to missile defense.

The Iron Dome system shot down about 85 percent of the missiles Hamas lobbed at Israel in November. Its success has grabbed the attention of Pentagon leaders. Panetta said the U.S. military is considering whether to either develop a similar system or buy their own. Before, the U.S. had balked at the expensive price of the Iron Dome.

"We're in the process of evaluating all of the requests by the different services with regards to what capabilities they want to have for the future. It has to be cost effective in today's world. And that almost automatically means that we'd better look at all options before we come down and make a final decision," Panetta said in November.

Iron Dome isn't the only reason for defense observers to refocus their attention on missile defense. The defense strategy laid out by the president last year often referred to as the Pacific pivot forces the U.S. to more seriously consider potential enemies that feature advanced missile systems.

North Korea executed what was considered a successful ballistic missile test on Dec. 12 to the surprise of many U.S. defense leaders.

Read more about the report:
<http://www.dodbuzz.com/2012/12/21/spotlight-returns-to-missile-defense/>

AGA Indianapolis Sponsor Spotlight Article



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Announcements

Biggest Loser Challenge!

Will the Holidays leave you a little more "jolly" than you would like? Are you looking forward to being more fit this spring? If so, it's time to sign up for the fifth annual AGA/ASMC Biggest Loser competition!

You will have the opportunity to reap the health benefits as the trimmer you emerges, AND have an opportunity to win monthly prizes as well as the coveted "Biggest Loser" championship. Additionally, the total percentage of weight lost will be tracked by organization during the competition, to see whether AGA or ASMC is the Biggest Loser...from a weight standpoint, of course!

All current AGA Indianapolis Chapter members are eligible. The initial weigh-in will be January 8th, 2013. Interim weigh-ins will occur monthly, with the final weigh-in taking place April 9th, 2013. The AGA POC for the Biggest Loser sign-up is Tom Spahr, 212-6880, or thomas.spahr@dfas.mil. **Sign up by January 7th, 2013** to ensure AGA avenges last year's Biggest Loser loss to ASMC.

C'mon AGA...let's REALLY show ASMC who is the Biggest Loser!

AGA "Speed Networking" Event Opportunity

The AGA membership committee is going to be coordinating several engaging events coming up in 2013! One specifically will be the "Speed Networking" event in the month of February. The goal is to allow AGA members, both non-management and management level, to be able to connect, network, or even meet for first time. The idea is to have roughly 10-15 managers (or directors, SES, etc.) to talk to roughly 40-50 AGA members "speed dating style" in hopes to rotate around and give as many people the chance to meet with as many managers as possible. Each round would last for 3-5 minutes on topics ranging from careers, management, changing positions, mentorship, or just relationship building in general.

The event will take place during lunch hour on the selected day so there will most likely be some light snacks and beverages provided. Depending on the amount of participation, the event could last 30 minutes or could go an hour and a half.

For more information please contact Christ Patterson at 212-2939 or Chris.Patterson@DFAS.mil.

AGA Angel Tree Thank You

The AGA Community Service Committee and IPS#105 would like to thank all who participated in the Angel Tree Event.

We sponsored 15 children this year and were able to collect at least 5 gifts per child. Amazingly \$705 dollars in gift cards were donated which is \$200 more than what was given last year. Ms. Abell, the school social worker, extends a huge Thank You and warm wishes to all for a very Merry Christmas. She is grateful there are so many kind persons looking out for those in need.

Again thank you for your generosity!!

Happy Holidays,
AGA Community Service Committee



Announcements (continued)

AGA Audio Conference

AGA will host its next Audio Conference on the topic **Performance Management**. The event will take place on January 23, 2013 from 2:00 to 3:50 p.m., in conference room 222R-1.

Two (2) NASBA Certified CPEs will be offered for the event. Free for members and \$25 participation fee for non-members.

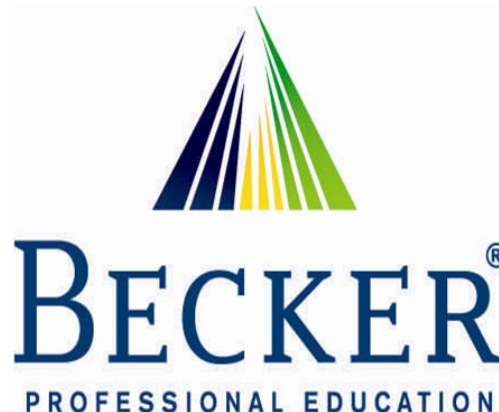
To self-register, contact
Wendy Carter (212-2514),
Natalie Mitchel (212-5433), or
Melanie Rapp (212-2945).

AGA National Academic Scholarships

Are you or a family member pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in disciplines such as accounting, auditing, budgeting, economics, finance, information technology or public administration? If so, consider applying for an AGA National Academic Scholarship today!

This year, AGA will award: *Rising College Freshman up to one full-time (\$3,000) and one part-time (\$1,500) *Current Undergraduates up to three full-time (\$3,000) and two part-time (\$1,500) *Graduate Students up to two full-time (\$3,000) and one part-time (\$1,500) *Community Service up to two \$1,500 scholarships for community service amongst the three collegiate categories noted above.

Applications must be received by Friday, April 12, 2013. Apply now at [http://internetmailmanager.com/i/ou.htm?a=287301&b=2328947&c=21862636&d=http://www.agacgfm.org/Membership~Awards---Recognition-\(1\).aspx](http://internetmailmanager.com/i/ou.htm?a=287301&b=2328947&c=21862636&d=http://www.agacgfm.org/Membership~Awards---Recognition-(1).aspx) and take full advantage of your AGA membership. Contact awards@agacgfm.org or Ellen Bradley at ellen.bradley@dfas.mil, if you have any questions.



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- Questions, contact John Gioeli, jgioeli@becker.com, 703-631-8840

Announcements (continued)

CGFM Update—Dan Neumann

First, please join me in congratulating Cindy Redmon for attaining the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) designation.

Ms. Redmon joined the Indianapolis Chapter of AGA in January 2011. She currently works in Indianapolis Operations - Accounts Maintenance & Control, Air Force Military Pay Branch.

Cindy used a combination of the work study groups and self-study in preparation to sit for the three separate examinations that comprise the certification process. She was able to pass each exam on the first attempt and within six months which shows her dedication to professional development.

On behalf of the Indianapolis Chapter of AGA, congratulations on a job well done!

Second, start the New Year off right with a resolution to start studying for the CGFM if you have not already obtained the certification! Our chapter offers a number of resources for preparation to include free study guide checkout to chapter member, flash cards, and study groups. For those chapter members that have their CGFM, please be aware of the continuing professional education requirements to maintain your certification. Here is a link to those requirements. <http://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification/Maintaining-Certification/Continuing-Professional-Education-%28CPE%29-Requiremen.aspx>

Finally, to recognize the CGFM Program and its accomplishments, AGA has declared the month of March of each year as "CGFM Month." Our chapter once again will be working with the City of Lawrence and the State of Indiana to obtain official proclamations. It is our goal to work with the City of Indianapolis as well in obtaining a proclaiming as this has never been done before. These proclamations help bring attention of the CGFM certification to the general public along with city, state, and federal leaders. Last March, our chapter hosted our first CGFM Networking Breakfast state was a huge success. We will be hosting that event again for our current chapter CGFMs.

2012 CGFM Proclamation from the State of Indiana

Since its inception in 1994, the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) has become the standard by which government financial management professionals are measured. Its education, experience and ethics requirements have served to elevate the most seasoned financial professionals. More than 15,000 individuals have received the designation so far.

The CGFM is the first certification broad enough to cover the whole field of government financial management—federal, state and local. It measures a wide range of knowledge and skills that a professional needs to succeed in the federal government financial environment, or to meet the unique challenges faced by state and local government financial managers.

STATE OF INDIANA EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT INDIANAPOLIS

Executive Order

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS:

- WHEREAS, the Association of Government Accountants (AGA), founded in 1950, is a professional organization with a network of over 15,000 members in 100 chapters in the United States and around the world, and is one of the fastest growing professional organizations promoting accountability in government, providing a forum for government financial employees to come together and share resources to advance government accountability; and
- WHEREAS, there are over 400 members representing federal, state, local and private sector accountants, auditors and financial managers in Indiana comprising the Central Indiana, Circle City and Indianapolis Chapters of AGA; and
- WHEREAS, the Central Indiana, Circle City and Indianapolis Chapters of AGA are making significant advances, both in professional ability and in service to the citizens of Indiana by advancing the mission of accountability in government; and
- WHEREAS, AGA is seeking to make federal, state and local government more accountable and transparent than ever, understanding that these characteristics in government are of the utmost importance;
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim March, 2012 as

ACCOUNTABILITY IN GOVERNMENT MONTH

in the State of Indiana, and invite all citizens to duly note this occasion.

*In Testimony Whereof, I hereto
set my hand and cause to be affixed the
Great Seal of State. Done at the
City of Indianapolis, this 18th
day of March in the year of our
Lord 2012 and of the Independence
of the United States 236.*



BY THE GOVERNOR:

M. E. Daniels, Jr.

Thank You To Our Sponsors

The Oracle logo is displayed in a white rectangular box. The word "ORACLE" is written in a bold, red, sans-serif font with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the upper right of the letter "E".The Accenture logo features the word "accenture" in a black, lowercase, sans-serif font. A stylized greater-than sign (>) is positioned above the letter "t". Below the word, the tagline "High performance. Delivered." is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.The Kearney & Company logo consists of the words "KEARNEY &" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, with the ampersand "&" in a larger, stylized font. Below this, the word "COMPANY" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

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Member Spotlight

NAME AND JOB?

Deirdre Valentine, MA; Accountant, Security Cooperation Accounting, Army Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Division

HOW WOULD SOMEONE DESCRIBE YOU?

I am hardworking and diligent, but also friendly and bubbly, believing in simplistic pleasures, such as the difference a smile can mean in someone's day.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU AREN'T WORKING?

Studying for the CPA exam, attempting to exercise, or watching re-runs of Friends or Family Guy (those shows are hilarious!)

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH AGA?

I actually attended an AGA Early Careers Breakfast which discussed membership and job shadowing senior leaders in 2011. I met the Chair of the Meeting Arrangements Committee at the meeting and she convinced me to be her Co-Chair that very day!!!

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT WOULD SURPRISE US TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I use to play the drums for my church back in TN and I studied abroad in China for a couple of months.



MEMBERS PAGE!

This page is dedicated to our members. Any articles you would like to write and have posted are welcome.

AGA/ASMC Holiday Party - Christmas in October?!

Aaron Bobinsky

Christmas in October!? Well, not really. However, the holiday cheer came early for a handful of AGA and ASMC members as they worked feverishly planning the 2012 holiday luncheon.

Approximately 200 were in attendance at the December 5th event. As people arrived at the Garrison, holiday tunes accompanied a buzz of conversation at the tables and lunch buffet. It's likely this was the first gathering of the season for most, making it an unofficial start to holiday party circuit.



Do re mi fa so la ti do! Everyone came together for a fun rendition of "The 12 Days of Christmas".

Photo: Bill Reed

As the group finished eating, Warren Central High School's 35-student mixed choir took the stage and performed several songs. The school's performing arts program has seven different choirs comprised of over 260 students. In this era of shrinking budgets, many schools rely heavily on fundraising and private contributions to support performing arts and athletic programs. To help ensure Warren High School students continue to have the opportunity to explore the fine arts, AGA and ASMC made a gift to the school's choir program in gratitude for sharing their talent. This is a great example of the impact our professional organization can make in a community.



Fellow members enjoying a laugh after lunch. Photo: Bill Reed

Listening to the choir served as a prelude for the day's main event. Caroling, which has become a perennial favorite, provided an opportunity to put aside the numbers and listen to our coworkers' beautiful voices – and what beautiful voices they were. Mike Lacey, with his electric guitar in hand, and Patricia Lacey, with chops to match, started the group in "Holly Jolly Christmas", "Deck the Halls", and "Jingle Bell Rock" as a warm up for the grand finale. The duo made it look easy, doing an incredible job leading 200 people in song.

As has been done in the past, "The 12 Days of Christmas" was divided among the tables for each to show a little creativity. The record setting Powerball jackpot a week earlier set the stage for this year's theme: "If I Won the \$500-Something Million Powerball Jackpot."

Creativity was abounding, with gold Ferrari's, early retirements and Aleutian Islands. For a few short minutes, Christmas looked like a blank check before we all came back to reality.

Just as fast as it arrived, another successful holiday luncheon was recorded in the history books. Until next year, keep those vocal skills sharp and enjoy the new year.



Warren Central High School students just before performing a selection of holiday songs. Photo: Bill Reed



Newsletter Articles

The deadline for submitting articles and updates for the next newsletter is the end of each quarter. Please email submissions to:

Heather Crews

Carlton Carley

heather.crews@dfas.mil

carlton.carley@dfas.mil

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