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President's Message

Happy New Year! We had many successful events before and after the holiday season. To name just a few, we held our annual Angel Tree, sponsoring 18 children referred by Indianapolis Public Schools. Each child received 4 gifts and \$600 was collected in gift cards! We also donated \$450 to Wreaths Across America, which is an organization that places wreaths at gravesites of our country's fallen heroes. The joint AGA/ASMC luncheon was held at the Garrison where we enjoyed good company, food, and music. I'm now looking forward to the spring and many exciting upcoming AGA events.

If you are looking for opportunities to serve the community we'll be working with Gleaner's in March, partner with ASMC for a Wellness Walk Food Collection in April, and walk the Mutt Strut on April 25th. More details on each of these to come.

Also, keep your eyes open for CPE opportunities. Earn 2 CPEs by attending the next audio conference on March 18th regarding Internal Controls. Gain professional development and network with fellow AGA members at the Spring PDC scheduled for May 14th at the Garrison Conference Center, and earn 8 CPEs!

In the months ahead, and as this program year comes to a close, you will be notified about AGA Officers and committee chair openings. Consider taking on a leadership role within AGA by meeting with current committee chairs or getting more involved by becoming a member of a committee.

With so many events and opportunities, it can be easy to miss something. For announcements and updates, like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AGAIndianapolis.

Please continue to encourage your coworkers and peers to join AGA and attend events! I want personally thank all the committee members for their continual support.

Art Caraballo
President, AGA Indianapolis Chapter



AGA Indianapolis Articles

These articles were picked for the AGA Member Audience:
Know any other good articles? Submit them to the Newsletter Committee!

DoD Moves Data to Cloud to Lower Costs, Improve Security

By Cheryl Pellerin

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30, 2015—The Defense Department is moving its data to the cloud, driven by cost reductions, technical efficiencies and security considerations, Acting Chief Information Officer Terry Halvorsen told military and industry leaders gathered here yesterday.

Halvorsen's office hosted the first of what it characterized as a series of DoD CIO Cloud Industry Days – meetings intended to promote a continuous, open dialogue with industry that will shape DoD's approach to the business of information technology, or IT, and cyber.

According to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, cloud computing is a model for enabling on-demand network access to a shared pool of configurable computing resources -- networks, servers, storage, applications and services.

For users, cloud resources can rapidly be provisioned and released with minimal management effort or service provider interaction, NIST says, providing efficiencies and cost effectiveness.

Modernizing and Streamlining Government IT

Cloud computing is part of a government-wide effort to modernize and streamline government IT, and Halvorsen said that in the early stages of transitioning to the cloud, and moving as much as possible into the commercial cloud, it's important to communicate with defense industry partners.

"Industry needs some consistency," Halvorsen added, "so I've got to ... let industry know ahead of time [what we need]," and when a baseline changes.

Read More  <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=128083>



Pentagon Unveils Program to Help Build 6th Generation Fighter

By Kris Osborn

The Pentagon is poised to unveil a new collaborative research program in the upcoming 2016 defense budget submission which will seek to identify and develop dominant, next-generation aircraft technologies for the Air Force and Navy. Frank Kendall, the Pentagon's chief weapons buyer, mentioned the effort Wednesday to lawmakers on the House Armed Services Committee at a hearing on Pentagon technology and acquisition reform.

The new research program will involve the Pentagon's research arm, called the Defense Advanced Projects Research Agency, or DARPA. It will focus on new airframe and engine technology for future jet fighters, cargo planes and unmanned systems. Among other topics, the research effort will work closely on what 6th-generation fighter aircraft technologies will be needed to build an aircraft to succeed the 5th-generation F-35.

Various new designs for Navy and Air Force airplanes will be identified as "X"-planes, a Pentagon term often used to signify a yet-to-be-named platform under early development.

Read More :

<http://www.dodbuzz.com/2015/01/28/pentagon-unveils-new-program-to-help-develop-6th-generation-fighter/>

MEMBERS PAGE!

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

New Members:

Congratulations to our newest members:

Mr. Daniel J. Adams

Mr. Shawn C. Kaus

Ms. Holly M. Bishop

Mr. Rizwan Khan

Mr. Steve R. Bonta

Mr. James E. LaMonde

Mr. John David Cottengim, CGFM

Mr. Noah S. Sturgeon

Mr. Clarence M. Hill, Jr.

Mrs. Mary A. Szymanski

Miss Sandra Jankowski

Mrs. Alicia Turpin

Member Spotlight



NAME AND JOB:

Holly Bishop; LIM Accountant with AM&C; Defense Cash Accountability System (DCAS); Intransits

HOW WOULD SOMEONE DESCRIBE YOU?

My co-workers call me the "why?" person. I like to know the reason why things happen the way they do. It's really important for me to have a thorough understanding of a situation. Thinking about the reasons for and consequences of my

actions help make me a better accountant.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU AREN'T WORKING?

My blended family is large like the Brady bunch, so most of my time is spent enjoying time as a family whether at a swim meet or at a youth event at church. As a family we also enjoy philanthropic ventures. We volunteer at food banks and other organizations around our community. At work my husband and I have enjoyed volunteering with Feds Feed Families for the last two years.

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH AGA?

I was introduced to AGA first through my mentor and then by the breakfast for early career AGA meeting. At the early career event I was able to win the drawing for 1 year free membership and then had the wonderfully opportunity to participate in the AGA job shadowing event. I am thankful to be able to participate within this organization and look forward to what the future holds as a member of AGA.

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

My husband and I have 6 kids! Two are mine, four are his for a grand total of 6!

Early Careers Update

The Early Careers Committee's Fall Job Shadowing event was very successful. 26 individuals (a record high!) came to the information session to learn about the job shadow program. 22 of the attendees expressed interest in joining AGA. 7 of the attendees later shadowed a DFAS manager and all relayed positive feedback after the experience. Of the 7 who participated in the program, 6 were previously non-members and became new AGA members in order to participate.

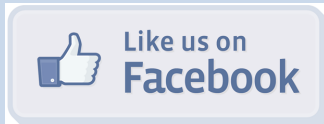
Additionally, many of the individuals at the information session were unable to join AGA and/or participate in the program in the fall but expressed interest in participating in the spring. The Early Careers Committee will hold the second job shadowing event in the April/May timeframe.

MEMBERS PAGE (continued)

AGA Facebook:

Don't forget to LIKE us on Facebook! Get INVOLVED with our Chapter's Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/AGAIIndianapolis>



Volunteers Assist Low Income Families to File Taxes

On December 3rd, 2014, AGA sponsored a very successful Lunch & Learn for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The VITA program is a national program providing free assistance to low income, elderly, limited English proficient, and disabled individuals who require assistance in preparing their tax returns and cannot afford services of a paid professional taxpayer. Kate McKnight of the IRS presented the VITA program and then attendees signed up for a two day tax training class held in January or were given materials to complete the training online.

The two day tax training class was held on January 13-14, 2015, and we had an overwhelming number of volunteers sign up. The AGA Indianapolis Chapter promotes participation in VITA by linking volunteers to the program and facilitating on-site training. AGA is able to coordinate with DFAS and the IRS to be able to provide an instructor and materials free of charge to the volun-

teers. Ms. McKnight instructed the class on advanced returns, the Health Care Savings Account, tax laws, and how the Affordable Care Act will start impacting returns.

In addition to volunteering their time attendees noted additional knowledge acquired from the training was another benefit of the VITA program. In the feedback provided, attendees found the information learned from Ms. McKnight would also help in their current and future duties at DFAS, and since attendees earned CPEs the training was especially beneficial to those with certifications.

It's not too late to become a VITA volunteer! If you missed the tax class you can still take the online training and test. There are also other volunteer choices available such as a greeter, screener, reviewer, or interpreter. Contact VITA Chair **Melanie Blunk (317-212-7501)** with any questions.

PDC Update:

The Fall PDC, hosted jointly by AGA and ASMC at the Garrison Conference Center, is now behind us and is considered by both organizations to be a raving success. The PDC serves as a major fundraiser for both AGA and ASMC in order to provide its membership with valuable services, but even more valuable were the life lessons, knowledge, and skills every conference attendee took home, which in turn, improves their performance on the job. The feedback that was captured from the participants via an online survey showed that the mix of DFAS speakers to external speakers was beneficial and provided various perspectives on the current issues facing the governmental accounting environment.



Looking forward, AGA and ASMC are already planning for the upcoming Spring PDC. It will once again be hosted at the Garrison Conference Center on May 14th. Be sure to save the date and get excited for the opportunity to network with your fellow AGA members while simultaneously developing your professional skills. Guest Speakers are currently being booked, so let the PDC committee know of any suggestions for speakers that you believe we should contact. You can send those names to Wes McDaniel via email at john.w.mcdaniel65.civ@mail.mil. We look forward to seeing you there.

MEMBERS PAGE (continued)

Wellness Update:

The AGA Indy Wellness committee partnered with DFAS Indianapolis Wellness in dedicating the month of November as Addiction Awareness month. Three events were sponsored throughout the month, which included an Addiction Wellness Fair and guest speakers from Fairbanks Addiction Treatment Facility. AGA Indy wellness team member Cheryl Devol-Glowinski reached out to a various Addiction Treatment Centers around the Indianapolis area, who were grateful for the opportunity to participate in our Addiction Wellness Fair, making themselves available to answer questions and hand out literature regarding the challenges of battling addiction and where to turn for help. The following week, Fairbanks guest speaker Susan Scherrer-Day was onsite to give the dynamic presentation, "From Pill to Heroin, How Does It Happen?". Audience members heard statistics about a how a simple injury that requires pain medication can quickly spiral out of control and lead to much harsher drugs and addiction. Our final and probably most emotional event included hearing to two teenage high school students tell audience members about their struggles with addiction and their road to recovery. The students attend The Hope Academy, where kids are given the opportunity to complete academic requirements while focusing on battling addiction and becoming sober. All three events were well received by the DFAS community and it will be encouraged to future AGA Wellness Committee Chairs that they make Addiction Awareness a recurring event for years to come.

Biggest Loser Challenge

The 7th annual AGA / ASMC weight loss competition kicked off the week of January 12th. 35 participants will be vying to see who can lose the highest % of weight, with final weigh in's being April 21st. Prize pool is as follows:

- The person with the highest percentage of weight lost after each weigh-in (based on the previous month's weigh-in) from each team will receive a \$15 card from their respective organization.
- The person with the second highest percentage of weight lost (based on the previous month's weigh-in) from each team will receive a \$10 gift card from their respective organization.
- Overall Contest Winner: The person with the highest percentage of weight lost (based on January's weigh-in) on the winning team (by team percentage of weight lost based on January's weigh-in) will be awarded a \$150 cash prize. The prize will be awarded once the winner shows proof of payment for their 2015 membership dues.
- The person with the highest percentage of weight lost (based on January's weigh-in) on the losing team (by team percentage of weight lost based on January's weigh-in) will receive a \$50 gift card and a ticket to the AGA/ASMC holiday party paid for by their organization.
- The person with the second highest percentage of weight lost (based on January's weigh-in) from each team will receive a \$25 gift card from their respective organization.

It's not too late to join in on the competition!!! If you would like to join in on the friendly competition, please send an email to Shane Douglas NLT the next weigh in, which is Tuesday, February 17th.



AGA National Awards

Want to recognize a fellow Indy AGA member for their contributions to our chapter's success?

Did you know AGA National presents these individual awards to the winners at the annual Professional Development Training event, which is being held July 12-15 in Nashville, TN?

These AGA National Awards will be presented throughout 14 different categories. From the Chapter CGFM Award to Achievement of the Year Award, please take a moment to review the details in the link below. If you want to nominate someone OR have any questions, please contact Shane Douglas or Emily Kassenbrock. Deadline for nominations is March 30, 2015.

<http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/awards/>

* Please note these awards are different than the National Leadership Awards for which the nomination deadline has already passed



March is CGFM Month!

For the past ten years, thanks to the initiative and dedication of AGA regional and chapter leaders, states and local governments have been declaring March as CGFM Month! This project has been a great example of AGA leadership and teamwork, and continues to help spread the word about the CGFM Program. You can read 2014 proclamations on <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfmmonth>.

The Indianapolis Chapter is working with the City of Lawrence, the City of Indianapolis, and the State of Indianapolis to secure proclamations as we have in the past.

The Indianapolis Chapter will host their Annual CGFM Celebration and Network Breakfast in mid-March.

CGFM renewal information:

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

- Pay the CGFM annual renewal fee by March 31
- Complete at least 80 hours of continuing professional education (CPE) in government financial management topics or related technical subjects within each designated two-year cycle
- Maintain and, if requested by AGA, provide detailed information on CPE hours completed

More information on CGFM renewal, CPE requirements, inactive status and retired status may be found at: Maintaining CGFM Certification <http://click.aga-agacgfm.org/?qs=456812a4d6affccaa4a9f341092aa6ed7d7983a1971f611bce311f3e6189b2ca>



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Newsletter Articles

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

Megan Denny

Heather Crews

megan.p.denny.civ@mail.mil

OFFICERS

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Secretary	Alana Evans
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3 Year Board Member	Martha Welch
3 Year Board Member	Michael Leist
3 Year Board Member	Deirdre Valentine
3 Year Board Member	Meg Hart
3 Year Board Member	Tamra Vincent

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards: Shane Douglas & Emily Kassenbrock

Citizen Centric: Matthew Nunley

Community Service: Katie Buck & Aaron Bobinsky

Corporate Sponsorship: Andrew Tyler

CGFM: Dan Neumann

Chapter Recognition: Virginia Smith

Early Careers: Melanie Rapp, Natalie Crow,
and Wendy Carter

Education: Wes McDaniel and Tara Crabtree

Facebook: Sean McCoy

Historian: Brooke Neuerman

Incentive Points: Jayme Boruff

Meeting Arrangements: Ashley Gaines & Jon Ware

Membership: Chris Patterson & Esther Che

Newsletter: Megan Denny & Heather Crews

Photographer: Bill Reed & Carlton Carley

Programs: David Holt

Publicity: Mary Jelev

Social: Sally Thelen & Katie Buck

VITA: Melanie Blunk

Website: Melissa Melton & Meg Hart

Wellness: Emily Kassenbrock & Shane Douglas

FOR ADDITIONAL CONTACT
INFORMATION VISIT:
www.againdy.com
webmaster@againdy.com