



The Washington Connection

Association of Government Accountants, Washington, DC Chapter

In This Issue...

President's Message	2
Honesty, Accountability, and Respect for Human Dignity	4
PDC Chicago is Just a Month Away	5
OPM Issues Emergency Preparedness Guide	5
Job Announcements	7
Inside the Black Box	8
CGFM Helps Professionals Compete in Cost-Cutting Times	9
Search Committee Seeks Executive Director Applicants	9
2003 DC Chapter Awards	10
Christmas in April	11
DC Chapter Board Meeting Minutes	12
E-Mail Mailing List	13
Newsletter Comments or Suggestions	13
6th Annual Blue Ridge Professional Development Conference	14
Member Services-Golf Tournament	14

Transformation in the Government Workplace

The Honorable David M. Walker, Comptroller General U.S. Speaks at AGA Dinner



David M. Walker

The guest speaker for the AGA's awards dinner was the Honorable David M. Walker – Comptroller General of the United States (U.S.). Mr. Walker became 7th Comptroller General in November of 1998. Prior to his term at the U.S. General Accounting Office*, he has worked in the U.S. Department of Labor, Arthur Andersen, and served as a trustee of the Social Security Administration. His remarks covered the financial management challenges facing the federal government and the nation over the next two –to three decades.

Mr. Walker highlighted emerging fiscal pressures related to primarily to changing demographics, additional security

needs and rising health care costs. These pressures will only exacerbate the government's current deficits. Mr. Walker stated that these are very challenging times for the country and the financial management community as a whole. GAO's long-range budget simulations show growing deficits as far as the eye can see. The scope of the deficits is so large that the nation "cannot grow out of the problem". In 1962, 67% of the budget represented discretionary spending and 33% was comprised of non-discretionary spending representing entitlement programs and obligations of the U.S. government. In 2002 the situation has almost reversed itself; 37% of the federal budget is comprised of discretionary spending and 63% is comprised of non-discretionary spending. The bulk of the federal budget change was used to support Social Security,

continued on page 11

Luncheon Logistics

**Last issue of the 2003 program year!
No luncheon's scheduled**

Closing President's Message

By Wendy Comes

If you find yourself wishing a year to pass quickly, say "yes" when asked to serve with AGA. Fortunately, I enjoy being busy and found reward in tackling challenges while making new friends of my fellow volunteers. I am especially happy to find that my successors – Bob Reid of Treasury (2003-2004) and Karen Alderman of JFMIP (2004-2005) – are already planning for their years and bring the right mix of enthusiasm and sensibility to the task.



Wendy Comes, President

During the year we gave members the opportunity to earn 31 hours of continuing professional education at a total cost of \$528! That's quite an accomplishment for an all-volunteer organization.

If you have a chance to do so, please thank Ron Longo of KMPG for the monthly luncheons, John Cherbini of EDS and Susan Johnson of LMI (and countless others) for the May conference.

We produced nine issues of our newsletter and had it on your doorstep well in advance of the monthly programs. Diane Wright, Kate Yalowitz and Christian Stockel of AMS made sure that the newsletter was professional in appearance and the content was current and informative. In addition, they went the extra mile by recruiting advertisers committed to supporting AGA DC. They brought the cost down significantly through tremendous effort. For next year, we have decided to convert the newsletter to an electronic publication. [See the article on signing up for our e-mail list serve on page 13.]

Karl Boettcher of FMS (Member Services) and Meghan Schindler of Naval Audit Service (Early Careers) made sure we had something for everyone. From wine tasting to hikes at Great Falls, they coordinated great monthly events. Cis Kuennen (Community Service) helped us make substantial contributions to a number of charities and gave us the opportunity to work with Christmas in April.

The work of many of our directors was behind the scenes. Our webmasters, Steve Johnson and Harris Gofstein of Bearing Point, made it possible for you to register on-line with a credit card with greater security, less volunteer "hands-on" time processing the payment, and an e-mail receipt for your records. Most members who try it think it's great because they spend less time in line at the luncheons! They also served as an electronic reminder service with their great e-flyers.

Pat Clark-Duncan of Labor provided administrative support as liaison to National. She made sure that our chapter would be recognized for its accomplishments.

Eleanor Long of Ernst and Young monitored our growth and made sure new members were welcomed in the newsletter. She encouraged us all in working towards our recruitment goals.

Phyllis Hunter of Grant Thornton was our CGFM liaison. She provided CGFM articles for publication in the newsletter and is helping to coordinate a study group.

Joel Renik of IRS served as our Secretary. He kept you apprised of leadership decisions by making sure the newsletter included meeting minutes.

Ralph Bucksell of GAO organized our April Awards Dinner and ensured that our awardees had an evening to remember.

We had a sell-out crowd for the event. Many 25 plus year members attended as well as many new members.

Finally, our treasurer's team – Gail Vallieres of GAO, Ann Davis and Michael Johnson of Treasury, and Jim Swartz of FCC – worked to improve the chapter's treasury function. This is one of the biggest and least rewarding chapter jobs but each member of the team helped establish a strong base and sound procedures for specific aspects of the treasury function.

I won't name all the members who helped with other tasks – serving as cashiers at the luncheons, writing articles for the newsletter, counseling the President – because I would undoubtedly miss someone. You know who you are so please know that your service is appreciated.

The year was made special for me by the cheerful and consistent service of our all volunteers. I hope that you will consider how you can serve the chapter and find similar rewards!

SPS HAS THE PIECES YOU NEED TO ACHIEVE THE PRESIDENT'S MANAGEMENT AGENDA

Let us show you how they all work together

BUSINESS POLICIES & PROCEDURES

- Define AS-IS and TO-BE Processes
- Incorporate "Best Practices"
- Streamline Procedures and Processes
- Agency-Wide Communication of New Processes

ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE

- Manage your IT Investments as Capital Assets (CPIC and ITIM)
- Leverage Visual Modeling to Integrate EA with your IT Function
- Apply the Latest CBD Techniques to Deliver SOA

e-GOVERNMENT

- Specialists in migrating your legacy system to modern technology platforms such as .NET and J2EE
- Full life-cycle analysis, development, and production services
- Component-Based Development for ease of future upgrades

ERP AND FINANCIAL SYSTEMS

- Integrate Financial Operations
- Agency-Wide Reporting Capabilities
- Elimination of Cuff Systems



CORPORATE PARTNER ADVISORY GROUP

Visit the SPS Booth #101
at AGA's PDC in Chicago

Contact Mike Dorsett
at sales@goSPS.com
Or call toll free 1.866.734.6777

2011 Crystal Drive
Suite 710
Arlington, VA 22202
www.goSPS.com



**Software Performance
Systems, Inc.**

Honesty, Accountability, and Respect for Human Dignity

Excerpts from the Remarks of
then United States Treasury
Secretary Paul H. O'Neill
to the University of Chicago
Graduate School of Business
Chicago, Illinois October 22, 2002

...Any of you who have studied economic history know there is nothing truly unprecedented in today's trials and hearings, or the images of shamed ex-executives led off in chains. Those infatuated with greed eventually get their due, in every generation. Our economic system has the flexibility to absorb these shocks, adjust, and recover.

The question I prefer to address is a deeper question of leadership. For you students here, I presume that most of you here today have ambitions of becoming tomorrow's captains of industry, luminaries and visionaries. Maybe you want to become great leaders, who unleash the potential in others, and set an example for your peers. Or maybe you just want to make a lot of money. If it's the latter alone, I don't have much to tell you. Best of luck. But if you believe your life and your special talents have more of a purpose than dying with the most toys, I have a few ideas to share. Specifically, I want to consider the importance of values, by which I mean honesty, accountability, and respect for human dignity.

... During the time I served Alcoa, we reduced our workplace injury rate by 90 percent. Let me explain the importance of this fact.

Over the course of my career in business and with the government, I have come to believe that in an organization with the potential for greatness, the people in it can say yes to three questions every day. These are the three questions.

Are you treated with dignity and respect by everyone?

Do you have the training, tools and support you need in order to make a contribution to the organization – a contribution that gives meaning to your life?

And are you recognized for the contribution you make?

All organizations say that employees are their most important asset. You can look it up in the annual report. At Alcoa, I set out to create tangible evidence that people were the most important asset. I reasoned that if people were hurt that nothing else mattered much and that therefore we should set a goal to eliminate workplace accidents. Not to reduce them but to eliminate them. It was the best kind of goal – no one could challenge its desirability.

A company with real leadership, honest and accountable, is one that helps all its employees to work together toward a common goal, and to realize their potential to a far greater extent than they could otherwise. Effective organizations unlock human potential for all who strive within it. And that only happens when those people at the top, the leaders, set the example.

Once you get used to taking the high road, putting values over expedience, and treating people like people, the end and not the means, it gets easier and easier. You will go beyond what seemed possible before. Workplace safety is just one example – when you become effective at organizational problem solving, many of the targets that seemed out of reach, whether that means profits, growth, innovation, or new markets, become easy to grasp.

So what really happened with these corporate leaders now fallen? I think they strayed from their values in the

anything-goes 90s, and by the time they realized how far they had strayed – after all, in their minds, everyone else was doing it, or would if they could – it was too late. Like frogs in boiling water, they didn't feel the heat until they were cooked. There was nothing special about these people, except their hubris. They abandoned any pretense of moral direction to follow each dollar down its path, and figured they'd return to the main road before anyone noticed they were gone. But after the bubble popped, there was nowhere to hide. That's what I think.

If all you want is money, it's not that difficult. But if you want to achieve something greater, to become a true leader, you need to think about the people in your organization, and put them first. The money will follow, if that's part of your mission.

...What we achieved at Alcoa, we did not achieve by managing quarterly earnings, abusing tax rules or playing accounting tricks. We did it by focusing on our people, making sure they had the tools and incentives to get their jobs done right, and done safely. And when people have those tools and incentives, they can do anything. We focused on the fundamentals: creating value and producing results. The rest followed. That's the truth in every company, and in every endeavor.

The real challenge is to achieve your ambitions while refusing to bend your values to the demands of the day. Set an example for your organization, no matter your place in it. [emphasis added]

[“...” indicates text omitted. Entire text is available at:

<http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/po3565.htm>]

PDC Chicago is Just a Month Away

For 52 years, the AGA Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition has been the premier education and training conference for government financial managers and accountability professionals. The 2003 PDC covers the perspectives of all governments: federal, state and local.

The conference theme for 2003 is Managing \$marter for the Future, and the program is filled with dynamic sessions to help all financial managers deal with the challenges of working in a rapidly changing government environment. The four-day conference has something for everyone. Sessions cover all levels, from basic to advanced. Volunteer committees of your peers select topics and speakers because they know the issues most pressing to you.

Complementing the dynamic sessions are unmatched networking opportunities and world-class exhibits by leading suppliers. No other conference provides the opportunity to interact with top-ranking and influential government financial executives along with leaders in private sector financial and technology management. Combine the great educational content and the ability to earn up to 26 CPE hours with exhibits and networking opportunities, and you'll realize that this conference is a must.

To view the full agenda or to save \$25 by registering online, go to www.agacgfm.org/pdc. We look forward to seeing you in Chicago!

OPM Issues Emergency Preparedness Guide

OPM Issues Emergency Preparedness Guide OPM stands ready to inform government officials, media and the general public of their response and operations during a crisis or emergency. This page is provided as a ready resource for you to quickly and easily locate information and guidance that they have published. Please feel free to provide them with any additional suggestions or comments that you may have. We will not be able to respond to individual questions but welcome your feedback. Send your comments to NetMail@opm.gov. Thanks in advance for your assistance helping make these reference guides as useful as possible. To read further - <http://www.opm.gov/emergency/index.asp#family>

The
mind
at work

> Develop JFMIP Core Competencies

> Incorporate into your Individual Development Plan (IDP)

> Determine your skill level and select appropriate courses with our competency self-assessment tool

> Advance your career with our Federal Financial Management Certificate Program (FFMCP)

> Achieve the status of a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM)

> Benefit from Client On-Site and Customized Training

> Explore our essential web links for financial managers

Visit our
web site

www.managementconcepts.com
or call for a catalog 703.790.9595

Financial Management Training Programs

Get the practical skills you need to succeed



MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS

PHONE 703.790.9595 • FAX 703.790.1371

It's 2003 and the world is changing... it's important to have a trusted business partner that has weathered the storm.

Changes in the public accounting arena have prompted the GAO to issue a set of professional standards regarding public accounting firms performing financial statement audits and management consulting to the same agency.

Grant Thornton is the only major international public accounting firm that continues to provide management consulting services to the public sector as its principal business. We have and will continue to focus on our core competencies...delivering financial, technology and performance solutions to federal, state and local governments as well as international organizations...we don't do Federal financial statement audits.

- Strategic Planning
- Competitive Sourcing
- Business Process Improvement
- Activity-based Costing
- IT Management
- Business Intelligence
- Enterprise Applications
- Financial Management
- Financial Operations
- Program Management
- Office Support
- Financial Systems

Grant Thornton 

Global reach, personal Touch

Grant Thornton LLP
333 John Carlyle St., Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314-5745
T 703.637.2715
www.grantthornton.com/publicsector

**If you are interested in joining the
Grant Thornton team, please send
a resume to dcmcareers@gt.com,
or fax to 703.837.4455**

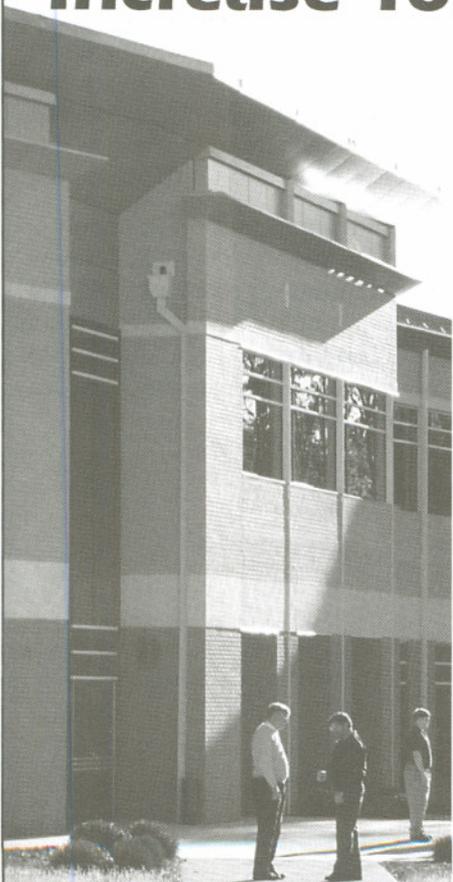
An Equal Opportunity Employer



Job Announcements

Job Type	Series	Agency	Announcement	Application Close Date	Contact
Financial Management	GS-0505-01/15	Ofc of Secretary of Army	WTEJ03000500OC	12/31/2003	520-538-1580
Accounting	GS-0510-01/15	Ofc of Secretary of Army	WTEJ03000500OC	12/31/2003	520-538-1580
Systems Accountant	GS-0510-09/13	DoD, Education Activity	01-HQ-065-JL	INDEFINITE	703-696-2899
Internal Revenue Officer	GS-1169-05/07	Internal Revenue Service	PH-MH-169586	08/01/2003	215-861-3074

If your organization would like to list job announcements, please send announcement information to diane.wright@ams.com.



Increase Your Advancement Potential Earn your MBA!

MBA Concentrations:

- General Management
- Management Technology
- Organization and Human Resource Development
- Information Security
- NEW** Contracts and Procurement Management

Graduate Certificates Available:

- Information Security
- NEW** Contracts and Procurement Management

MARY WASHINGTON COLLEGE

JAMES MONROE

C E N T E R

For Graduate and Professional Studies

Great location 45 miles south of D.C. near Fredericksburg, Virginia I 95 (Exit 133)
540.654.1618 ▪ 800.468.5614 ▪ admit@mwc.edu ▪ www.jmc.mwc.edu

Inside the Black Box

By Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM, CPA

Authority: Obligation or Empowerment?

Reinventing Government

One of the main recommendations of the National Performance Review was to move the federal government from a bureaucratic orientation based on hierarchy and process to an entrepreneurial orientation based on partnerships and employee empowerment that promotes risk-taking and innovation. One aspect of accounting and financial management that is unique to government is the obligation. Obligations have to be carefully controlled in order to prevent an agency from disbursing more funds than was authorized. Total obligations are limited by legislation (usually an appropriation), and this limit is distributed by OMB's cost objects, and by the agency's own allotment process.

Procedural Limitations

On top of these legal and structural limitations, agencies tended to add more restrictions through procedures, sometimes required by their accounting system. Often an obligation is legally tied to a vendor (if a contract is awarded to one vendor, you can't send task orders to a different vendor), but there are exceptions, such as obligations for bankcard purchases or travel orders that include third-party transportation. An accounting system needs to be able to allow a payee to be different from the vendor on the order, but only when it is appropriate.

An order document must have an accounting strip that specifies the funding source, allottee, and cost object. Often the strip will include program activity, project, and other data. The accounting strip serves to classify the potential outlay, and ensure that it complies with the authorizer's intent; it also restricts the form the outlay takes.

While that restriction is often appropriate, it can also be too limiting.

An Example

Suppose an agency issues a travel order authorizing an employee to fly to a nearby city. However, a snow storm closes the airports. The old bureaucratic approach would require the employee to get new authorization to either change the travel dates or switch to a train. The new empowerment approach allows the employee, on their own initiative, to trade their airfare for train tickets. So the new financial management approach increases the efficiency and effectiveness of the employee.

What about the accounting system? Let us suppose airfare and train fare use different agency-defined sub-object codes, so the agency can easily track travel patterns. The order had the airfare code, but the voucher comes in with the train fare code. There are a number of possibilities:

1. Force the travel office to amend the original order, taking out the airfare line and adding a train fare line. This option consumes significant time and effort, can delay the processing of the voucher, and may not be practical if the travel and accounting systems aren't integrated.
2. Process the voucher with the airfare codes even though the traveler used a train. This option solves the processing issues, but makes the codes less meaningful, since now airfare dollars could include train fare and visa-versa.
3. Allow the voucher to process without referencing the order. A zero-dollar line could be entered on the voucher to close out the airfare order line and a new line added with the train fare codes that do not reference the order. This option weakens the spending chain by having no direct precedent for the new voucher line.



4. Allow the voucher to be different than the order. This could potentially cause havoc with spending controls, so the system might only allow certain changes, such as allowing codes to change so long as they refer to the same allotment or allowing different sub-objects to be used so long as they both have the same OMB object code.

Empowering employees is a good thing, but you have to make certain your accounting procedures and system don't get in the way. Accounting codes and program logic should support new decision-making processes.

Comments, suggestions, and critiques are welcome. Send them to Simcha.Kuritzky@ams.com, and not to the AGA.

CGFM Helps Professionals Compete in Cost-Cutting Times As Governments Scale Back, CGFM Becomes More Important

Preliminary results of a recent survey conducted by the National Certification Commission indicates that there is a healthy increase in certification categories in the first three years of the 21st century. If the projected 6-7 percent increase for just the first three years of the decade continues, this decade will see the largest increase ever recorded. But this is only one indicator of the growth of certification credentials.

The demand is also reflected in the professional certification policies developed by federal agencies following passage of legislation in 2001 authorizing the use of appropriated funds to pay for professional certification exams.

Four federal agencies-EPA, DFAS, GAO, DOD-have provided AGA copies of their policy. At AGA we are seeing an increased interest from federal employees in the CGFM designation. Acceptance of the CGFM certification continues to grow at the state and local level as well. The CGFM designation is now formally recognized in at least seven states, one county (Contra Costa, CA) and one city (Topeka, KS). Because of budget problems, the demand for greater productivity and accountability-with fewer resources-with continue. Qualified, skilled and knowledgeable employees are at a premium. For example, to attract more qualified applicants to state accounting positions, Maine increased its entry-level

requirements for state accounting positions, according to State Controller Edward A. Karass. Shaun Bridge, a recent CGFM holder, earned promotions in the Everett, WA engineering department and the parks department because of his commitment to earning his CGFM. Dozens of examples of CGFM success can be found in "CGFM Profiles" on AGA's website at www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/cgfm_profiles.htm.

It's never too late-there is no better time to begin your journey to earning your CGFM credential than now! Once the self-study books are available, you can take the book to the beach this summer and begin your journey.

Search Committee Seeks Executive Director Applicants

AGA has formed an Executive Director Search Committee to organize the search for an executive director to replace the retiring Charles W. Culkin Jr., CGFM, who will leave the Association on July 11.

The Executive Director is in charge of the day-to-day management of the Association. Under the direction of the National Executive Committee (NEC), the Executive Director provides leadership in planning, organizing, and directing sound programs, including the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Program, the Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) Program, the Certificate of Excellence in Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA) Reporting Program, the Corporate Partner Program, the Membership Program, the Education Program, and other programs specifically assigned by the NEC, while maintaining high service standards consistent with the Association's mission statement and long-range strategic plan.

The committee will review and interview applicants and make a recommendation to the National Executive Committee, which will hire the new executive director.

Basic qualifications for the position include a bachelor's degree and a preference for the CGFM designation.

Candidates will be evaluated based on the following:

- Knowledge of non-profit membership based organizations along with a working knowledge of boards and committees
- Knowledge of non-profit financial management
- Knowledge of government financial management
- Extensive management experience including managing budgets and staffs
- Extensive leadership abilities with experience in developing and

implementing organization-wide long range strategic plans

- Track record in marketing and building strategic partnerships

Candidates should also be highly organized, have excellent communications skills and thrive in a team oriented environment.

Travel required.

Job Location: Alexandria, VA

Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume to the:

Executive Director Search Committee
EDSearch@agacgfm.org

AGA is a 16,000 member professional association serving government accountability professionals at all levels of government and the private sector. Its national headquarters is located in Alexandria, VA and is comprised of 17 professional staff members.

2003 DC Chapter Awards

We extend our congratulations and thanks to the members of the Washington, DC financial community who received awards at the 8th Annual Washington DC AGA Chapter's Awards Dinner on April 10, 2003. The awards and the awardees were as follows:

The Distinguished Leadership Award was presented to Mark Everson for his demonstrated vision, planning and strong leadership in the advancement of the President's management agenda as Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The Distinguished Service to the Financial Management Community Award was presented to Robert A. Pewanick for his years of outstanding service to the Washington, DC Chapter.

The Achievement of the Year Award was presented to Steven O. App and James R. Lingeback for Treasury's successful issuance of timely financial statements.

The Einhorn/Gary Award was presented to William Broadus for over three decades of dedication and outstanding service at the Chapter and National levels that have signifi-

cantly enhanced AGA's prestige and stature in the financial management community.

The James W. Saylor Award was presented to Patricia L. Wensel for her outstanding service to the Washington, DC Chapter.

Early Career Service Awards were presented to Meghan Schindler and John Howard for outstanding service to the early career members.

Education and Training Awards were presented to Ron Longo and Cis Kuennen for outstanding leadership in planning the 2002 May Conference.

continued on page 14



Transformation in the Government Workplace

continued from page 1

Medicare/Medicaid, and interest on the national debt. To make informed choices, decision makers need sound financial management information, and modern, effective and credible budget practices.

Mr. Walker further highlighted the importance of how the Federal government measures the impact of budget decisions and the results of current activity. "Accounting is how you keep score... what gets measured gets managed." Congress has been focused on short planning horizons, budgets, and cash flow. Given the challenges facing the nation, they need to look at the budget impacts of programs and trends beyond ten years and possibly look at 20, 30, 50 years down the road - like the trustees of SSA and Medicare do. Congress also needs to consider discounted present value amounts in connection with major tax and spending legislative proposals. For example, a health care program for military dependents that was implemented in 2001 was booked at \$50B-\$60B in projected cash outflows over the next ten years, but the net present value (NPV) discounted at Treasury rates was just shy of \$300B.

It's obvious that clean audit opinions are not enough and can even be misleading. We need improved accounting treatment for trust fund programs. In practice, a federal trust fund is not a legal trust fund. Federal trust funds are sub-accounts of the General Fund and have no economic significance. Currently, the trust funds hold special U.S. government bonds that serve as IOUs for trust fund receipts that are used to support current general expenditures. Once the entitlement programs begin to spend more than they collect, they will need to redeem these bonds to support program

requirements. To pay for the bond redemptions, Congress will need to raise revenues, cut spending or increase debt held by the public. Currently, there is a \$6.2 trillion net present value (NPV) gap between promised and funded benefits in Part A of Medicare alone. In addition, the U.S. Postal Service needs to examine its accounting practices regarding their pension and retiree health programs. The government also needs better cost accounting practices to choose among program options and support outsourcing decisions. Finally, the government needs to continue to reduce the financial statements plug figure (\$17 billion in 2002).

A look at recent financial management successes in the government shows what can be done. JFMIP changed the definition of success in financial management, strengthened the independence of FASAB, implemented an earlier due date for financial reports, and provided for the selected establishment of audit committees for agencies. The same commitment will be needed to address the issues ahead.

Recent failures in the private sector remind us of various lessons:

- Decades of work to build a positive reputation can be lost quickly due to breach of trust because a few people do the wrong thing.
- Legal and accounting standards represent the floor of acceptable behavior and not the desired state.
- Need to emphasize substance over form.
- For any system to work, it must have appropriate incentives, reasonable transparency, and appropriate accountability mechanisms. It also requires people with integrity and data that is reliable.

GAO is working to fundamentally transform government to be less hierarchical, team-based, more results-oriented and externally focused. The Federal government should lead the way in this transformation.

**The United States General Accounting Office (GAO) measures its success based on positive outcomes from adopting its recommendations. Last year, GAO's work resulted in over \$37 billion in financial benefits to the federal government.*

Christmas in April

The DC AGA crew supported the April in Christmas program by doing general landscape cleanup and then planting a flower garden. Thanks to the generosity of our members, they were able to present the program with a check for \$350.00.



Wendy Comes, James Christian, Karl Boettcher, and Meghan Schindler

Washington DC Chapter AGA Board Meeting Minutes from Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Joel Renik, secretary

The ninth official meeting of the chapter year commenced at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, April 1, 2003 in the GAO Building, 441 G Street NW, Washington, DC.

ATTENDEES

There were a total of twelve attendees; 5 in person and 7 via teleconference. Those in attendance were: Wendy Comes, Joel Renik, Gail Vallieres, Karl Boettcher, and Jim Swartz. Via teleconference, Pat Clark, Harris Gofstein, Bob Reid, Susan Johnson, John Cherbini, Diane Wright, and Phyllis Hunter joined us.

Wendy opened the meeting noting that the chapter year-end is quickly closing in on us with much yet to be accomplished. Wendy encourages attendance at the annual awards dinner next week; a great opportunity to meet fellow AGADC members. Award recipients, 25-year members, and Past Presidents are offered free attendance.

Wendy proceeded to conduct the meeting according to the previously distributed agenda.

I. TREASURER'S REPORT – Gail Vallieres

Approximately \$3,500 of the sponsorship money has been received thus far. We are beginning to see more advertisement revenue coming in as well.

II. SECRETARY'S REPORT – Joel Renik

The minutes from the March meeting were approved electronically. If you would like a copy of the minutes, please request a copy via e-mail from Joel at joel.c.renik@irs.gov.

III. WEBMASTER REPORT –

Harris Gofstein for Steve Johnson

Harris reported that the work on the conference details for the website is almost complete. Some on-line regis-

trations are trickling in. The awards dinner information is also ready to come up. Wendy suggested an idea on how to accomplish the collection of funds at the April Awards Dinner, since most attendees will be at the cost of the chapter. She would like to eliminate the collection table at this meeting and give those who are paying the option of remitting payment by credit card and she also plans on handing out addressed and stamped envelopes. The group was in agreement.

IV. DIRECTORS' REPORTS Newsletter – Diane Wright

The April newsletter was mailed out a bit earlier this month. The May newsletter has not yet gone to production. Diane mentioned that we may have another advertiser going to a full page ad, but we are still down one-half page of advertising. Diane noted that we need to rethink the advertising strategy in light of going to an electronic newsletter. Wendy asked if there were any unresolved issues in going to an electronic newsletter in the next chapter year, eliminating hardcopy newsletters. Bob Reid responded there weren't any as far as he knew. Diane mentioned that a letter should be drafted to the advertisers explaining the positives of going to an electronic newsletter to get their early buy-in. Bob also asked about going full color. Wendy and Diane will get together via conference call to discuss the content of the letter. The June newsletter deadline is 05/01/03.

Programs – Wendy Comes for Ron Longo

All speakers are lined up for the remainder of the chapter year. April's speaker is David M. Walker and May's speaker is President-Elect Robert Reid. Bob's topic will be the 2002 Financial Report of the US Government.

Meeting Support - Melajo Kubacki

No report.

Conferences – John Cherbini

A meeting was held a few weeks ago to set the agenda and speakers for the May Conference. John said that there are very few gaps to close. Keynote speakers will be David Walker and Mark Forman. John mentioned that Mr. Forman is tentative but Clay Johnson has agreed to fill in if he cannot make it.

All producers and moderators have been chosen. Susan Johnson is working on writing up the duties so they know what tasks each will be responsible for. John asked about ideas for advertising the conference. Susan said that the GWSCPA will be sending out a flyer advertising future conferences and the May Conference will be listed as one of them. Wendy mentioned that we have also been included in several member blasts. She said flyers will be distributed at the FFM Council and asked Bob Reid to take flyers with him to the CFO Council meeting. Susan will send a tentative conference agenda to Wendy.

Wendy asked Susan about GWSCPA providing hard copies of the presentations to conference attendees. Susan mentioned that she wasn't sure, but they are planning to provide attendees with name tags and a packet of information that includes bios and a list of topics. A social hour will be held following the conclusion of each day's sessions.

CGFM Coordinator – Phyllis Hunter

Phyllis got a request from a member to establish a CGFM study group. She contacted National and spoke with Joan Swartz, who offered our chapter teleconference capabilities, as many who may want to participate would

continued on page 13

Washington DC Chapter AGA Board Meeting Minutes

continued from page 12

find it difficult to attend in person. Phyllis is researching the establishment of a study group.

Community Service – Wendy Comes for Cis Kuennen

Wendy reported that we have approximately \$350 collected for the Christmas in April event.

Member Services – Karl Boettcher

In a follow up to the conversation regarding the Christmas in April event, Karl said that volunteers will not be solicited at the awards dinner. He feels we will have sufficient coverage. The next scheduled activity is on May 25 at Wolftrap, followed by the baseball game on June 7. The Baltimore Chapter decided that they did not want to participate in a ball game this year, so we are partnering with the Northern VA Chapter to host a Potomac Cannons game.

In June, a golf tournament will be held on the 18th. Karl spoke with Ron and we will partner with AMSC at Fort Belvoir.

Early Careers - Meghan Schindler

-Friday, April 4: Joint happy hour with Northern Virginia chapter at Rock It Grill in Old Town Alexandria. From 6-8 PM.

-Saturday, May 10: Hiking at Great Falls Park (an 800 acre park located along the Potomac River 14 miles upriver from Washington DC), starting at 10am.

-Wednesday, May 21: Wine Tasting at Blackie's Restaurant in DC. We will be joining the Smithsonian Institution Young Benefactors Group for the event--\$25 to enjoy canapés, wine and an intriguing lecture. Complimentary valet parking. Each guest will receive a \$25 Blackie's gift certificate for dinner. This is a great deal if you do the math!

All members are welcome to these events.

Awards – Wendy Comes for Ralph Bucksell

Ralph is working on a CD with files to ensure that future annual awards dinners are not such a monumental task. He is documenting a timeline, along with correspondence requirements, examples and templates. Wendy said that Ralph serves as a role model of effective transitioning by performing this task. Wendy also commended Gail's efforts in getting our financial records straightened out. Wendy has an electronic copy of a Missouri chap-

ter's officers and directors handbook and will e-mail it to us. She requested we take a look at it for ideas to assist us with updating our handbook.

Membership – Wendy Comes for Eleanor Long

Wendy mentioned that the chapter is at about 30 percent of our new membership target. John Cherbini is the largest contributor to our new membership stats.

Administration – Wendy Comes for Pat Clark

Pat sent Wendy an e-mail and reported that the chapter is on target with meeting our goals.

V. OLD BUSINESS

No report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS – Wendy Comes

No items.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:40 pm. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6, 2003 at GAO headquarters, 441 G Street, N.W., Washington, DC. The closest Metro stops are Judiciary Square (red line) and Chinatown/Gallery Place (green/yellow line).

E-mail Mailing List

Would you like to receive e-mail reminders of our monthly meetings and conferences? If so, please go to www.agadc.org to sign up for our mailing list in the Member Services section of the website.

You can also sign-up for the electronic version of the next program year's newsletter on this site.

Newsletter Comments or Suggestions?

Send to diane.wright@ams.com

Last Issue of 2003 Program Year!

Have a great Summer!

AGA-Roanoke & AGA-Richmond 6th Annual Blue Ridge Professional Development Conference

The Roanoke and Richmond Chapters are hosting the "6th Annual Blue Ridge Professional Development Conference" at the Natural Bridge Inn and Conference Center in Natural Bridge Virginia (near Lexington and Roanoke Virginia). AGA's 2003-2004 National President Jullin Renthrope, CGFM will be one of the keynote speakers along with several other outstanding individuals. The multi-track conference will focus on governmental accounting and auditing issues as well as federal compliance and audit

issues and community mental health financial issues. Registration fees \$65-\$90. Early registration discounts are offered prior to June 12. Conference hotel rates are \$55/night. Contact Nauri Ahmed, CGFM at 804.371.4613 or email at nahmed@dmhmrsas.state.va.us. See Richmond Chapter's website for registration form, agenda, tourism information and conference updates at www.agarichmond.org (12-15 CPE hours will be awarded).

2003 DC Chapter Awards

continued from page 10

President's Awards were presented to Karl L. Boettcher, Ralph Bucksell, John Cherbini, Patricia Clark-Duncan, Phyllis Hunter, Susan Johnson, Eleanor Long, Joel Renik, Robert Uttenweiler, and Diane Wright, for their service on the Chapter's Board of Directors for the 2002-2003 program year.

Special President's Awards were presented to Ann Davis, Michael Johnson, Jim Swartz, and Gail Flister Vallieres for improvements in the Chapter's Treasury function; and to

Harris Gofstein and Steve Johnson for improvements to the Chapter Services via the Website.

Community Service Awards were presented to William J. Anderson, Jr., Karl L. Boettcher, Evelyn A. Brown, Neil Feehley, Andrew N. Kilgore, Cis Kuennen, Virginia Robinson, Meghan Schindler, and Eva Williams for significant volunteer service to the community on behalf of the Chapter during the 2002-2003 program year.



Member Services Golf Tournament

Membership Services in partnership with the Association of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) are sponsoring a golf tournament at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. The tournament will be at the Gunston Course on Monday, June 16. Format for the 18 holes will be Captain's Choice with a shotgun tee time start at 8:00 a.m. Entry fee is \$80.00 per person including picnic style lunch, golf cart, green fee & prizes. Foursomes are created as needed.

If you have a group of 2, 3 or 4, please ensure that they all pay with the same registration. Early arrival is suggested to clear base security and to warm-up on the driving range. To register, please contact (KPMG/ASMC) Latisha Jones (202) 533-5666, ljones@kpmg.com or Craig Silcox at (202) 533-4296, csilcox@kpmg.com. Make checks payable to ASMC and send to KPMG, LLP attn: Latisha Jones - 9th Floor, 2001 M St., NW, Washington D.C. 20036. If you would like more information on this activity, you can also contact AGA /DC chapter representatives - Ronald Longo at (202) 533-4014, rlongo@kpmg.com or Karl Boettcher at (202) 874-3611, karl.boettcher@fms.treas.

**Know-
how
to win.** SM

ams®

Global Business and IT Consultants
ams.com

AGA DC Chapter Leadership Directory, 2002–2003

President, Wendy M. Comes
Federal Accounting Standards
Advisory Board, 202.512.7357, Fax:
202.512.7366
comesw@fasab.gov

President-Elect, Robert Reid
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Accounting Policy Department of the
Treasury
202.622.0550, Fax: 202.622.0962
Robert.Reid@do.treas.gov

Past-President, Janet McBride
Joint Financial Management
Improvement Program, 202.219.0534
janet.mcbride@gsa.gov

Secretary, Joel Renik
Internal Revenue Service, 301.429.8683
joel.c.renik@irs.gov

Treasurer, Gail Vallieres
General Accounting Office
202.512.9370, Fax: 202.512.9596
Email: vallieresg@gao.gov

Assistant Treasurer, Jim Swartz
Federal Communications Commission
202.418.1060, Fax: 301.262.6728
Email: jswartz@fcc.gov

Directors

Awards, Ralph Bucksell,
General Accounting Office, 202.512. 4216
Fax: 202.512.5643
bucksellr@gao.gov

Education, John Cherbini
EDS
703.456.2487, Fax: 703.742.1215
john.cherbini@eds.com

Administration, Patricia Clark
Department of Labor, 202.693.6808
clark-patricia@dol.gov

CGFM Coordinator, Phyllis Hunter
Grant Thornton
703.917.7490 or 703.837.7447
phunter@gt.com

Member Services, Karl Boettcher
Treasury /FMS
202.874.6131
karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov

Meetings, Melajo Kubacki
NASA, 202.358.1052
mkubacki@hq.nasa.gov

Community Service, Cis Kuennen
Bureau of Indian Affairs, 703.390.6545
CisAKuennen@aol.com

Membership, Eleanor Long
Ernst and Young, 202.327.5903
Fax: 202.327.6459
eleanor.long@ey.com

Programs, Ron Longo
KPMG LLP, LLC , 202.533.4014
rlongo@kpmg.com

Newsletter Editor, Diane Wright
AMS, 703.227.7325
diane.wright@ams.com

Appointments

Webmaster, Steve Johnson
BearingPoint, 240.350.4992
steveajohnson@bearingpoint.net

Assistant Webmaster, Harris Gofstein
BearingPoint
hgofstein@bearingpoint.net

Early Careers, Meghan Schindler
Naval Audit Service
202.433.6251, Fax: 202.433.6934
meghan.schindler@navy.mil

Publications, Simcha L. Kuritzky
AMS, 703.227.5796
simcha.kuritzky@ams.com

Newsletter Assistant Editor, Kate Yalowitz,
AMS
kate.yalowitz@ams.com



WASHINGTON, DC CHAPTER

P.O. Box 423
Washington, D.C. 20044-0423
TIN 521102567
703.758.4080



PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FAIRFAX VA
PERMIT NO 6241