Introducing . . .

AGA National President-Elect
Douglas K. Haywood, CGFM, CPA

By: Marie Sullivan Force

The first thing AGA National President-Elect Douglas K. Haywood, CGFM, wants members to know is that he considers it an honor and a pleasure to have the opportunity to serve the Association and the profession in the coming year. He would also like to express his gratitude to Arizona Auditor General Douglas R. Norton, for his continued support of AGA.

The second message Haywood wants to pass along is that we should never miss an opportunity to educate others on the role of government and the integral part each of us plays in its success.

The 46-year-old native of Buffalo, New York, has lived most of his life in Arizona. A graduate of the University of Arizona, he put himself through school by playing classical guitar at private parties. Prior to finishing his education, he worked in the banking industry for three years. After receiving his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in accounting, Haywood went to work in the Arizona Auditor General's Office and has never looked back.

Today, as the Manager of the Statewide audit, he is responsible for directing and coordinating the activities of the staff who perform financial and compliance audits. He is also the recruiting coordinator and audit scheduler for the Financial Audit Division as well as the contract audit facilitator for the office. Like other state, local and tribal government audit organizations and public accounting firms, the Arizona Auditor General's Office is working to implement the new federal requirements for single audit. In addition, Haywood is looking forward to the GASB's resolution of the reporting model issue.

"It is no secret that from time to time the business of government has been a target of public criticism," Haywood said, adding that "with success comes criticism. The citizens of this country not only demand perfection from the business of government, they expect it. What other business has a greater effect on our daily lives than government?

"Federal, state, local and tribal governments, along with their support organizations, such as academia and public accounting firms, are involved in such issues as health, education, welfare and public safety every moment of every day. I can think of no more useful and satisfying career and no better way of life than the business of government."

Haywood has chosen the theme "Ensuring Compliance and Public Accountability—An Advocate for the Profession" for his presidency. The theme is based on the Association's Vision 2000 long-range strategic plan. Working with the Long-Range Strategic Planning Committee and in-coming committee chairs, Haywood has drafted a presidential plan that covers eight major tenets of commitment: quality, diversity, education, information technology, research, globalization, community service and recognition.

If it is truly possible to lead by example, Haywood does, having devoted his career and life to public service. In his free time, he is an active supporter of the Arizona Senior Olympics. This year Tucson will host the National Senior Olympics, expected to attract more than 8,000 participants between the ages of 55 and 90. He also a member of the "Wildest Club in Town," a Phoenix Zoo Auxiliary. This year the club concluded a seven-year project to bring the spectacled bear to the zoo. The club raised in excess of $3 million to complete the "greatest bear exhibit in the world."

Haywood, his wife Kathy and the love of their lives, seven-year-old Mary Elizabeth, known as Mary Beth, live in Phoenix. He is happy to report that while he may no longer have time to play the guitar, Mary Beth is showing an interest.

He is looking forward to a busy year as AGA National President, which will begin at the close of the 46th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition, held this year in his hometown of Phoenix. "We will do our best to make sure we represent the members, our Association and our profession to the fullest," Haywood pledged.