ASSOCIATION OF
GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTANTS

# AGANEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON CHAPTER

FEBRUARY 1985

# THURSDAY FEBRUARY 7, 1985 LUNCHEON MEETING TO FEATURE



JOSEPH F. MORAGLIO Director, AICPA Federal Government Division

Speaking on

"Developments in the Accounting Profession vs. the Federal Accountant and Auditor"

at the

SAM RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING Room B-338, "C" and South Capitol Streets Near Capitol South Metro Station

 Social Period
 11:15

 Luncheon
 12:00

 Cost
 \$10.00

 Open Bar
 \$ 3.00

For Luncheon Reservations Call 695-7954
Telephone Reservations Accepted Until February 5, 1985
NON MEMBERS WELCOME

All Reservations Guaranteed

Meeting Schedule: Mar. 7 • Apr. 4 • May 2

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



# VIRGINIA ROBINSON United States General Accounting Office

As we had expected, last month's luncheon meeting was really a special one in several respects. The speakers, Frank Harden and Jackson Weaver, of WMAL deliver a blend of news and information that continues to sustain their popularity in the Washington area.

Harden and Weaver are famous for bringing out the best in some of the people some of the time, and true to their usual form, they did so with our Chapter last month. We decided in an Executive Board meeting to donate \$200 to the charity for which they have worked so deligently over the years, Children's Hospital. We also decided to pass the hat for voluntary contributions at the meeting. Members and guests contributed \$220. It was especially gratifying to know that we have people who heartily support worthy causes in our town.

Although I believe it's the first time that we have collected for Children's Hospital, I know the voluntary spirit is not new to our Chapter. Members readily volunteered when the call was made for teachers and counselors to present the free course in basics of Financial Management for Small Businesses. Many volunteers have also stepped forward to heed the call to prepare tax returns for disadvantaged persons under the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) pro-

### **NEWS FROM NATIONAL**

TAX HANDBOOKS AGAIN A WINNER Prentice-Hall shipped 3,163 of their tax handbooks to chapters and at-large members in mid-December, with this year's total just barely exceeding last year's 3,150. This maintains our string of exceeding the prior record each year. Northern Virginia again topped all chapter orders (258 copies), with Washington (155 copies) and Atlanta (107 copies) as the other chapters to break 100. Chapter orders also came in from as far away as Korea and Central Germany.

PDC LOGO SELECTED The official logo for AGA's 1985 Professional Development Conference (PDC), to be held in San Diego, depicts the dome of San Diego de Alcala, California's first mission, and links to the city's historic past. The National Office has produced proof sets of the logo in various sizes, and forwarded a set to each chapter for use in chapter newsletters

gram that we conduct under the auspices of the Internal Revenue Service.

Another special part of our meeting was the presentation of a \$500 scholarship award to Mattie L. Hutchinson, a junior at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). She has been on the Dean's List from 1982 to the present time and was a presidential scholar in 1983. She is currently serving as recording secretary in the UDC Accounting Club.

In the premier edition of the Chapter Newsletter for this year, I mentioned that we would place considerable emphasis on education. Of the remaining educational activities that we have scheduled, the one I'd like to call to your attention very early is our student recognition presentation that will take place at our meeting on April 4th. The annual meeting with outstanding students from local colleges and universities traditionally has been an important one for our Chapter. This year's meeting should be outstanding considering that Emanuel Saxe Distinguished Professor of Accountancy, Dr. Abraham Briloff, has agreed to be our speaker. You may recall when he spoke to our Chapter in October 1978 he was such a hit that he was asked to be a featured speaker at the annual AGA symposium in June 1979. I still remember his remarks on the finer points of accountancy. In the many years that I've attended AGA symposia and professional development conferences, he is the only speaker that I recall who received a standing ovation. Receiving a standing ovation from a group comprising mainly accountants is quite an accomplishment.

Be sure to mark your calendar now so you won't forget to make your reservation early for the April meeting. We wouldn't want you to miss this event.

and other means employed in publicizing the 1985 PDC.

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

The Washington Chapter cordially welcomes the following new members.

Joseph J. Perricone (Sponsor—Dave Dukes)

Dept. of Health and Human Services

Christy J. Poindexter

Treasury

Luis A. Prieto (Sponsor—Roberto Dominguez)

Inter-American Development Bank

Jean M. Vinglas

Federal Energy

(Sponsor—Ed Cappe) Regulatory Commission

If you have any questions about joining AGA or need membership applications or brochures, call Marcus Page on 566-5038.

## WASHINGTON CHAPTER Executive Committee 1984-1985

#### Officers

President

Virginia Robinson, GAO, 275-9512 President-Elect

Susan Lee, Treasury, 566-8555

Secretary

Diane Bray, Treasury, 376-1097

Treasurer

Joe Rothschild, HUD, 426-5454

Past President

Kenneth Winne, JFMIP, 376-5415

#### Directorate

Awards

Michael Serlin, Treasury, 566-5594 Cooperation with Professional Organizations Tony Gabriel, USDA, 447-7431 Education

Ron Lynch, Arthur Andersen, 862-3324 Loretta Shogren, Justice, 633-3291 Employment Referral

George Englert, JFMIP, 376-5415

Meetings

Carol Lynch, Education, 472-2395 Membership

Marcus Page, Treasury, 566-5038

Programs

David Dukes, HHS, 245-7084 Publicity and Agency Liaison Judith Boyd, Treasury, 566-2112

Research Gail Young, Energy, 252-4171

#### Committee Chairperson

Chapter Competition Jean Bowles, State, 524-1188

Chapter Evaluator

Jim Smith, Navy, 695-1070 Cooperation with Educational Institutions Joseph Linnemann, State, 524-1188 Financial Management Assistance

Ken George, ACTION, 634-9163 Newsletter

Lee Beaty, GAO, 275-9430 Professional Notes

John McArthur, Treasury, 376-0820 Small Business Education

Charles McAndrew, GAO, 523-8706 Public Service Coordinator

Joseph L. Dillon, EPA, 382-5113

Relations with National Office Terry Conway, DOD, 697-3192



### ABOUT OUR SPEAKER THIS MONTH

Mr. Joseph F. Moraglio is currently the Director of the AICPA Federal Government Division which is charged with the responsibility of acting as a liaison for the accounting profession with governmental bodies, such as the Congressional Committees, Executive Branch Departments, and Independent Agencies. Prior to assuming his present duties, he was a manager in the AICPA Auditing Standards Division in New York.

Before joining the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Mr. Moraglio was a self-employed management consultant for approximately eight years. During this period, he initiated, developed, designed and implemented numerous manual and EDP systems and controls.

His experience and training include five years with Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. as a senior auditor and staff consultant. In 1964, he became assistant treasurer of Bangor Punta Corporation.

He is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross and a Certified Public Accountant.



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Plan now for our March 7 meeting when our speaker will be D. Bruce Merrifield, Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary for Productivity, Technology and Innovation. (Rayburn Building, 11:15 am; 695-7954 for reservations)

Also, don't miss our February 20 Management Information Systems Seminar. (Details on page 7)

Montgomery-Prince George's speaker for its February 13 meeting is Philip B. Chenok, President of the AICPA. Location is the Lanham, MD Ramada. Call Rich Savitsky for reservations (883-6284).

AGA Northern Virginia Chapter's February 20 speaker is Joseph F. Moraglio. The meeting is designated DOD night, and will be preceded by an Accounting Standards Development Workshop. Location is the Springfield Imperial 400. Call Mike Janoski for dinner reservations (756-2893) and Jack Fawsett for info on the workshop (692-8832).

Our own Virginia Robinson will address the February 20 meeting of AGA Battlefield Chapter, at Kilroy's in Woodbridge. Call James Bridges for reservations (690-1961).

Institute of Internal Auditors Washington Chapter will host a seminar on Writing Convincing Audit Reports in conjunction with its February 20 meeting at the National Press Club. Luncheon speaker is Hugh Marsh, Jr., IIA International Chairman of the Board. Call Chris Hendricks (535-6138) for info on the seminar, and Gladys Tymas (245-0621) for luncheon reservations.

### **COOLEY'S COMEDY CORNER**

by John Cooley

British economist Sir Richard Stone, whose accounting systems are used by more than 100 governments and all major international organizations, recently won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Science. Five out of five government accountants that I surveyed had never heard of Richard Stone.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*

Perhaps Mr. Stone's system that was standardized in the 1950's is obsolete. For example, how big is the U.S. Federal deficit? According to the November 19, 1984 issue of *Forbes*:

"Most of the deficit numbers Americans hear about are creatures of misguided accounting practices. Indeed, a more correctly calculated 1984 deficit would reduce the official figure of \$175.3 billion to anywhere between \$145 billion and zero."

The *Forbes* article points out that the reported deficit is based on cash accounting and fails to distinguish between current operating expenses and long term investments. The article also explains that Federal direct loans often are treated in financial statements as though the money was given away. According to the *Forbes* article:

It is silly to base policy on numbers that do not provide an accurate statement of government activities. At the very least, the government ought to do its budgeting according to . . . Generally Accepted Accounting Principles."

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*

Oh, I suppose the economists and politicians must have their fun. But the gross distortions circulated over the past few years about the Civil Service retirement program are going way too far!

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*

I've been looking for a job vacancy announcement for a position as Chief Accountant for the Civil Service Retirement Fund. I would expect the advertisement to be somewhat like the following one that appeared in the March 24, 1970 issue of *The Wall Street Journal*.

### "MEDIOCRE ACCT

Disreputable company has recently acquired obscure widget firm as a tax loss & wishes to continue its unprofitable operation by hiring an inept apathetic acct. A disinterested attitude while working for this bewildered mgmt is the key to securing this job. Position offers little & gives less with probable reduction in your current earnings."

In closing, I will share this poem by Arnold J. Zarett published in the "Pepper . . . and Salt" section of the November 6, 1975 issue of *The Wall Street Journal*.

"When Business is bad And figures are sad No matter how you twist 'em, It is now understood You may make things look good With a new accounting system."

(Editor's Note: Any opinions implicit in John's always entertaining—sometimes provocative—comments and observations are purely his own, and are not to be interpreted as necessarily representing official AGA positions.)

# SMALL BUSINESS EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Accounting and Financial Management course co-sponsored by the Washington Chapter of AGA and the Washington Regional Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration was successfully completed in early December. This elementary course was designed to give individuals interested in starting a business or operating a small business enterprise the opportunity to learn basic accounting knowledge and the ability to set up accounting records.

The Washington Chapter of AGA wishes to thank Charles McAndrew, Chairman, Small Business Education Committee, a Systems Accountant in the Accounting and Financial Management Division of GAO; Joyce Charles, Supervisory Auditor in the Office of Inspector General at Labor; Diane Bray, Project Director for the JFMIP; Carolyn Connor, Systems Accountant in the Office of Financial Policy at Interior; Susan Lee (AGA President-Elect) Systems Accountant in the Program Evaluation Staff at Treasury; John Barckley, Systems Accountant in the Cash Management area for Treasury; and Sheldon Bernstein, Audit Officer for the National Endowment for the Humanities. We were extremely fortunate to have these volunteer instructors free of charge!

We had 70 persons initially enrolled in this eleven week course taught once a week, of which 34 completed the course and received certificates. The AGA again thanks the Washington Chapter of the American Red Cross for providing free space for classroom facilities.

### NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

by Susan Lee, Chairperson

The Nominations Committee met in October to select our Chapter's nominees for AGA National President-Elect, Capital Region Vice President, and the Washington Chapter Officers and Directorate for the 1985-1986 year. The Nominations Committee was

composed of Doris Chew (JFMIP), Tom Mundell (AID), John Reifsnyder (GAO), and Adam Shaw (DOD).

Selected for National President-Elect was Joseph Burris, South Central Region, Baton Rouge Chapter. Mr. Burris is the Legislative Auditor of the State of Louisiana and a Regional Vice President for AGA, as well as a member of the National Executive Committee. In addition, he has served as a Past-President of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers, President of the Government Finance Officers Association of Louisiana, and is a member of the National Intergovernmental Audit Forum.

John F. Schultheis, Montgomery-Prince Georges Chapter, was nominated for the office of Regional Vice President. Mr. Schultheis is the Budget and Accounting Officer for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and has been a member or officer of numerous Chapter and National committees, including Montgomery-Prince George's President and Chairperson of the National Membership Board.

With the approval of the Washington Chapter's Executive Committee, our nominations for National President-Elect and Capital Region Vice President were submitted in November to the National Office Nominations Committee for their consideration. Subsequently, both Mr. Burris and Mr. Schultheis were selected by the National Office Nominations Committee to run for their respective offices.

In accordance with the Chapter By-Laws, the following slate of nominees for Chapter Officers and Directors for 1985-1986 was selected. The names of the nominees will be presented at the February luncheon meeting. The nominees are:

President-Elect	:	Gary Palmquist	Peace Corps
Treasurer	:	Carol Lynch	Education
Secretary	:	Ken George	Action
Director	:	Lee Beaty	GAO
		Diane Bray	Treasury
		William Kendig	Interior
		Joe Linnemann	State
		Charles McAndrew	GAO
		Dan McGrath	Treasury
		Joe Rothschild	HUD
		Joyce Shelton	DOT
		Steve Varholy	Arthur Young & Co.
		Richard Willett	Alexander Gran

In accordance with our by-laws, we will be electing five Directors each year for a two-year term. Present Directors who will continue to serve during the 1985-1986 year are: David Dukes (HHS), Marcus Page (Treasury), Michael Serlin (Treasury), Gail Young (Energy), and Judith Boyd (Treasury).

Additional nominations for any of the positions may be submitted by petition signed by at least 50 members in good standing. Any such petition must be filed with the Secretary no later than February 15th. Ballots will be mailed to Chapter members with the April Newsletter.

### **ABOUT CHAPTER MEMBERS**

We can all take a lot of pride in the fact that included among recent recipients of Treasury's Award for Distinction in Cash Management are several distinguished Washington Chapter AGAers. Under this new Awards program, awards will be given annually to persons in executive branch agencies for specific achievements in the area of cash management. Treasury sponsors the awards to encourage and recognize excellence in endeavors associated with collection or disbursement of federal funds, cash position management, and optimum use of funds excess to the Government's immediate needs. Chapter members who received awards are as follows: David V. Dukes, Department of Health and Human Services; Mary A. Nugent, Department of Justice; Dr. William A. Kendig, Department of the Interior; Helen O. Sherman, General Services Administration; and James J. Zok, Department of Transportation.

### **OTHER NEWS ABOUT CHAPTER MEMBERS!**

In our item last month congratulating Jim Wesberry and Sus Uyeda on their positions with the International Consortium on Government Financial Management, we failed to mention that Jim Hamilton, of the International Monetary Fund, is also on the Board of Directors. Our face is not just red—but deep scarlet—because he and Jim Wesberry are AGA's Representatives on the Board. (Be sure and read the report in this issue, submitted by Jim Wesberry, on the Consortium's recent conference.)

Congratulations in order to **John Cherbini** on his promotion to Associate Director in GAO's Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Plaudits due also to **George Peck** of GAO's Human Resources Division for his recent Special Commendation Award.

Long time Chapter members will be saddened to learn of the November death of former Chapter President James L. Thompson following a heart attack at his Falls Church home. Mr. Thompson's 31 year federal career included positions with the Railroad Retirement Board, Navy, Air Force, GAO, DOT, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and HEW, where he was head of the Audit Agency at the time of his retirement in 1967. Following retirement Mr. Thompson continued an active interest in AGA and until very recently was a frequent attendee at our monthly luncheons.

Thanks a bunch for your input! Keep it coming! (Lee Beaty, 275-9430).

### FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT: KEY TO AVERTING CRISES

The financial crises now facing many developing nations are similar to that faced by New York City in the mid-70s, Comptroller General **Charles A. Bowsher** told an international group of government financial managers.

Mr. Bowsher spoke at the first International Financial Management conference, co-sponsored by the International Consortium on Governmental Financial Management and the International Federation of Accountants, in Washington. Representatives from fifty nations participated, including the auditors general of Canada, the Philippines, Haiti, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, and Tonga.

### Ten Years of Progress

"A lot of progress has been made in the United States in the last ten years in the state and local area—progress that wouldn't have been made at all if it were't for the lessons we learned from the New York City fiscal crisis," he said. Among other accomplishments, he cited the enactment of the Single Audit Act of 1984 and the establishment of the Government Accounting Standards Board, which will set accounting rules for state and local governments.

Stating that he anticipated adopting as many GASB standards as possible for the federal government, **Mr. Bowsher** said that, in the long run, he hoped that all governments in the United States would use the same accounting principles and standards. "We should have a common comprehensible financial reporting format which does not require people reading financial statements to be experts in order to understand them. This, historically, has been a problem in the government area."

"I would like to see the 20 largest agencies in the federal government initiate efforts to improve their financial management and accounting systems," **Mr. Bowsher said.** "If the federal government had first-rate systems in the 20 largest departments, with information flowing from those 20 major systems into the Treasury Department, we could then produce consolidated financial statements that could be audited. We would then have the financial information needed to run our government with efficiency."

"In New York officials found that once they had sound accounting and budgeting systems in place and had some decent reports, it became much easier to make the key decisions. I think the same will hold true in the United States government—or in any government anywhere in the world."

### Financial Reporting a Worldwide Concern

Other speakers at the September 27-28 conference buttressed **Mr. Bowsher's** remarks on the importance of government financial management. Financial management has been virtually ignored in many developing countries, according to **Francisco S. Tantuico**, **Jr.**, chairman of the Philippine Commission on Audit.

"The present international debt crisis must be taken as an opportunity to finally act on long-delayed reforms," he urged. "The most important challenge for budget officials, state accountants, and internal and external auditors is to act... to convince our respective governments, and our lending institutions, that reforms in fiscal management should go hand in hand with efforts at resolving the debt crisis."

Even nations which are known for their financial management systems have problems, according to Canadian Auditor General **Kenneth M. Dye**, who caused quite a stir in Canada earlier this year when, in his annual report to the Parliament, he expressed several reservations on the government's financial statements.

Dye's concern is that government financial information is not in a form that is useful to those who need it, such as legislators. "That concern with the needs of users of financial information is also central to the issues facing the international financial community as it grapples with the debt problems of countries in both the industrialized nations and the third world. Any solution of these problems can only be achieved if we have an accurate, complete and clear picture of the financial health of the nations we seek to help," he told the conference participants.

"Effective management of a nation's debt creates a heavy demand for financial and economic information that is both reliable and complete, and perhaps most important of all, appropriate to the needs of those who use it," the Canadian official said. He held out hope for the future, citing a number of international studies currently under way to improve government financial management and reporting, including ones by the United Nations, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the joint U.S. Canadian Federal Government Reporting Study.

**Dye** and **Mr. Bowsher** were named honorary cochairmen of the International Consortium on Governmental Financial Management, succeeding former Comptroller General **Elmer B. Staats**, who becomes honorary chairman emeritus.

Submitted by Jim Wesberry, GAO. Jim is a member of AGA Washington Chapter and is 1985-87 President of the International Consortium.

### ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS—WASHINGTON, DC MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS SEMINAR

Date: Wednesday, February 20, 1985 Time: 9 am - 12 noon, lunch at noon

Location: Channel Inn/Pier 7 650 Water Street, SW

Washington, DC

Registration

Fee: \$35 (includes lunch)

Registration

Deadline: Thursday, February 14, 1985

Attendees: Limited to 75; Walk-in registrations

will be accepted if space is available.

Contact: For more information or to register by phone, call Linda Vandenberg (202)

566-1942.

### **PROGRAM**

9 am Emerging Information Management Issues

Frank McDonough, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Federal Information Resources Management, General Services Administration

Hear a top GSA program official address government-wide resources information management issues—electronic record keeping, mail management, large computer systems, microcomputers—the next stage, telecommunications, and other issues of concern to accountants and executive level managers.

10 am Image Processing Systems, Managing Documents in "Paper Factories"

Connie Zuckerman, Arthur Andensen and Company

Listen to Ms. Zuckerman discuss a new solu-

tion to a problem facing many, the growing paper problem. How can enormous volumes of paper documents be handled and saved? Image storage and retrieval systems may be the answer. They provide quick retrieval, concurrent access, document control, improved processing productivity and more.

11 am State Dept.'s World Wide Financial Mgmt. System—The System & Lessons Learned

Joe Linnemann, Assistant Comptroller, Financial Systems, Dept. of State

Learn about State's standardized, on-line interactive system for foreign and domestic accounting, budgeting and disbursing. This system will service 30 agencies at various levels and handle 135 foreign currencies. It has been adopted by OMB and the foreign affairs community under "Reform 88" as a standard accounting system.

HARDEN AND WEAVER DELIGHT LUNCHEON CROWD

Frank Harden and Jackson Weaver delighted Chapter luncheon attendees on December 6 with their wry humor and quick wit.

You all know them as the Harden and Weaver Show on WMAL radio. They have been waking up Washington for over twenty years with their delightful humor and nonchalant expertise on "you name it." They have become a Washington institution dating back to their formation in March 1960.

Harden and Weaver are a team in the truest sense. They have one great common love—they love Children's Hospital, and especially what this hospital does for kids. So they have put their talents to work and have raised over one million dollars to date for this worthwhile cause.

The Chapter presented a check for \$200 to Harden and Weaver for Children's Hospital. The people attending the luncheon displayed their generosity by contributing an additional \$220.

Please register me for the AGA Wash	ngton Chapter's February 20 Management Information Syst	tems Seminar.
Name	Agency/Firm	THE OWNER OF THE OWNER
Address	Office Phone	
□ Bill my agency/firm	☐ Payment Enclosed (pay	yable to AGA)
Billing Address	Reportations Guarante has a	Ministry
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### **DID YOU KNOW**

- The Single Audit Act of 1984 was signed into law in late October. This legislation requires an annual independent audit for each state and local government entity receiving \$100,000 or more per year in Federal assistance. Each audit will cover the entire financial range of the government entity and will be conducted in accordance with the Standards for Audit of Government Organizations, Programs, Activities, and Functions, issued by the Comptroller General. The audit focuses on 1) accuracy of financial statements, 2) compliance with laws and regulations, and 3) adequacy of internal control systems.
- The Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury, recently announced the appointment of Ronald A. Nervitt as Assistant Commissioner for Information Systems. Mr. Nervitt will manage a staff that is responsible for providing system support and services to financial managers government-wide. He has over 25 years experience in the computer communications and crytographic fields, having managed organizations within the Department of the Navy, General Services Administration, and the National Security Agency. He has published numerous papers on computers and cryptology and received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for outstanding contributions at NSA.
- The 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles resulted in a five year assignment for Arthur Young & Company.
   The CPA firm's role started in 1979 when it began assisting the Olympic Organizing Committee in

the development of a specific financial plan and forecast. From this plan, detailed budgets for more than 90 departments were developed, specific financial controls were established, and the reasonableness of revenue forecasts evaluated. The firm was next given the responsibility for the allocation of 8 million tickets for more than 370 Olympic events and successfully developed the largest single ticketing system ever created. Based on an Arthur Young idea, an integrated telecommunications network, including an innovative electronic mailing system, was developed for the Olympics utilizing the latest in electronic technology. Also, the first fully automated Olympic identification and accreditation system was designed by Arthur Young. This system determined the exact areas to which each of the 60,000 athletes, journalists, officials, and employees had access. Even though the Games are now over, Arthur Young continues as the auditing firm for the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee. The final audit will determine just how fiscally fit the 1984 Olympics actually were.

### CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS

The easiest and surest way of changing your mailing address for all Chapter and National Office mailings is to mail a notice with the new address and an AGA mailing label with the old address on it to:

AGA National Office 727 South 23rd Street, Suite 120 Arlington, Virginia 22202

# NEWSLETTER

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