

Meet AGA's President-Elect Thomas D. Roslewicz, CGFM

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At a recent gathering of AGA's leaders, Tom Roslewicz was talking about the evolution of technology. "Throwing away a Christmas card that plays music when you open it," he said, "is tossing aside more computer processing power than existed prior to 1950."

Putting things into perspective is what AGA's next National President is all about. The Deputy Inspector General for Audit Services at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) since 1986, Roslewicz leads a team of more than 600 auditors nationwide. His auditors are responsible for providing comprehensive audit services for more than 300 HHS programs with annual outlays of \$340 billion. He is also responsible for establishing policy for all HHS audit activities related to these programs.

While Roslewicz's style of dynamic leadership and public speaking brings perspective to those around him, it was a 1978 heart attack and ensuing bypass surgery that brought his own life into focus. Before that, he was involved in his church and Cub Scouts while taking golf and tennis lessons. "Some days, I was going from 6 a.m. to 3 a.m. the next morning," he said. "That came abruptly to an end. I have learned how to say no."



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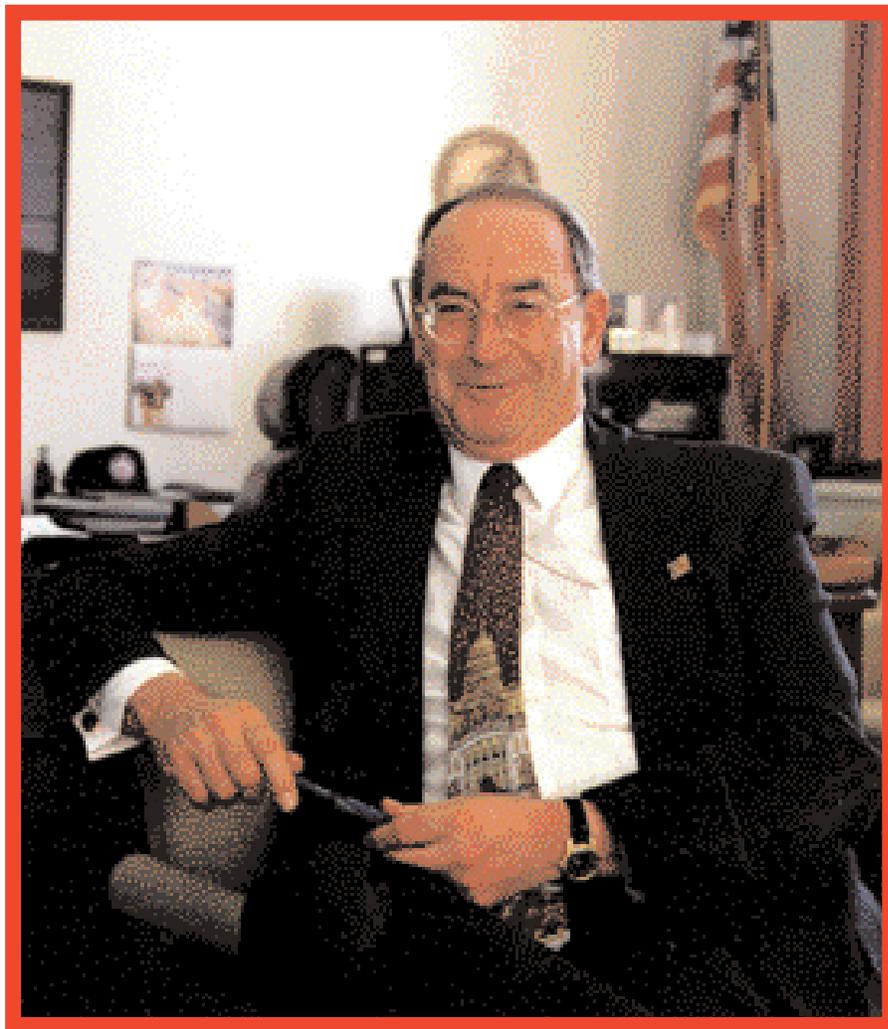
By: Marie Sullivan Force

These days, his extra time is devoted to AGA. "I strongly believe in the benefits of people working together instead of working on the same thing individually," he said. In reflecting on the theme of the 1996 Little Rock PDC, "Progress Through Partnerships" (which he chaired), Roslewicz said, "AGA provides the catalyst to meet the partners out there." He has seen the benefits of AGA membership over the years. "The issues we at HHS/OIG see with federal Medicare are similar to those in state Medicaid," he said. "We are working as partners with 32 state audit groups on such issues as Medicaid overpayments for prescription drugs, clinical laboratory tests and durable medical equipment. The result has been over \$140 million in identified overpayments, recoveries and potential savings to federal and state coffers. AGA fosters that kind of relationship."

When we met in December, Roslewicz was awaiting the outcome of the Association's strategic planning before drafting his presidential goals. He planned to follow the mandates set forth in the plan for his year as president. However, he was already considering the theme of "Dare to Be Bold."

He pointed to AGA's successful Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) program, which met with many naysayers when it was first proposed five or six years ago, as one of AGA's more imaginative initiatives. "Now people are clamoring for it," he said, "because we dared to be bold." He also cited the new Certificate of Excellence program that AGA is developing with the federal Chief Financial Officers Council as another example of the Association's innovative leadership.

Roslewicz plans to use his year of visibility to promote the many benefits of AGA membership. "You can't rest on your laurels," is the message his new hires hear upon joining the HHS audit staff. He encourages them to join AGA and to become certified. "If they are working to advance their personal career goals, I will do all I can to



encourage their success," he said.

Roslewicz is proud of the fact that more than 25 percent of the auditors on his staff are CGFMs and 40 percent are Certified Public Accountants. In fact, a plaque outside his office bears the name of every CGFM in the inspector generals' office. Another goal for next year is to improve the Association's process for appointing members to working committees. He wants to develop a system that matches members' skills more closely with the duties of the committees.

A native of Pennsylvania, Roslewicz arrived in Washington in 1963 after graduating from Kings College in Wilkes-Barre, PA. He began his career at the General Accounting Office be-

fore moving to HHS in 1970. In his spare time, he enjoys rock and shell collecting, model railroading and traveling, and he has taken up jogging since his heart surgery. He is the father of two grown children, Jason, 28, the father of Roslewicz's first grandson, Dylan Rafferty Roslewicz, who was born on January 2, 1998, and Elizabeth, 25, who recently completed her master's degree at Columbia University and is teaching in Fairfax County, VA.

Roslewicz is looking forward to the year ahead as AGA National President. As he works in partnership with members, he hopes to provide them with a framework to develop bold new initiatives for implementing the AGA strategic plan. ■