The Washington Connection

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS
WASHINGTON D.C. CHAPTER

Issue 8 • April 2011

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"A desk is a dangerous place from which to view the world."
- John LeCarre

APR

LUNCHEON SERIES

$10 Early Sign-up Special for Federal Employees for April Luncheon

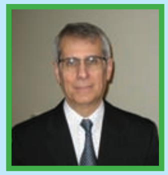
Michael Najjum

Senior Vice President /Chief Financial Officer

Ginnie Mae

"Risk and Controls at the Government National Mortgage Association"

Wednesday, April 20th, 2011
11:30 am - 1:30 pm • Clydes of Gallery Place



Read Bio

Save The Date

Annual Spring Education Conference
Tuesday, May 3, 2011 - Wednesday, May 4, 2011
at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center (Pavilion Ballroom)
1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC

Planning is underway and we look forward to another informative and worthwhile conference. Stay tuned for details as they become available.

Click Here for Directions

Announcements

Attention Mentors and Mentees

Don't forget to "spring forward" and connect with your mentor and/or mentee to continue growing your mentoring relationship! Pick up the phone and connect, if you haven't done so lately.

Please let me know if you have any questions/concerns.

1-703-637-2882
sharnell.montgomery@us.gt.com

Click here to sign up to get newsletter and meeting notices automatically e-mailed **http://agadc.org/mlistsubscribe.php**

Note From the Editor

by Jorge Asef-Sargent, Editor

Welcome to the April edition of the Washington Connection! In this month's edition of the newsletter we have information on the up-coming luncheon for April (which remains popular as ever!); the 2011 Awards Gala; Annual AGA Spring Education Conference; and community service and training opportunities. In the Inside the Black Box, Simcha Kuritzky, brings us an article on standard general ledger accounts and GTAS / FACTS attributes. Also, in our AOC Corner, Kiki Damjanoska, brings us an article on Citizen Centric Reporting

This newsletter is only made possible because of the contribution of articles from the chapter's members. Thank you for all who submitted articles-these articles reflected the depth of knowledge and experience in this group, and the newsletter team is fortunate enough to review and publish these articles. We hope that you enjoy the newsletter and find it helpful for keeping up to date on events in the chapter and in AGA. Our team strives to produce a high quality newsletter notifying AGA D.C. members of Chapter and National events and services. And, if you are not already a member, we encourage you to join the AGA D.C. Chapter and enjoy the many benefits it offer, in particular the high quality luncheon series, learning opportunities, and conferences.

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter? Do you have an article you would like to see printed? Have you developed a time-saving process or procedure on the job? Have you traveled to any interesting locations? The Washington Connection requests that you submit any and all items of interest to our federal, state, and local members including: reviews of recently published books related to financial management; unique travel experiences or assignments; lessons learned on roll-outs of new systems; appointments or promotions; employment opportunities; and noteworthy accomplishments by our members. We also welcome digital photos that accompany your submission. Your articles, comments, and ideas are what make this newsletter go and we welcome all input!

Sincerely,

Jorge Asef-Sargent

Jorge Asef-Sargent, CPA, CGFM
AGA D.C. Chapter Newsletter Editor

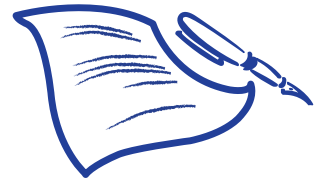
Newsletter Team

Jorge Asef-Sargent, Editor

Erwin Solbach, Graphics

AGA
WASHINGTON DC, CHAPTER

President's Message



by Doug Glenn

Dear fellow AGA DC members,

I was with a colleague the other day who asked: "With all of the daily BS you deal with, how do you stay so calm?" More than one person has asked me this question, so I figured I'd share a couple parts of the answer. First, surviving a life threatening illness helps. When you seriously confront mortality, the daily grind at the office just isn't that big of a deal. I may write more about lessons learned from that experience later but for now, I'll move onto the second part which is that I think I'm pretty good at staying grounded. My office and the things I have in it help me in that pursuit. If you were in my office and looked around, you'd see:

- Charles Minard's 1869 chart showing the losses in men, their movements, and the temperature of Napoleon's 1812 Russian campaign (***http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Minard.png***). It's a picture, based on numbers, which tells a story. I believe that typifies the role of the accountant; to tell a story based on numbers. If our industry is going to expand the value it provides, we need to find the best ways to communicate our general ledger and other information. Minard's information could have been communicated through a six column spreadsheet and I could have figured out what the message/information was in a day or two. However, when you see this picture, the story and numbers are digested much quicker and take on a meaning that a spreadsheet just can't provide. At last year's PDC, I spoke about different ways of communicating information and showed a website (***http://www.visual-literacy.org/periodic_table/periodic_table.html***) with a periodic table that illustrates various graphs and charts that can be used to visually communicate information. I highly recommend you check it out by running your cursor over the various 'elements' in the table and methods of graphical communication. Hopefully, you can use one or more of these methods in a future presentation.

- A letter from the State Board of California apologizing to me for losing my CPA exam. This event even made the front page of the local newspaper. I have the letter and the newspaper clipping framed because it reminds me of perseverance and the value of a good attitude. The loss of my exam meant that I'd have to wait another four months before I could move to DC, that I'd have to take that part of the CPA exam again, and I'd have MORE hours of studying. I distinctly remember reading the letter and digesting what it meant for me. I didn't get angry, I didn't curse, I didn't think about suing, I simply said to myself: "OK, I'll just have to pass it again." It was one of the healthiest responses I've ever had and it allowed me to deal with the situation and move on in a productive way (i.e., start study again) much quicker than if I'd had a worse attitude about it. Events will happen in our lives that we just can't control. We can, however, always control the response we have to those events.

President's Message (cont'd)

- A baseball trophy I received in 1982 for "Most Improved Player". This trophy symbolizes to me the value of self-esteem. I can't begin to undervalue a healthy self-esteem. If you don't believe you have value or that you can contribute to a given situation, how can you expect others to see it? When I was 13 and it was my turn at bat in the local baseball league, I used to approach home plate with fear and trepidation about striking out. As you might expect, that is exactly what happened; I struck out more often than not. Over that summer, a friend taught me about self-esteem. The following year when I was about to approach home plate for an at bat, I mentally pictured hitting the baseball over and over in my mind. I was telling myself that I could and would hit that ball. Each time I walked to the plate that year, I was eager to bat because I knew I could hit that ball and I was anxious for the opportunity to hit it. As a result, my batting average improved significantly enough that it was recognized by the coach with this trophy.

- Another baseball trophy for "Most Runs Batted In". Because of the reasons noted in the previous paragraph, I scored more RBIs than anybody else in the league that year, which meant that I was "the best" at something. It's a powerful feeling to think you're the best at something, and I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to experience that emotion.

- A crystal plaque from staff for "Outstanding Leadership". Leadership is a humbling thing. A leader depends on people, and they depend on him/her for cover, support, and decisive input. It's humbling to think that other people's success depends on you. This plaque reminds me that a wise leader embraces this responsibility and takes appropriate action to provide cover, support, and decisive input to his/her staff because as I've said before: "Your staff's success is your success."

- A crystal paper weight with a motorcycle etched within it. Motorcycle riding is one of my hobbies. I consider hobbies important because they are time spent on yourself. We all hear about work-life balance and how companies/agencies try to give that to us. My experience has been that YOU need to draw the work-life balance line instead of waiting for somebody else to give it to you. Otherwise, email, voicemail, and the endless "to do list" will consume every free minute you have. What is the ONE thing that you enjoy spending your time on the most? I believe it is important to spend time on yourself because if you don't, you'll be less rested, less adjusted, and ultimately less effective in life's daily grind.

President's Message (cont'd)

Finally, there a number of pictures of my wife and son around. There is nothing more grounding than the people you love.

In light of the above, I encourage you to:

1. Think about what keeps you grounded and pursue them;
2. Consider where your work-life balance line is best drawn;
3. List the skills, abilities, traits, accomplishments that you bring to the table and keep that list refreshed in your mind;
4. Choose your reactions to the events that life inevitably throws at us; and
5. For the supervisors/managers/leaders, remember: "Your staff's success is your success" and support them!

Good luck and see you soon at a future AGA function!

Sincerely,

Doug Glenn

Doug Glenn, CPA
President
Washington DC Chapter

Welcome, New Members!

MEMBERS NEW TO AGA DC

Jennifer Ahn	*Ahn & Company LLC*
Victoria O. Akinjiola	*PBCG*
Tesfai B. Asmamaw	*Federal Election Commission*
Mark J. Borchardt	*Institute of Management Accountants*
Sherdell Brown	*Central Intelligence Agency*
Wayne A. Dunbar	*Department of the Interior*
Challen Edwards	*Cost and Performance Solutions, Inc*
John Fohs	*MarkLogic*
Dewey P. George	*DP George and Company LLC*
Nicholas A. Gruber	*IRS*
Laurese Hale	*NASA*
Matthew C. Hardesty	*PwC*
Seumis G. Higgins	*Deloitte Consulting LLP*
Stanley A. Jones	*Federal Aviation Administration*
Kathie Karmazin	*NASA*
Sharda N. King	*Central Intelligence Agency*
Paul Kolar	*Department of Health & Human Services*
Jill Lennox	*FDIC OIG*
Mario Macaluso	*Alvarez & Marsal*
Aliza Margolies	*NASA*
Rita G. Matthews	*Dept of Education*
Ann F. Mazur	*National Business Center*
Darlene R. Olsen	*Dept of the Interior*

Welcome, New Members!

MEMBERS NEW TO AGA DC (cont'd)

Frank Petersen	*NASA*
James Pettit	*KPMG LLP*
Jonathan R. Pollack	*Department of Homeland Security*
Cassandra Pulliam Watkins	*Department of the Treasury*
Jeffrey H. Smith	*Baker Tilly*
Karimah Smith	*Architect of the Capitol*
A. Michael Stevens	*FDIC*
Maria Tzanova	*GSA-OIG*
Michele Webster	*DCAA*
Doris G. Yanger	*GAO*

Request for Newsletter Submissions, Comments, or Suggestions

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter? Do you have an article you would like to see in print? Have you traveled to any interesting locations? The Washington Connection requests that you submit any and all items of interest to our federal, state, and local member including: reviews of recently published books related to financial management; unique travel experiences or assignments; lessons learned on rollouts of new systems; appointments or promotions; employment opportunities; and noteworthy accomplishments by our members. We also welcome digital photos that accompany your submission.

The deadline for submitting articles to appear in the **May 2011** issue is **April 21, 2011**. Please send your comments and contributions to **Jorge Asef-Sargent**, the newsletter editor for the 2010-2011 program year, at jasef-sargent@kpmg.com.

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WANT TO HELP?

If you're interested in being a liason or joining the mentor program, as either a mentor or mentee, please contact Kesha Pendergrast at 202-351-8636 or: Pendergrast_kesha@pendergrastconsulting.com.

Connect to the World of Government Accountability

AGA serves government accountability professionals by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

Click on the link below to view a short AGA video: http://www.agacgfm.org/downloads/agaweb.wmv

Early Careers Corner

Please join the AGA DC Chapter Early Careers for a Beer Lab Happy Hour!

AGA DC Chapter Early Careers will be hosting a 'Beer Making Lab' a.k.a. Happy Hour on **Thursday, April 14 from 6:00-8:00 pm at Gordon Biersch.**

The venue is located at 900 F Street, NW Washington, DC
(right across the street from the Gallery Place/Chinatown Metro)

Drink tickets will be provided for one free homemade brew, or if you prefer, cola or one glass of wine.

Please join the Early Careers gathering and network, network, network!

For more information, and to RSVP, contact Stephen Wills at ***sgwillsusa@yahoo.com***

Hope to see you there!

Stay tuned for our next event in May - a Cinco de Maya Fiesta!

Regards,

Lena Lewis & Stephen Wills

DC Early Career Committee Directors

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Annual Member Awards Dinner and Celebration

JW MARRIOTT®
WASHINGTON DC

Saturday, June 4

Don't miss our Fabulous 2011 Awards Gala! Join us for an evening of dinner, dancing and celebrating with your AGA friends on Saturday, June 4, at the beautiful J.W. Marriott, Washington DC located at 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

- 6 – 7pm, cocktail reception
- 7 – 9pm, dinner and awards ceremony
- 9 – 11pm, dancing with DJ Ronnie

Black tie Optional

- $25 per person by May 13
- $35 per person after May 13

Cash Bar

We have reserved a block of 10 rooms at $199 for the night of June 4. This rate is deeply discounted from the current street rate, but is only available if you book by May 5.

Call 800-393-2503 to reserve your room before this offer expires!

Gala Countdown Checklist:

- Dust off Tuxedo/Select ballgown
- Call friends and colleagues to encourage them to go!
- Update your contact information at ***http://www.agadc.org/page.php?name=mailing_list***
- Call 800-393-2503 by May 5 to reserve hotel room
- Make salon appointments
- Book babysitter
- Register to attend yourself and your guests by May 13 at ***http://agadc.org/page.php?name=gala_information***
- Update Facebook to announce your hot date with the DC Chapter on June 4!
- Plug coordinates of J.W. Marriott into GPS

See you there!

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Want to Make a Difference?

Consider a Career in Government Financial Management

Are you, or someone from your chapter planning to attend a career fair, or an event for college students? AGA now has an eye-catching brochure that offers information about government financial management careers and answers questions for aspiring government financial managers regarding the qualifications and skills needed to get started. It also includes a bookmark for students that directs them to the Tomorrow's Professionals website for more information. To order free copies of the brocure, please submit the collateral order form found in the Members Only section on the AGA national website www.agacgfm.org or contact **Jessica Jones** at JJones@agacgfm.org.

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CGFM News and Upcoming Events

by Karl Payne

Karl Payne

Leon Fleischer

Greetings! Leon and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the following items of interest. If you have questions or interest in CGFM please feel free to contact Leon or myself at ***kpayne@kpmg.com*** and leon.***fleischer@sba.gov***.

March CGFM Training

The DC Chapter just wrapped up second CGFM Class of the 2010/2011 program year. During the six days, one of AGA's national instructors guided another 32 students from federal, local government, and the private sector through all three modules of the CGFM exam. As always, there was no cost to the students, not even the cost of the CGFM study guides – all provided compliments of the DC Chapter. Thanks to KPMG for hosting this session in their downtown office location. The feedback from this class was very positive. The instructor's and materials for these classes are always top notch and the students usually find that it is a rigorous but rewarding six days. Some participants have already taken and passed one or more of the three CGFM exams! Congratulations to all of our Winter Class participants!

AGA's CGFM Website – It's a Great Place for Information

Have you visited the CGFM Certification Directory on the AGA national website? If not, make sure to check it out at ***www.agacgfm.org/cgfm***. You will find a wealth of valuable information that will help you along your path to attaining certification. Just some of the topics you will find covered on the website are: Why Earn the CGFM, Where Do I Start, What Do Exams Cover, How Do I Prepare, How Do I Purchase Exams, and How Do I Maintain a CGFM. And, of course, Leon and I are available at a Chapter level to answer any of your question or concerns. Please feel free to reach out anytime.

March CGFM Training

AGA
BALTIMORE CHAPTER

Annual Fraud Training

8 CPEs (including 2 for Ethics)

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Maritime Institute of Technology

692 Maritime Blvd.
Building #3 Auditorium
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-1952

Featured Speakers

Cindy Brown Barnes - Government Accountability Office, Assistant Director, Forensic Audits & Special Investigations Unit

John McLain - Grant Thornton, Director, Government Audit Services

Jeff Steinhoff - KPMG, Director, Federal Advisory Services

Renee Frank – National Security Agency

Pricing

Price includes **lunch buffet, continental breakfast, and two snack breaks**

AGA Members*: ***$130*** if paid by **April 20, 2011** ***$160*** after **April 20th**

** IIA – CFE – ISACA – ASMC Members receive the member rates.*

Non-Members: ***$160*** if paid by **April 20, 2011** ***$200*** after **April 20th**

Registration

Contact Letha Holliday (410) 966-1820 or Keith Lewis (410) 966-5535 or e-mail www.agabaltimore.org by April 20 for the early bird discount. Deadline to register at full price is April 27.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!

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Connections at your Fingertips...

...Just Click

- *AGA Membership Information*
- *AGA Membership Application*
- *CGFM Program Information*
- *CGFM Program Application*
- *AGA National Home Page*
- *AGA D.C. Home Page (Washington D.C.)*
- *AGA Northern Virginia Home Page (Virginia)*
- *AGA Montgomery/PG Home Page (Maryland)*
- *MACPA Home Page (Maryland)*
- *VSCPA Home Page (Virginia)*
- *GWSCPA Home Page (D.C.)*
- *AICPA Home Page*

Community Service

The Community Services is having a volunteer day at the Habitat for Humanity office located at 2115 Ward Ct #100, NW on **Wednesday, April 13th** from 11:00 to 3:00pm in their office. You can help with data entry of mailing information to people. They are located down from the Dupont Circle Metro.

Call Stu Eisenman, Director of Community Services for more info or ***stue50@aol.com***

Membership Article

Recognition of AGA-DC New Members and Sponsors at the March 2011 Luncheon

Recruiter

At the March 2011 Luncheon, Chapter President Doug Glenn thanked Cheryl Sroufe of Treasury OIG for recruiting a new member to AGA-DC this year and presented her with an AGA-DC lapel pin.

New Members

Doug Glenn also welcomed the following new members and presented each of them with an AGA-DC lapel pin:

- Kristine Chadwick - Ernst & Young
- Rachael Draper - Treasury OIG
- Wayne Dunbar - U.S. Department of the Interior
- Michael Harper - Harper Yon & Company
- Cynthia Heath - U.S. Department of Education
- Rahul Jindal - Federal Consulting & Staffing Co.

Membership Article (Cont'd)

Left to right: Doug Glenn and Cheryl Sroufe; DC Chapter Membership Director Eileen Parlow at podium.

Education

10th Annual AGA-DC/ GWSCPA Conference
The New Age of Accountability and Transparency
May 3-4, 2011

Ronald Reagan Building and
International Trade Center (Pavilion Ballroom)
1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC

The AGA DC Chapter is excited to announce that registration is open for the 10th Annual AGA-DC Conference, co-sponsored by the Greater Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants (GWSCPA).

This year's conference focuses on the dynamic nature of today's financial management landscape as well as changes in government more broadly that impact that landscape. We will hear from government leaders on the latest progress, current initiatives and plans for improving and ensuring continued advances in accountability and transparency. The financial management community will share creative approaches and best practices they are adopting in response to these changes while maintaining operations, clean audit opinions and effective FM systems. And, back by popular demand, the Ethics session will be offered for those interested in earning your annual ethics CPE.

Attendees will have the opportunity to obtain up to 15 hours of CPE over the course of the two-day conference.

Early registration fee is $425 for AGA-DC and GWSCPA members/$500 for non-members. Early registration closes March 31, 2011.

Regular registration fee is $550 for AGA-DC and GWSCPA members/$625 for non-members. Regular registration closes April 22, 2011.

Take advantage of our group discounts – just register 3 or more individuals from your organization and save! The more you register, the bigger the savings!

Follow this link for more information and to register:
http://agadc.org/page.php?name=conference_information

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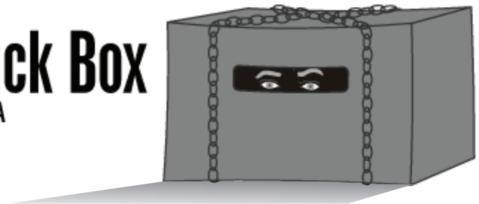
Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA



Setting up the SGL Accounts and GTAS/FACTS Attributes

Introduction

With the Standard General Ledger (SGL) moving to a six-digit code in FY2013, now is a good time for agencies to revisit their account set-up.

All or Just What You Need?

I have assisted a number of agencies in implementing new accounting systems or new SGL-compliant posting models for an existing system. Some agencies insist on including every SGL account in their system, even those specific to activity the agency never engages in, such as contract authority, issuing debt, or administering pensions. Other agencies go to the other extreme, including only those SGL accounts they have used before and expect to use again. The trade-off is in the amount of time spent up front in configuring the system versus having to add new accounts and posting models quickly when the agency has new requirements. An agency does not have to support every SGL account in order to be SGL-compliant; one is only required to report all of one's activity using SGL accounts. I count 473 posting accounts in the 2011 SGL model, and most agencies use fewer than half of those.

The problem gets even worse for SGL-defined transactions. There are 598 of those, but many give multiple possible debit or credit accounts and so could be represented as dozens of debit-credit pairs. I don't think any agency has included every possible posting combination in their system, nor should they. Agencies should also not feel obliged to map every posting to a specific SGL Transaction ID, though some use similar nomenclature to organize their transaction definitions (e.g., A104 plus a suffix letter for their entries to record appropriations accompanied by warrants). Often one must post two or three SGL transactions simultaneously which complicates enumeration. There are also holes in the transaction listings; not every possibility has been listed. As long as the posting is similar to what the SGL has defined, particularly if the posting will pass all FACTS and announced GTAS edits, then it can be considered SGL compliant.

FACTS Set-up

Depending on one's system, it may be easier to set up the logic to assign FACTS attributes by copying from another account's definition. If that is the case, one will want to first sort the SGL accounts by the attribute flags. For example, once the FACTS attributes have been set up for account 3100, simply copy the definition to account 3101, since both accounts use the same attributes. My analysis shows 103 unique combinations for FACTS I Normal Balance, Federal, Exchange, Budget Subfunction, Custodial, Entity, Covered, Program, and Budgetary Impact Indicators. I excluded Trading Partner since it is always Y if the Federal Indicator is F or Y. One can also assign a numeric value to all the attributes by setting aside a range of cells in the spreadsheet. One sets the first column to 0 if Normal Balance is D and 1 if C. The second column, set to 0 if Federal Indicator is blank, 1 if N, 2 if F, 3 if Y, then multiply the result by 2. The third column, set to 0 if Exchange Indicator is blank, 1 if T, 2 if X, 3 if Y, then multiply the result by 8. Continue in a like manner for the rest of the attributes, doubling the multiplier if the previous attribute had only 2 possible values and quadruple it if it had 4, until the Budgetary Impact Indicator value of 0 if blank, 1 if E, 2 if D, and 3 if Y is multiplied by 16,384. For the last column, sum the numeric values calculated and sort on this column. One can leave off any SGL accounts one's agency does not use, and if that means some attributes will never have a value, then leave them out of the equation as well.

The same can be done for FACTS II. Only look at the attributes supplied by the agency and ignore those supplied by FACTS. One might be able to ignore the Begin/End Indicator, since almost all of the attributes required for beginning balances are the same for ending. Unless one has a balance in 4908 Authority Outlayed Not Yet Disbursed, one can

Inside the Black Box (Cont'd)

combine Apportionment Category, Category B, and Program Reporting Category since they all have the same value. Also, Direct Transfer Account is only required when Direct Transfer Agency is, so those can be treated like one field when determining unique combinations of attributes required. FACTS II attribute definitions are all binary, so you just have to set the calculation column to 0 if blank and 1 if Y, times the multiplier. There are only 13 attributes that are significant (counting Begin/End as a field) yielding 45 unique combinations. For example, the unique combination of Normal Balance of Credit, no beginning balance, Reimbursement Flag, Apportionment Category, and Prior Year Adjustment Flag is shared only by accounts 4881 and 4981, and the same combination but with a beginning balance is shared by only 4801 and 4901. The largest group are debit normal balance, no beginning balance, BEA Category, and Prior-Year Adjustment which has 23 SGL accounts, and the same combination but without BEA Category has 19 accounts.

Conclusion

Transitioning to the new account structure and from FACTS to GTAS reporting should not be difficult, but can be time consuming. Taking the time up front to organize the work can yield significant savings overall.

Simcha Kuritzky

Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA

Comments and critiques, as well as specific questions or suggestions for future topics, are always welcome. Send them to Simcha.Kuritzky@CGIFederal.com, and not to the AGA.

This column is provided as part of a free exchange of ideas in federal accounting, and is not reiewed substantively before publication.

Luncheon Speaker: Michael Najjum

Mr. Najjum is the Senior Vice President /Chief Financial Officer (SVP/CFO) of Ginnie Mae. Mr. Najjum is a CGFM with a Bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland and a Master's degree from American University.

As the SVP/CFO, he prescribes and administers accounting systems and procedures, including the design, installation, and maintenance of accounting and cost systems and records. Mr. Najjum insures maintenance and compliance of internal controls and auditing procedures. He has managed and performed numerous contract compliance reviews, risk assessments and risk management analyses. He manages the administrative control over funds authorized for administrative expenses, and the provision of cash management and investment services. As the SVP/CFO, he manages the preparation of the budget for Ginnie Mae.

Mr. Najjum plans and directs a program for establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive system of accounting designed to provide full disclosure of Ginnie Mae's financial results. This takes in the following activities: adequate financial information needed for management purposes; effective control and accountability for all Ginnie Mae findings; and ensuring compliance with the reporting requirements of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act and the Chief Financial Officer Act.

AOC Corner

Citizen Centric Reporting

By: Kiki Damjanoska, Accountability and Outreach Director

Citizen Centric Reporting is a performance and accountability program designed to simplify the exchange of public financial information between the government and taxpayers. In the past, financial and performance reports were characterized as a tedious and arduous task for the preparer. The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) guidelines1 advise Federal, state and local organizations to construct a four page report, supplemented with graphics and figures, to communicate achievements and challenges that lie ahead for the government and public. As a result of formatting reports in such a manner, taxpayers can easily understand how government revenues fund goods and services within their communities.

Beyond reporting generic financial and performance information, Citizen Centric Reporting can be used as a change management tool to drive positive behavior and transparency among stakeholders by communicating results of newly installed programs, levied taxes and even organizational transformations. Most recently, the state of Nevada leveraged Citizen Centric Reporting to communicate how funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 were used to create jobs.

Public entities that participate in Citizen Centric Reporting help their organization advance and refine their reporting capabilities through the Certificate of Excellence feedback process. Participants can submit their reports, cost free, to AGA Citizen Centric evaluators. Evaluators review each report and nominate the participant worthy of the Certificate of Excellence. In addition, participants who do not receive the Certificate of Excellence are still awarded with a Certificate of Achievement. Just like other AGA performance and accountability programs, Citizen Centric evaluators provide recommendations for strengthening the content and format
of submitted reports.

To summarize, Federal, state, and local governments should leverage Citizen Centric Reporting to simplify the communication of public financial information. Citizen Centric Reporting promotes accountability and transparency between government and their constituents. To learn more about Citizen Centric Reporting, contact Susan Friztlen at ***sfritzlen@agacgfm.org***.

http://www.agacgfm.org/citizen/construct.aspx

Benefits of Citizen Centric Reporting	
Citizens Perspective	**Government Perspective**
• Accountability in your hands	**•Actively engage with citizens**
• Aesthetic, easy to read and understand reports	**• Minimal report preparation efforts**
• Better understanding of how tax dollars were spent	**• Improved and enhanced reporting**
• Better understanding of programs	**• Promote transparency**

Meetings Team

Ryan Bolz

Mark Kandra

The Meetings Committee would like to once again thank all of YOU and Clyde's Restaurant for another great luncheon in March. The speakers this year have delivered some excellent messages to the AGA DC Chapter. For the April luncheon, please ensure to sign-up early, as we expect another packed crowd. Also, make sure you get to Clyde's around 11:30am to allow enough time to get situated and enjoy the 3-course meal that is offered.

We would also like to thank Reid Mueller, who has been helping us check everyone in this year. Reid is a Director with the Northern Virginia Chapter of AGA.

We shall see you April 20 at Clyde's – Gallery Place/Chinatown.

Ryan Bolz and Mark Kandra

Ryan Bolz, Mark Kandra
Meeting Team

Calendar of Events - 2010/2011 Program Year

Month	Luncheons	Community Service	Education / CGFM	Membership Services	Early Careers	CEC Meetings
April	20	16	20		14	12
	April Luncheon ***Location & Time:*** *Clyde's of Gallery Place; 11:30am -1:30pm* ***Speaker:*** *Mike Najum, CFO: Ginnie Mae* *CPE: 1.0*	**Habitat for Humanity** ***Location:*** *2115 Ward Plave, NW Washington, D.C.* ***Time:*** *11am - 3pm* ***Contact:*** *Stu Eisenman at* ***240-994-2357***	**Audio Conference** ***Topic:*** *Fraud*		**Beer Making Lab Happy Hour** ***Location:*** *Gordon Biersch* ***Time:*** *6pm - 9pm*	Teleconference #: 888-283-7402 Access code: 2809637 12:00 - 1:00 PM
May	18	19 / 3 - 6	3 - 4 / 9		4	14
	May Luncheon ***Location:*** *Clyde's of Gallery Place* ***Time:*** *11:30am -1:30pm* ***Speaker:*** *Patricia Kelly, CFO of PBGC* *CPE: 1.0*	**Cell Phone Collection** ***Location:*** *TBD* *****Collection during Happy Hour***** *** **Annual National Community Service Project** *New Orleans*	**Spring Education Conference** *** **JFMIP Conference**		**Cinco de Mayo Fiesta** ***Location & Time:*** *Austin Grill; TBD*	Teleconference #: 888-283-7402 Access code: 2809637 12:00 - 1:00 PM
June		9	8			14
	Awards Gala ***Location:*** *JW Marriott* *1331 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest Washington D.C., D.C. 20004* ***Time:*** *6pm*	**Lyons Club Eye Glass Collection** ***Location:*** *TBD*	**Audio Conference** ***Topic:*** *Internal Controls*	**Nationals Game**		Teleconference #: 888-283-7402 Access code:2809637 12:00 - 1:00 PM
July						
				AGA / ASMC **Annual Golf Tour**		

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