The Washington Connection

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS WASHINGTON D.C. CHAPTER



Issue 10 • June 2012

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Annual Member Awards Dinner and Celebration



June 9 J.W. Marriott D.C. 1331 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

\$25 per person

Cash Bar Black Tie Optional

Looking For Ways to Get Involved With the DC AGA Chapter?

The AGA DC Mentorship Committee is seeking energetic volunteers interested in helping to improve the Mentorship Program. Last year we conducted a survey of our members to obtain their expectations. Today, we have planned several activities in response to improving our program. We are seeking volunteers interested in helping to continue to improve the Mentorship Program.

If you are interested in becoming a dynamic member of a great Chapter, please contact Kesha Pendergrast (Pendergrast_kesha@pendergrastconsulting.com).

"Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better."

- Harry S. Truman

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

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President's Message



by Terry Bowie



Welcome to my final newsletter as President of the DC Chapter. I would like to thank Ms. Wendy Payne, Executive Director of the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB), for being the featured guest speaker at our May luncheon.

This has been a tremendous year as I look back over the past twelve months. Our chapter completed its first Citizens Centric Report. This report, designed by AGA, is a demonstration of our commitment to improving performance and accountability of federal, state and local governments for the benefit of the American people. The report hopes to help governments communicate more effectively with the citizenry.

DC Chapter membership, the life blood of the organization, increased to well over 2000 members, once again maintaining our chapters place as the largest in the nation. Many members were able to attend our monthly luncheons and all of our monthly luncheons were sold out and we had the pleasure of having the following noted guest speakers:

- Nancy Fleetwood, Former Commission of Treasury Financial Management Service.
- Debra Bond, former Deputy Comptroller of OBM.
- Beth Robinson, CFO NASA.
- Bryan Smith, Budget Directors, House Select Committee on Intelligence.
- James Taylor, CFO Department of Labor.
- Steve App, CFO Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and
- Wendy Payne, Executive Director, (FASAB).

Our Spring Training Conference, "Tackling Financial Management Challenges in Extraordinary Times" in May 2012 was another sell out that was not only well attended but featured again a stellar cast of presenters with many years of financial management experience and expertise. All of this could not have been possible without our sponsors E&Y, MIL Corporation, CliftonAllenLarson, Kearney and Company to name a few and of course our chapter volunteers from many different agencies and companies.

In June it was an honor for me to recognize our sponsors, member volunteers and our chapter members and notable award winners having made continuous contributions in improving financial management through operations, auditing, training, mentoring and policy. Many of our award winners will also be honored at the National Professional Development Conference in July as well.

President's Message (cont'd)

However, we did not forget those less fortunate. The chapter participated in a number of fund raisers and encouraged donations to many notable charities such as Toys for Tots, Walk to D'Feet, Make-a-Wish Foundation, National Autism Awareness and many others.

In addition, to proving educational audio and video conferences free of charge to members, we also sponsored a number of Certified Government Financial Management (CGFM) courses for our members free of charge. Further, our monthly Networking and Early Career outings provided a venue to meet new friends, establish new or future working relationships, as well as provide the opportunity to exchange and expand on ideas. These things are the hallmarks for members of our chapter and I hope you continue to participate and tell your friends about our chapter. Join, participate, benefit and profit as a member of the DC AGA Chapter.

Thank you

Terry Bowie

Terry Bowie President

Washington DC Chapter

Note From the Editor



by Jorge Asef-Sargent, **Editor**

Welcome to the June edition of the Washington Connection! On July 29th - August 1st, AGA will be hosting its 61st Annual Professional Development

Conference & Exposition (PDC) in San Diego, CA this is the premier education and networking event of the year. At the PDC, you can hear from dynamic speakers, make new contacts, and experience all the culture that San Diego has to offer.

This is the last newsletter of the 2011-2012 year. We will take a break for the summer and resume with the September issue. I wish everyone an enjoyable summer and hope everyone is able to take a break and enjoy the sunshine. On a personal note, it has been my pleasure to be the editor of the newsletter this past year. I have truly enjoyed working with everyone, and want to thank everyone who contributed articles to the newsletter this past year.

This newsletter is only made possible because of the contribution of articles from the chapter's members. Thank you for all who submitted articlesthese 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 offers, 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 Deborah Khavkin, Assistant Editor Erwin Solbach, Graphics



AGA DC Chapter Future Officers are "On Deck"

Eileen Parlow, DC Chapter President-Elect, has been diligently shadowing Terry Bowie during the current program year. Eileen is looking forward to an exciting year working with the DC Chapter's outstanding chapter directors and teams. Eileen's term as DC Chapter President will begin on July 1, 2012.

Jim Dalkin was approved by the DC Chapter Executive Committee at a recent CEC meeting as the next DC Chapter President-Elect and looks forward to his term, which will begin on July 1, 2013.

Save the Date:

Eileen and Jim look forward to seeing you at the Saturday, June 9th DC Chapter Awards Gala. Below are bios for Eileen and Jim.



Eileen W. Parlow

Ms. Parlow is an Assistant Director with the FASAB. She came to FASAB in February 2004 from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), where she had the lead responsibility for implementing the U.S. Government Standard General Ledger, credit reform accounting, and the OMB's Business Rules for Intragovernmental Transactions. She has worked for over fifteen years resolving Federal government-wide accounting and reporting policy issues at the Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Education, and the FASAB, often serving on the U.S. Standard General Ledger Board and numerous other government-wide working groups. At the U.S. Department of Education, she was responsible for budgetary reporting and audited financial statements for the Direct Student Loan Program. Prior to her Federal career, Ms. Parlow's experience included non-profit accounting, private

sector financial statements, and four years as the Comptroller for the U.S. operations of the London Times.

In addition to a Summa Cum Laude Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Southeastern University, Ms. Parlow holds a Bachelor of Arts degree with departmental honors in Psychology from St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn, NY, and a Master's degree in Theological Studies from Harvard University. Ms. Parlow received an Elijah Watt Sells Certificate With High Distinction from the AICPA for her performance on the November 1993 Unified Certified Public Accountant Examination, and she was recognized by the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants for achieving the highest score in Virginia. She is a Certified Public Accountant licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia and a Certified Government Financial Manager.

...Future Officers are "On Deck" (cont'd)



James R. Dalkin

Mr. Dalkin is a Director in the Financial Management and Assurance Team with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). He also serves as a member of the AICPA's Auditing Standards Board and as an observer on the COSO Advisory Board.

Mr. Dalkin has responsibility for directing GAO's work to develop and maintain government auditing standards (the Yellow Book); internal control standards for the federal government (the Green Book); and GAO's work with the accounting and auditing profession. He is also responsible for the audits of the Securities Exchange Commission and the Statements of Social Insurance included in the consolidated financial report of the United States. Prior to joining the GAO, Mr. Dalkin served at a global firm and audited a wide range of organizations ranging from commercial health

care entities to governmental agencies.

Mr. Dalkin is a frequent speaker at national auditing conferences for AICPA and other professional organizations. He has also authored articles for publications including the Journal of Accountancy. He has contributed to the profession through his involvement with the AICPA Task Force on Restricted Use Reports and chairs the International Disclosures Task Force. Mr. Dalkin serves as an adjunct accounting faculty at Georgetown University. Mr. Dalkin has a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the George Washington University and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Virginia.

Sponsor Thank You's

AGADC Sponsors Diamond Contributors







AGADC Sponsors Platinum Contributors







Welcome, New Members!

MEMBERS NEW TO AGA DC

Emmanuel K. Baah, Jr.

Brian L. Baker

Jennifer Bradford-Benesh

Michelle A. Chan

Mac Cloyes

Gena R. Flournoy

Patrick Flynn

Melissa Ann Harto

Chris Jewett

Natasha Kiberu

Brittany Lynch

Kathryn A. Marsh

Patricia McCravy

Cindy Mei

Marcie Minter

Frida W. Mosenge

Amita Avinash Naik

Simin D. Narins

Paul Norton

Pablo D. Ottado

Robert W. Porter

Suzan B. Sheikh

Jeffrey R. Siberon

David Weise

John A. Williamson

AOC Solutions

National Telecom & Information Administration

DP George & Co

PwC

NYU

US Forest Services

US Coast Guard

US Immigration & Customs Enforcement

Accenture

General Dynamics

Lani Eko and Company CPAs PLLC

US Census Bureau

Defense Security Service

Deloitte

Grant Thornton LLP

KPMG LLP

Dept of Veterans Affairs

Dept of HUD

ID Analytics

Deloitte

Grant Thornton LLP

IBM

US Coast Guard

Cotton and Company LLP

Library of Congress

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 members 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.

Please send your comments and contributions to Jorge Asef-Sargent and Deborah Khavkin, the newsletter editors for the 2012-2013 program year, at jasef-sargent@kpmg.com and dkhavkin@kpmg.com.









Ronald J. Lynch Scholarship Award

The AGA Washington DC chapter awards committee is seeking nominees for the Ronald J. Lynch Memorial Scholarship Award. Annually, the Chapter presents one scholarship award for up to \$1,000 to a Washington DC chapter member for the furtherance of professional education. An accredited university undergraduate degree course, graduate courses, CPA review programs and other professional development programs are covered by the scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded to the winning nominee at the Chapter's annual awards banquet. Nominees will be evaluated based on the following:

- 1. Type of course/program
- 2. Contributions to the Washington Chapter
- 3. Years of professional experience
- 4. Applicant's application

If you or someone you know meet the criteria or if you should have any questions, please contact Eleanor Long at *Eleanor.long@ey.com* or 202-327-5903 for an application.

Annual Member Awards Gala



Annual Member Awards Dinner and Celebration Saturday, June 9

With Super Tuesday well behind us, get ready for Super Saturday!

Come share the magic of another Fabulous Awards Gala on Saturday, June 9 at the J.W. Marriott 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**Cash Bar



Parking:

- Valet at the JW Marriott \$47.20+ tax
- PMI 1220 E St. NW (bet. 12th St. NW-13th St. NW) \$22 open until 12am on Saturday
- Ronald Reagan Building \$22 open until 2am on Sunday

See you there!

THANK YOU For Your Support



III ERNST & YOUNG

Quality In Everything We Do

Mentorship

If interested in becoming a mentor, please reach out to Kesha Pendergrast at pendergrast kesha@pendergrastconsulting.com to get your assignment. As we continue to increase our mentors, we'll begin pairing new mentees with new mentors.

> If you would like to be a mentor, and learn more about AGA DC Mentorship Program, please feel free to contact us.

Kesha Pendergrast, Director of Mentorship (<u>Pendergrast_kesha@pendergrastconsulting.com</u>) Sharnell Montgomery, Assistant Director of Mentorship (Montgomery, Sharnel@dol.gov)

Early Careers Corner

Save the Date! Saturday, June 9th

DC Chapter Awards Gala – FREE for Early Careers!

Regards,

Lena Lewis & Stephen Wills

Lena Lewis and Stephen Wills Directors, AGA DC Chapter Early Careers

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







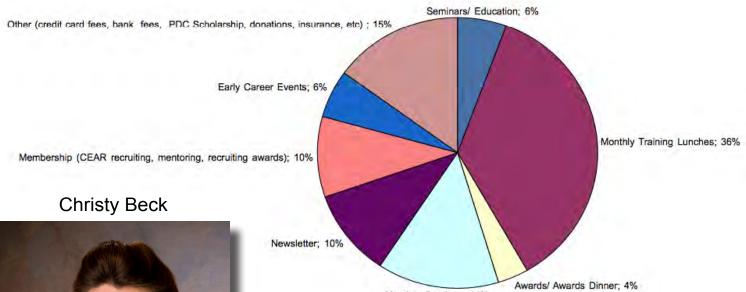
Want to Make a Difference?

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 brochure, 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.

Report from the Treasurer

AGA DC Chapter Year to Date Expenses as of 4/30/12



Member Services; 14%





Certified Public Accountants and Consultants



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

Snapshots









Membership

Membership News and Upcoming Events

The current year membership team is thrilled for the opportunity to help the AGA DC chapter to continue growing and thriving.

Our team is made of a diverse group of people from government and private sector.

The members are:







Ana Chaletzky Assistant Director



Megan Amend Assistant Director



James Dalkin Assistant Director



Mimi Goodwin Assistant Director



Assistant Director

Our main purpose is to continue building membership and attracting strong interest in all AGA DC offerings, including continuing professional education and networking opportunities.

Planned Highlights:

- Recruitment Contest: Membership Committee will hold again a recruitment contest. The first 20 members of our Chapter to recruit/sponsor a new member and come with the new member to a chapter luncheon will receive a \$50 Visa or Master Gift card. The new member will also receive a \$50 Visa or Master Gift card and their first luncheon free.
- Publishing New Members' Names: Throughout the year we will continue publishing names of all new members in the Newsletter. Also, we will start sending DC chapter new member welcome letter.
- Photos of New Members and Sponsors at the Monthly Luncheons: We will continue to provide a monthly newsletter article with photos/names of new members and/or sponsors recognized at the monthly Chapter luncheons.

If you have any questions and/or interested in learning more about our team, please contact:

Boris Lyubovitsky Boris.Lyubovitsky@hq.dhs.qov

Ana Chaletzky achal@loc.gov DalkinJ@gao.gov James Dalkin Megan Amend mrsamend@gmail.com Mimi Goodwin mgoodwi@us.ibm.com

Sal P. Ercolano, Jr. sal.ercolano@cliftonlarsonallen.com

Membership (cont'd)

Recognition of AGA-DC New Members and Sponsors at the May 2012 Luncheon

AGA-DC Membership Committee Contest Winners

At the May 2012 Luncheon, Chapter President Terry Bowie presented Christy Beck for recruiting Katherine Jackson and Al Pavot, Revegene Moran for recruiting Motunrayo Dindi, Karl Boettcher for recruiting Mike Rabinovitz and Shujaat Khan with Visa gift cards.



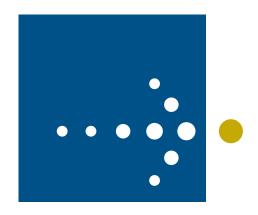
Left to right: Christy Beck, Al Pavot, Revegene Moran, Motunrayo Dindi, Mike Rabinovitz, Shujaat Khan, Karl Boettcher, DC Chapter President-Elect Eileen Parlow, DC Chapter President Terry Bowie.

Note: Not shown Katherine Jackson. Sorry

Thanks to Assistant Membership Director, Mimi Goodwin for taking this picture.

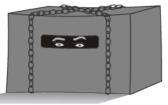






savantage solutions

Inside the Black Box by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA





Automating Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

Introduction

In an attempt to reduce the need for customization, the Financial Systems Integration Office of the Office of Management and Budget (FSIO of OMB) released five years ago an exposure draft on a Common Governmentwide Accounting Classification (CGAC) system. The GCAC proposal will be implemented as part of GTAS (Governmentwide Treasury Account Symbol

Adjusted Trial Balance System) in FY2013. If we are really serious about meaningful standardization, we need to take a hard look at what codes we have and if they really are needed.

Code Evolution

On the first day, Treasury made SGL Accounts, and they were good. On the second day, Treasury made the Federal/Nonfederal attribute, and thought it was good until they tried to eliminate interagency transactions in FACTS I. So on the third day, Treasury made a two-digit Trading Partner, but that helped only a little. On the fourth day, Treasury made a four-digit Trading Partner. On the fifth day, Treasury placed in GTAS Trading Partner Agency Identifier Attribute (what was two-digit but is now three) and Trading Partner Main Account Identifier Attribute (a four-digit fund group), effectively creating a seven-digit Trading Partner, and we haven't gotten to day six yet. However, Trading Partner fields are only required for proprietary accounts; GTAS has eliminated the Transaction Partner, Direct Transfer Agency, and Direct Transfer Account fields that were used for budgetary accounts in FACTS II. So while the Federal/Nonfederal Code is superfluous for most proprietary accounts, it is the only such field used on budgetary accounts, plus Treasury has added a value of G for accounts (or balances) associated with the General Fund, and certain Treasury Account Symbols (TAS) can use a value of E for non-federal exceptions in certain budgetary accounts. So it looks like Federal/Nonfederal Code is here to stay.

Conflating Fields

Some fields are interrelated and could be combined with little difficulty. One example concerns the Authority Type and Advance Flag attributes in FACTS II. One of the Authority Types is D for Advance Appropriation, while Advance Flag can be P for Prior Year, F for Future Year or X for inapplicable. GTAS eliminates the Advance Flag and added Authority Type values of E for Advance in Prior Year and F for Advance from Future Year. However, the same thing could be done for Borrowing Source as well (which only has 3 possible values: F for Federal Financing Bank, P for Public and T for Treasury), since B for Borrowing Authority is also one of the Authority Types. GTAS could use B for Federal Financing Bank, T for Treasury, and U for Public.

Fund-Related Fields

Some of the old FACTS I and II fields are not part of the GTAS trial balance; instead they are included as part of the TAS definition on the Super Master Account File. The old FACTS I field Budget Subfunction and FACTS II field Definite/Indefinite Authority are two examples.

Inside the Black Box (cont'd)

Old-Fashioned Budgeting

Budgets used to be based on cash. While agencies are now required to do accrual accounting, agency budgets are generally considered spent when the obligation (order) is incurred. However, some of the reporting requirements are still based on cash. In particular, the budgetary cash spending accounts (415300, 480200, 490200, 490800, 498200) must declare if they are disbursing old-year money or new-year money with the Year of Budget Authority (YBA) attribute. This antiquated approach is difficult for accountants to deal with, since no-year funds carry over into the new year's budget and are often apportioned, allotted, and spent as one pot of money. Perhaps OMB can eliminate the YBA attribute and the cash reporting requirement for the sake of accrual accounting.

Using the Big Picture

An SGL trial balance assumes one is using the SGL accounting model. Since debits must equal credits, often the information required from an attribute is available from the SGL account posted on the other side of the entry. So if OMB really needs to know whether old or new funds were disbursed (using the YBA attribute), they can add carryover (account 4201) to collected recoveries (487200 and 497200) to get the maximum old-year authority, and if disbursements is more than that, then that is the old-year amount that was disbursed, and if disbursements is less than that, then all disbursements were of old-year authority.

Similarly, the amount of reimbursable expenditures incurred is equal to the change in balances for 425100 and 425200 Reimbursements and Other Income Earned – Receivable and – Collected. Many years ago, the SGL used account 4241 and 4242 for Unfilled Customer Orders Unpaid and Paid, and this account had the same balance as reimbursable undelivered orders (the 48xxxx series). It would be easier to revive the 424xxx accounts and use the balances of accounts 424100 through 425200 to determine reimbursable obligations than to split out the 48xxxx and 49xxxx series of accounts into reimbursable and direct via the Reimbursable attribute.

Conclusion

There are many benefits to consistency and standardization that CGAC can yield. The yield will be even greater, though, if we take this opportunity to reassess the many SGL attributes and eliminate or combine those that are superfluous.

Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA

Simcha Kuritzky

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 reviewed substantively before publication.

Meetings Team

Ryan Bolz



Mark and I would like to thank everyone for all their support this last year. EVERY SINGLE luncheon has been SOLD OUT (days before the event). This is a true testament to everyone's hard work, the line up of speakers we have been fortunate to have, as well as our DC Chapter AGA leadership. Clyde's has been great, too!

We have tried to accommodate everyone's dietary needs and we thank you for your patience. It has not been easy to juggle 150 lunches each month, but I have had a great team led by Mark Kandra along with Mark Kandra



the assistance of Sean Simmons, Rob Marsh, Jim Pettit, Brett Olexovitch, Tyson Shenefield, Michele Macary and Aaron Rosenberg. We are looking forward to having another successful year starting in September. For those we won't see at the June Gala or in San Diego, enjoy your summer with your friends and families and see you in the Fall.

Ryan Bolz and Mark Kandra

Ryan Bolz, Mark Kandra **Meeting Team**







Calendar of Events - 2011/2012 Program Year

Month	Luncheons	Community Service	Education / CGFM	Membership Services	Early Careers	CEC Meetings
June	9			TBD		
	Annual Awards Gala Location: JW Marriott - 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest Washington D.C., DC 20004 Time: 6:00pm			Washington Nationals Game Location: Nationals Park Time: TBA		
	NOTES					

2011/2012 Officers and Directors

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Assist Director, Ana Chaletzky Library of Congress 202-707-6728 / 4261(fax) achal@loc.gov

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