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Would you like to receive e-mail reminders of our monthly meetings and conferences? If so, please log on to the AGA National website at https://members.agacgfm.org to verify that all of your contact information is up-to-date (you will need your AGA member id and password).

May 18th AGA-DC Luncheon — Separate Focus of the CEAR Program versus the Mercatus Center's "Annual Performance Report Scorecard"

by Julia Ranagan, AGA-DC Newsletter Editor

AGA-DC held the seventh and final luncheon in our 2005 – 2006 luncheon series, "Getting to Green and Everything in Between!," at Zola Restaurant in Washington, DC, on Thursday, May 18, 2006. AGA-DC was honored to feature Hal Steinberg and Maurice McTigue as its last distinguished speakers of the chapter year. Mr. Steinberg is a technical consultant under contract to AGA who currently oversees the AGA's Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) program; and Mr. McTigue joined the Mercatus Center in 1997 as a Distinguished Visiting Scholar following an illustrious career as a New Zealand Member of Parliament, Cabinet Minister, and Ambassador.

Mr. Steinberg summarized the history of the CEAR program. He noted that nine agencies will be receiving the certificate of excellence for their fiscal year 2005 performance and accountability reports. Those agencies are the Department of Education, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Labor, the Department of State, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Government Accountability Office, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Patent and Trademark Office, and the Social Security Administration. The award winners were presented with their award at a black-tie reception on the evening of Wednesday, May 24.

continued on page 8



President's Message by Lisa Casias, President





Ms. Lisa Casias, President

Dear Chapter Members,

This edition of our newsletter will be the last for the DC Chapter year until we begin events again in September. Planning for next year is already in full swing and suggestions on Chapter activities are always welcome. You may contact any of the Board Members for the 2006 -2007 year to discuss your ideas or to volunteer to work with any of our committees.

As I look back on this past year, I am amazed at all of the events and services the DC Chapter was able to provide to its members. None of this would be possible without the dedication of the Board and other volunteers. This year we were able to:

- Provide seven educational lunches with a diverse group of presenters including OMB, GAO, FASAB, and Treasury. We even learned a little bit about counterfeiting!
- Honor our chapter members and award winners at a fabulous awards dinner and reception at the Pier 7 Restaurant. The keynote address by John Kasich was inspiring and the evening was a great way to wind down the 2005 - 2006 chapter year.
- Allow members to participate free of charge in four educational audio conferences ranging from internal controls to ethics.
- Sponsor our annual two-day conference with the theme Mission Possible: Getting to Green. The speakers and panels were outstanding and we reached maximum
- Sponsor two CGFM courses for our early career members free of charge. In addition, we held three working luncheons for these members that featured a variety of speakers from the financial management community, including a panel of individuals that provided tips on taking the CGFM exam.
- Re-establish our membership liaison network by reaching out to federal agencies and business partners.

- Support our community by providing opportunities for members to donate to charities such as Toys for Tots and the Make a Wish Foundation. Members also had the opportunity to participate in the ALS walk and Christmas in April. In lieu of speaker's gifts, the Chapter continued to donate monies to a charity in our speakers' honor this year to the AGA National Hurricane Relief Fund.
- Provide members with some fun activities including visits to the National Zoo, Mount Vernon, and a tour of the National Cathedral. We were also able to treat members to a fun social hour at Bertucci's and a holiday get-together at Old Ebbitt Grill.
- Present ten lucky individuals at our luncheons with a pair of tickets to the Washington Nationals baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies on June 10.

As a result, the DC Chapter will be recognized at the AGA National PDC in San Diego for achieving the highest level of recognition, Platinum, for all of the sponsored activities. Our Chapter will also be recognized for our outstanding newsletter. This is a direct result of the hard work of our newsletter editor, Julia Ranagan, who has had the tough job of keeping all of the Board on task in submitting information! In addition, thanks to all of the work of Tonya Allen-Shaw and Lloyd Farmer, the Chapter will also be recognized for our community service activities.

Working on the DC Chapter Board has proven one of the most rewarding experiences in my career. I would like to thank all of the Board members for their support during the past year and look forward to supporting Scott Bell as he moves in to lead the 2006 – 2007 Chapter year. Of course we would also like to thank our sponsors who enable the Chapter to continue to provide high quality programs and events to our members. We would not have had such a great year without the generous support of Savantage Solutions, Delta Solutions, Grant Thornton, Kearney & Company, KPMG, MIL Corporation, PricewaterhouseCoopers, the Bureau of the Public Debt Administrative Resource Center, and Management Concepts.

Thanks to everyone for a great year!

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AGA-DC Events Calendar



June 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				/	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Schedule of Events

June 10 – Washington Nationals Baseball Game

(see page 10)

June 18 to 21 – AGA Professional Development Conference in San Diego (see pages 19 – 20 of May 2006 newsletter)

AGA-DC Events have a border.

Schedule of Events

July 4 - Fourth of July (Federal Holiday)

July 9 to 14 - Annual ACFE Fraud Conference & Exhibition

(see page 31 of April 2006 newsletter)

July 10 to 11 – Excellence in Government 2006

(see page 32 of April 2006 newsletter)

July 13 – ASMC/AGA Golf Tournament (see page 11)

July 26 to 28 – 9th Annual Blue Ridge Professional Development Conference (see page 20)

July 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						/
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	//	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

AGA-DC Events have a border.

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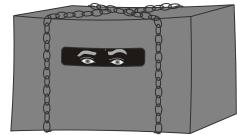


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Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA



An Immodest Proposal IV . . . (Reimbursable Fixed Asset Life Cycle without Budgetary Accounts)

Introduction

Previously, I proposed federal accounting without budgetary accounts to see what could be gained and what was lost. I already covered the appropriated budget and spending cycle with expenses and fixed assets, as well as reimbursements for expenses. This time I show how fixed assets purchases, depreciation, and disposal could be accounted for in reimbursable funds.

Set up (net effect of entries A302, A304, B202 and B204 described in my April 2006 and March 2006 columns)

Debit 1371 Reimbursable Agreements Credit 3130 Obligated Authority

Note: This combined entry shows the net postings for an agreement and obligation.

C182 Collect advance for a reimbursable agreement.

Debit 1032 Collections - Reimbursement Advances

Credit 2311 Advances from Others - Reimbursable Agreements

B107 Purchase fixed asset and disburse funds.

Debit 1750 Equipment

8803 Purchases of Capitalized Assets - Non-Appropriated

Credit 1040 FBWT – Disbursements – new 8801 Authority Used for Purchases

Note: Accounts 8801 and 8803 both close into 3210 Funded Capital. Since expenditures are already treated as a kind of obligation (see line 8 of the Statement of Budgetary Resources), expending the order does not change the status of the authority, so I leave the balance obligated in 3130. Account 1040 takes the place of both 1010 and 4902 Delivered Orders - Obligations, Paid, and closes to 1010.

For a reimbursable fund, customer agencies' advances fund the purchase, so there is no need to keep a balance in a separate equity account (3210). Unlike the appropriated model discussed last time, the obligation entry here stays open until the asset is fully depreciated or disposed of. This is because the funding source for this purchase has not yet been realized, as the performing agency still has an obligation to use the asset for future work (on existing or future agreements).

D515 Depreciate Equipment - Reimburseable

Debit 6103 Reimbursable Depreciation, Amortization, and Depletion

2311 Advances from Others - Reimbursable Agreements

3130 Obligated Authority

Credit 1759 Accumulated Depreciation on Equipment

1371 Reimbursable Agreements

5202 Revenue from Reimbursable Services Provided - Federal

Note: For a reimbursable fund, depreciation is not unfunded but earns the agency the right to bill for the asset usage. Hence a regular expense account (6103) is posted along with 5202 revenue which both close to 3130, and reimbursable agreements become earned. Because the advances are no longer funding that part of the asset, the obligation is directly reduced. This entry is similar to the reimbursable expenditure/expense entry from part 2 of this series (see my April 2006 column). In order to attribute the advance and revenue to the appropriate customer, the agency would have to separately book each customer's piece of the transaction.

An Immodest Proposal IV . . . (Reimbursable Fixed Asset Life Cycle without Budgetary Accounts)

(continued from page 6)

C310 Equipment Disposal - Depreciation

Debit 1759 Accumulated Depreciation on Equipment

Credit 1750 Equipment

Note: At the end of the asset's useful life, the reimbursable fund sells the asset. This entry is the same as in the SGL, except that I split it out from all the other disposal activity so each debit credit pair is always for the same dollar amount.

C313 Equipment Disposal – Deobligation for Reimbursable Fund

Debit 6103 Reimbursable Depreciation, Amortization, and Depletion

2311 Advances from Others - Reimbursable Agreements

3130 Obligated Authority Credit 1750 Equipment

1371 Reimbursable Agreements

5203 Revenue from Sale of Goods

Note: The obligation is still outstanding for the book value of the asset. This entry closes out both. Since the asset has now been fully utilized, the reimbursement has been earned. A revolving fund which assumes the responsibility for gains or losses would only post the 3130 / 1750 accounts here and then recognize a gain or loss the same way the appropriated fund did in the last column. In order to attribute the advance and revenue to the appropriate customer, the agency would have to separately book each customer's piece of the transaction.

C314 Equipment Disposal - Collected for Reimbursable Fund

Debit 1034 Collections - business type

1371 Reimbursable Agreements

5203 Revenue from Sale of Goods Credit 6103 Reimbursable Depreciation, Amortization, and Depletion

2311 Advances from Others - Reimbursable Agreements

3130 Obligated Authority

Note: This entry is made for the amount of cash collected up to the asset book value. This reduces the amount of advance applied for writing off the asset in entry C313. If the cash collected is less than the book value, the loss would be considered part of the cost of doing business and would be taken from the customer's advance. If the agreements do not allow for that, then any shortfall in collections from the purchaser of the asset would be made up by an appropriated fund, so the reimbursable fund would still recognize revenue from the sale of goods. Any collections in excess of book value would be recorded as custodial revenue in a receipt fund, unless the agreements required that it be distributed to the customers.

Conclusion

Accounting for fixed assets in a reimbursable fund is tricky, since the performing agency has to both cover their costs and fund their disbursements. Depreciation and asset disposal costs are thus considered funded expenses, unlike their treatment in an appropriated fund. Over the life of the asset, service revenue is credited for the annual depreciation and sales revenue for the net loss (if any) on disposal, while reimbursable depreciation is debited for the purchase cost less salvage realized. Next time, I will go through examples of upward and downward spending adjustments.



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.

May 18th AGA-DC Luncheon — Separate Focus of the CEAR Program versus the Mercatus Center's "Annual Performance Report Scorecard" (continued from front page)

Mr. Steinberg outlined the major differences between the CEAR program and the Mercatus Center "Annual Performance Report Scorecard," including the purpose, scope, and review process among other things. Mr. Steinberg stated that the CEAR program prepares a report that summarizes the results of the review each year and lists commendable practices and examples of creativity. The report is available on the AGA website at http://www.agacgfm.org/performance/cear/cearprioryear.aspx as a PDF file under "Evaluation Summary" (note: at the writing of this article, the 2005 evaluation summary was not available online).

Mr. Steinberg described how the CEAR program works and noted that there is a planned fee increase for the coming year – CFO Act Agencies will be required to pay \$7,500 to participate in the certificate program while component agencies will continue to pay \$5,000.

Mr. Steinberg noted that new CEAR guidelines are being developed for the coming year. These new guidelines will be looking for a lot more candor and balance in the reports, as well as more conciseness. The CEAR program is moving towards evaluating the quality of the reports more than it has in the past.

Mr. McTigue described why the Mercatus Center began looking at annual reports. He noted that while the Government Performance and Results Act began taking effect in 1999, there was no significant emphasis being placed on the GPRA requirement that agencies present the results of their performance. The "Annual Performance Report Scorecard" was born out of the "Strategies for Success" conferences and the Mercatus Center's desire to look at reports of government departments through the eyes of the citizen. The ultimate goal was to bring accountability to the elected officials.

Mr. McTigue summarized that there are three criteria that make a report successful: (1) accessibility; (2) results in a form that is beneficial to the citizen; and (3) predictions about what will happen in the future. Mr. McTigue stated that partial disclosure "does not count as good reporting."

With respect to the first criteria – accessibility (transparency) – the following questions should be answered:

- · Have you found it?
- Can you read it?
- Can you determine what progress has been made?

With respect to the second criteria – results (benefit to the community) – the following questions should be answered:

- · What is the agency trying to achieve?
- Do the performance measures show the benefit to the community?
- Does it prove that the agency has had a causal effect on the result?
- Does the agency know what it costs per unit of success?

With respect to the third criteria – predictions (forward-looking leadership) – the following questions should be answered:

- Where is the evidence of the benefit to the nation?
- Where are the solutions to poor results?
- · Is there a process of continuous improvement in the management of the program?
- What predictions are there about the policies of the future?

Mr. McTigue explains that the "Annual Performance Report Scorecard" ranks the reports versus grading them because an "A" is very different from being "number one." He likened the ranking to the Oscars, saying "everyone wants to win."

Mr. McTigue opined on the success of the scorecard program by noting that not only have the reports improved as a result of the scorecard ranking, but the internal management of the agencies has improved as well. He noted that the jury is still out on whether performance reporting will continue to improve but they are seeing encouraging signs. He cited the Office of Management and Budget's Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) as one of the recent improvements.

continued on page 9

May 18th AGA-DC Luncheon — Separate Focus of the CEAR Program versus the Mercatus Center's "Annual Performance Report Scorecard" (continued from page 8)

However, Mr. McTigue stated that the federal government is still missing a government-wide strategic plan. He noted that accountability for the individual agencies has dramatically improved since 1999, but accountability for Congress and the Administration has not shown the same progress.

Messrs. Steinberg and McTigue addressed numerous questions from participants. One interesting comment to note was Mr. McTigue's explanation of how the New Zealand government holds its agencies and bureaus accountable. The government requires each individual agency to sign a purchase agreement that lays out exactly what is expected in return for the monies that are appropriated. Agencies only operate according to the purchase agreement and appropriators hold them accountable for completing the agreement. As a result, there are no unfunded mandates and appropriators are able to tell if they got what they paid for.

The results of the fiscal year 2005 scorecard can be found at http://www.mercatus.org.

Lisa Casias and Scott Bell, AGA-DC President and President-Elect, congratulated Susan Johnson, Mike Lippert, Chuck McAndrew, and Eileen Parlow on winning the drawing for two tickets each to the Washington Nationals baseball game on Saturday, June 10, 2006, against the Philadelphia Phillies. That brings us to a total of 10 individuals that we were able to award a pair of tickets to this year thanks to our generous sponsors. Join us at the next AGA-DC luncheon in September – stay tuned to the AGA-DC website at www.agadc.org and your September newsletter for more details.

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 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 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 Washington Connection will not be issued in July or August. The deadline for submitting articles to appear in the September 2006 issue is August 11, 2006. Please send your comments and contributions to Don Geiger, the newsletter editor for the 2006 – 2007 program year, at <u>donald.geiger@do.treas.gov</u>, or to Sarah Suchland, the newsletter assistant for the 2006 – 2007 program year, at <u>sjsuchland@deloitte.com</u>.

Baseball Game, June 10, 2006











AGA-DC Member Services, in partnership with the Northern Virginia and Montgomery/PG chapters, is sponsoring a Washington Nationals Baseball game. The game will be played against the Philadelphia Phillies on Saturday, June 10, at 1:20 p.m. at RFK Stadium. Come join us in cheering on the home team. We will be in section 513 – rows 7-11, seats 1-16. The seats in our rows are already sold out, but AGA members can purchase tickets for other rows in section 513 or in adjacent sections 512 and 514 for \$16.00 at www.nationals.com or 888.632.6287. The closest entrance to section 513 is either gate A or the main gate. Gates will open at noon.

There will be a stadium promotion/giveaway of the "Chad Cordero Bobblehead" for the first 15,000 fans. Also, watch for AGA-DC listed among groups on the scoreboard sometime toward the middle of the game.

We would like to thank our corporate sponsors – Savantage Solutions, Delta Solutions, Grant Thornton, Kearney & Company, KPMG, PricewaterhouseCoopers and the Administrative Resource Center (ARC), Bureau of Public Debt

The suggested parking for those coming from Maryland is lot 7. Virginia and DC drivers are directed to parking lot 8. The parking cost is \$12.00. The Stadium is located across from the DC Armory. The Stadium is accessible from the metro (Blue-Orange Line to the Stadium-Armory station); driving directions are available at www.nationals.com in the dropdown menu for RFK Stadium. If you are interested in attending this activity, please inform our Member Services Director, Karl Boettcher, at karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov or 202.874.6131.



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Applicants selected for our Washington Federal Practice will be subject to a government security investigation and must meet eligibility requirements for access to classified information.

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Golf Tournament, July 13, 2006

AGA-DC Member Services, in partnership with the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC), is again sponsoring a golf tournament at the Gunston Course in Fort Belvoir, Virginia on Thursday, July 13, 2006. The format for the 18 holes will be Captain's Choice with shotgun tee time start at 7:30 a.m. The entry fee is \$45.00 per person (government) and \$85.00 per person (non-government), which includes lunch, golf cart, greens fee and prizes. There will be individual and team awards.

There is a five percent discount for foursomes registering together. Other foursomes are created as needed. If you have a group of 2, 3 or 4, please ensure that they all pay with the same registration. Early arrival is suggested to clear base security, register in a timely manner, and warm-up on the practice green and driving range. To register, please contact (ASMC) Brian Boshart at brian.boshart@ps.net or 703.289.6832. Make checks payable to ASMC and send to ASMC Washington Chapter, P.O. Box 16237, Arlington, VA 22215-1237, and attn: Golf Tournament. If you would like more information on this activity, you can also contact AGA-DC chapter representatives Dan Christovich at dchristovich@comdt.uscg.mil or Karl Boettcher at 202.874.6131 or karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov.

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Early Career Luncheon Panel Discusses CGFM Exam; One Lucky Participant Wins a Free Paid Registration Fee to the PDC

By Laura Glass, AGA-DC Director of Early Careers

The final Early Career Luncheon was held on April 13, 2006, at Deloitte's downtown offices. The DC chapter sponsors a catered luncheon series for early career members three times a year. This year, the luncheons have been held at Deloitte's downtown offices and we thank them for sponsoring a convenient space for the DC Chapter to hold these luncheons.

At the April luncheon, four experienced panelists spoke to a group of 25 early career members about the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) exam. They spoke about tips for preparation, test-taking, and how the CGFM certification has helped their career. The four panelists pictured from left to right are Sylvester Reed from the Department of Health and Human Services, Jack Wilson from the General Services Administration, Bobbi-Jo Andersen from Grant Thornton, and Curt Woller from the United States Air Force.



Each panel member discussed their CGFM experiences with the group and then responded to questions during an open question and answer period. At the end of the luncheon we held a drawing for one free paid registration fee for an early career member to attend the 2006 Professional Development Conference in San Diego. Norman Freeland of the Census Bureau was the lucky winner.

This luncheon completed our Early Career Luncheon series for the 2005 -2006 program year. Please join us in the fall when we start up the luncheon series again.

Join the AGA-DC Mailing List

To sign up on the AGA-DC mailing list and receive periodic updates, go to http://agadc.org/mlistsubscribe.php, enter your email address and click "Subscribe."

To unsubscribe to the AGA-DC mailing list at any time, go to http://www.agadc.org/mlistunsubscribe.php, enter your email address, and click "Unsubscribe."

The Bottom Line

Included for your information is a summary of AGA-DC's quarterly financial report for the nine-month period ending March 31, 2006.

For the nine-month period ended March 31, 2006, AGA-DC's revenues (\$73,602) exceeded expenses (\$64,217) by \$9,385. This is largely due to the generous sponsorship that AGA-DC has received this year and only three-quarters of a year's expenses. AGA-DC expenses through March 31, 2006, primarily consisted of expenses for the monthly luncheon and awards dinner (\$32,553), the first CGFM course for early career members (\$15,000), part of the annual conference expenses (\$5,066), layout of the newsletter (\$2,700), member services events (\$2,205), donations to charity (\$1,000), video CPE conferences (\$921), early career luncheons (\$832), credit card fees (\$683), and various expenses for community service, membership promotion, bank fees, and supplies.

Note: From March 31, 2006, through May 11, 2006, AGA-DC has also paid the following significant expenses: additional awards dinner expenses in the amount of \$14,416 and annual conference expenses in the amount of \$10,144.

If you have any questions related to this report, please contact John Lynskey, AGA-DC Treasurer, at *jlynskey@nsf.gov*.

March 31, 2006

Beginning Balance	\$165,600
Revenues	73,602
Expenses	64,217
Ending Balance	\$174,985
Checking Accounts	\$ 32,424
Money Market	139,972
Prepaid Expenses	589
Accounts Receivable	2,000
Liabilities	0
Total	\$174,985

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Membership and Liaison News

by Marguerite Nealon, AGA-DC Membership Director, and LeAnn Corcoran, AGA-DC Membership Assistant

As the program year comes to an end, we want to thank the agency and corporate liaisons, as well as all the members of the DC chapter, for their support and commitment to the organization's growth. We had a very successful year in recruiting liaisons that can spread the word about AGA events in their organizations. We look forward to continued success in the coming year. Liaisons, be on the lookout to reconnect with us during an upcoming Fall Liaison Luncheon.

To all current members, it is time to renew your membership with AGA for the next program year. This is an easy process and can all be done on-line. If you have not already done so, just go to <u>www.agacgfm.org</u>, click on Membership → Join AGA or Renew → Membership Renewal. You can view your current profile, click on Billing and proceed with payment online. We thank you in advance for your continued support of AGA National and your local DC Chapter!

Welcome, New Members!

Please welcome the following members who recently joined AGA-DC:

Gordon T. Alston Jorge Arizmendi, Jr. James Brett Kevin Brown Janet L. Carlson William W. Clancy Letitia Day Daniels Dana Friend Tong Giang Manish Kumar Gupta Vanessa Hester Marsha E. Houser Robert Irish Sheikh Ishmael Nathan Johnson Yoojin Kim Alexandra Le Lee J. Lofthus, Jr. Joseph Gerald McIntyre Joseph F. Pollock Tiffany Rogers Bill Slack Tenna B. Smith Perry Trueax Brenda H. Walters George Michael Ward Emily Warthen



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Nashville Chapter Goes the Extra Mile for CGFM

by Christina M. Camara, AGA National Publications Manager

AGA's Nashville Chapter has pulled off its own version of a hat trick – gaining high-level recognition of the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) credential three times this year.

March was proclaimed CGFM Month by the governor, the Tennessee General Assembly, and the Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County government.

The proclamation signed by Governor Phil Bredesen says in part that chapter members "are making significant advances both in professional ability and in service to the citizens of Tennessee by mastering increasingly technical and complex requirements." Nashville Chapter CGFM Coordinator Ronald H. Queen, CGFM, CPA, worked with contacts in the governor's office, and this was the second year the chapter was able to persuade the governor to acknowledge the CGFM through the proclamation.

The chapter did not stop at the governor's office, though. The next stop was the Tennessee General Assembly. Luckily, Nashville's AGA newsletter committee editor, Nichole Curtiss, could ask her father for a little help. State Rep. Charles Curtiss sponsored and helped pass a joint House-Senate resolution, also proclaiming March to be CGFM Month. The difference this time, though, was that no year was specified, so the same resolution will go forward every March.

continued on page 16

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Nashville Chapter Goes the Extra Mile for CGFM (continued from page 15)

Gerry C. Boaz, CGFM, CPA, AGA's CGFM Coordinator of the Southeast Region and the President-Elect of the Nashville Chapter, said the idea to go a step further was raised during a regional coordinator conference call. Once again, AGA's network helped. Queen contacted his former co-worker, Metro Council member Ginger Hausser, who sponsored the proclamation.

Representatives from the governor's office, General Assembly and the Metro Council were then invited to attend a chapter meeting, giving them even more exposure to AGA. Boaz said a press release was issued to the news media throughout the state, explaining the proclamations, the CGFM designation and a little background on AGA itself.

Nashville's work was part of a national effort to pursue state and local government proclamations declaring March CGFM Month as a way to recognize the program and the accomplishments of the CGFMs who display the professionalism exemplified by the designation. Thirteen states and six local governments have issued official proclamations and four more states have issued recognition or congratulatory letters or proclamations (http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/proclamations 06.aspx).

Boaz said that marketing the CGFM outside of AGA is part of a new, long-range strategy for the chapter. More than half of the Nashville Chapter members have already earned the CGFM designation, and efforts to encourage more members to take the three exams have not produced many new CGFMs over the last couple of years.

"We decided it was time to change directions and think outside the box to figure out what we need to do to get more people outside of AGA involved and let them know exactly what AGA is about and what the CGFM is about," Boaz said. In addition to educating legislators and government employees, the chapter is also reaching out to the private CPA firms that may be interested in contracting with government to do audit work. The chapter is planning to send out information, which describes AGA, the CGFM Program and the competitive advantage of the certification with a government focus, to every CPA firm in the state.

Work is continuing within state government as well. While the state Department of Personnel allows various departments to offer salary increases to employees who pass the CGFM Examinations, not every department chooses to do so, Boaz said. Queen is making short educational presentations about the CGFM to personnel directors from various state agencies.

And in an even more ambitious effort, the chapter's CGFM Coordinator and Past National President Charles Harrison, CGFM, CPA, are trying to gain support for changing the job descriptions for certain finance positions in state government so that the CGFM is given preference in hiring. Boaz says the chapter sees this work as a multi-year effort.

The chapter is always looking for new members and new CGFMs, but it is also educating upper-level government officials as to the benefits of the designation, Boaz said. "This approach is trying to work from the top down and from the bottom up at the same time."

Find more information about the Nashville Chapter's CGFM promotions at http://www.nashvilleaga.org/CGFM.htm.

To find out what's happening at other AGA chapters in the area:

Visit the Baltimore chapter's website at http://www.aga-balt.com to learn about their upcoming events.

Visit the Northern Virginia chapter's Web site at http://www.novaga.org to learn about their upcoming events.

Visit the Montgomery/Prince Georges chapter's Web site at http://www.marylandaga.com to learn about their upcoming events.

Congratulations New CGFM

Congratulations to the following AGA-DC member who recently earned her CGFM designation:

Heidi Richards

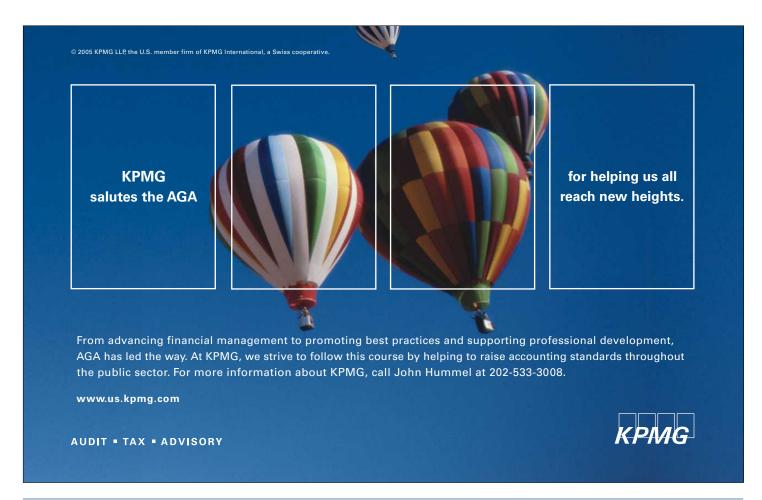
The CGFM is a mark of distinction, demonstrating a commitment to excellence in government financial management. Its education, experience and ethics requirements have served to elevate the most seasoned financial professionals. To find out more about how you can become a CGFM, visit www.agacgfm.org/cgfm.

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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



AGA Awards Nine Certificates of Excellence in Accountability Reporting at Black-Tie Dinner in Washington

On the evening of Wednesday, May 24, more than 200 accountability professionals gathered at the National Press Club to recognize the nine federal agencies that received AGA's prestigious Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) for their Fiscal Year 2005 Performance & Accountability Reports. The recipients were:

- Department of Education (3)
- Department of the Interior (6)
- Department of Labor (6)
- Department of State (4)
- Federal Aviation Administration (3)
- Government Accountability Office (5)
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission (5)
- Patent and Trademark Office (4)
- Social Security Administration (8)

(The number in parenthesis after each agency indicates the number of years, including this year, that the agency has received the award.)

Clay Johnson III, acting director and deputy director for management at the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, applauded the efforts of the agencies and AGA to continuously improve the quality and usefulness of the reports. To read more about the CEAR program, go to http://www.agacgfm.org/performance/cear/.

AGA Awards Eight Certificates of Achievement in SEA Reporting

AGA congratulates the following recipients of the Certificate of Achievement in Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA) Reporting:

- City of Bellevue, WA
- Maricopa County, AZ
- King County DNRP, WA
- · City of Palo Alto, CA
- City of Portland, OR
- City of Des Moines, IA
- Oklahoma HCA
- Prince William County, VA

These entities have integrated performance accountability as a means of managing for results and incorporating citizen knowledge and involvement. The SEA Program encourages the development and enrichment of performance measurement within state and local government entities. AGA congratulates the recipients for their participation in the SEA Program and for their continued commitment to excellence in government. To read more about the SEA program, go to http://www.agacgfm.org/performance/sea/.

A Good Time Was Had by All at the Regional Chapter Officers Workshop in Virginia Beach, VA

by Karl Boettcher, Director of Member Services, and Capital Region RVP-Elect

The Regional Chapter Officers Workshop (RCOW) was a big success. About eighty incoming and outgoing officers, directors and chairpersons of AGA chapters in the Capital and Mid-Atlantic regions participated in the annual RCOW in Virginia Beach, VA on May 5 and 6 at the Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort. Members attended from as far north as Pennsylvania and Delaware and as far south as North Carolina. Conducting the workshop were our Capital Region Vice President-elect, Karl Boettcher, and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Vice President Elect, Janine Prybyla. Speakers included a Past National President, an Executive Board Member, Senior Vice Presidents, a National Office Representative, Regional Vice Presidents, Chapter Presidents and numerous Chapter Directors and Chairpersons.

Participants were given an immersion into AGA and provided with a workshop binder that contained a wealth of current and future reference material. They learned about the AGA from a National, Regional and Chapter perspective. Participants also learned of the information and personnel resources provided by the National AGA office. Key national visions, goals, and initiatives were discussed. The AGA Regional Vice Presidents and the Regional Coordinators were introduced and their role and chapter assistance explained. Chapter "Best Practices" were shared in such areas as chapter newsletters, website development, education succession planning, community service and communications. The workshop also provided plenty of opportunities for participants to network and socialize.

The attached pictures highlight some of our DC chapter involvement. The regional DC, Northern Virginia and Montgomery/PG chapters represented over 50 percent of the attendees with the DC chapter having the largest contingent at 15.















AGA's Richmond & Roanoke Chapters' 9th Annual Blue Ridge Professional Development Conference "The Premier Conference for Human Service Finance and Audit Professionals"

July 26 – 28, 2006
Doubletree Hotel, Charlottesville, VA
Up to 16 CPE Hours (Includes 2 Ethics CPEs for Virginia CPAs)
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Join the Richmond and Roanoke Chapters in Charlottesville on July 26 – 28, 2006 for the "9th Annual Blue Ridge Professional Development Conference." This promises to be one of their best conferences with dynamic speakers and topics --- all revolving around the conference theme "Navigating Change in Health and Human Services." Earn up to 16 CPEs (includes ethics session of 2 CPE hours for CPAs), share best practices, make valuable professional contacts and gain the tools you need to become a more effective professional. Do not miss this opportunity to network with your peers and learn from the best in government accountability.

For more information or to register, go to http://www.agarichmond.org/BlueRidge/9thBRPDCBrochure.pdf.



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AGA-DC 5th Annual Spring Conference a Success

by Mike Allen, Director of Education

AGA-DC teamed with the Greater Washington Society of CPAs (GWSCPA) for a fifth straight year to deliver a spring educational conference entitled "Mission Possible: Getting to Green." The program included a variety of timely accounting and systems topics. Highlights included a keynote address on leadership by Linda Combs of OMB, and a presentation by Charles Cook, III of the US Marine Corps, that began with a Bill Cosby skit and ended with members of the audience wearing body armor (ask someone who attended the conference to explain).

Ninety-nine people attended the conference, earning 15 CPEs along the way. Forty-three attendees were not AGA members, so they got to see what AGA-DC is about.

The conference was held at the International Spy Museum and catered by Zola. Exhibiting at the conference were Savantage Solutions, Delta Solutions, Grant Thornton, Kearney & Company, The MIL Corporation, Bureau of the Public Debt Administrative Resource Center, and Management Concepts.

A complete list of the sessions, speakers, and moderators follows. Most of the presentations are currently available on-line at www.agadc.org/dcconf agenda.php.

Wednesday May 3			
Session Title	Speaker	Moderator	
Welcoming Remarks	Lisa Casias — DOC & AGA-DC		
Keynote Address—Results-Oriented Leadership	Dr. Linda Combs — OMB	Lisa Casias — DOC & AGA-DC	
Fraud Busters	John Gilkes — Deloitte Rick Potocek — Deloitte Bert Edwards — DOI	Karen Alderman — Deloitte	
Future of FSIO (formerly JFMIP)	Mary Mitchell — GSA	Carol Christian — LMI	
Purchase Card Controls	Sally Clark Beecroft — OMB Susan Quinlan — DoD	Carol Pratt — BearingPoint	
Keynote Address —Turning a Financial Statement into Body Armor	Charles Cook, III — USMC	Ron Rhodes — LMI	
Treasury FMS System	Michael Norman — Treasury Keith Jarbo — Treasury	Karen Alderman — Deloitte	
Using Performance Measures to Improve Results	Michael Scott — DLA Ernesto Castro — Veterans Health Administration	Karen Alderman — Deloitte	

continued on page 22

Featured Job Vacancy Announcement

The Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General has an opening for a GS-14 (\$91,407 - \$118,828) auditor to oversee the Independent Public Accountant (IPA) firm performing the financial statements audit (vacancy announcement OIG-06-MJ-104). For more information, <u>visit www.va.gov/oig</u>, <u>www.usajobs.com</u>, or contact Emjay Wenzler at 202.565.4152.

For more federal job vacancy announcements, visit USAJOBS at http://www.usajobs.com/.

AGA-DC 5th Annual Spring Conference a Success (continued from page 21)

Thursday May 4				
Session Title	Speaker	Moderator		
Welcoming Remarks and CGFM Update from AGA National	Mike Allen — LMI & AGA-DC Peter Aliferis — AGA National			
Keynote Address—GAO'S Executive Exchange Program	Sallyanne Harper — GAO	Peter Aliferis — AGA National		
Integrating & Automating the Budget Process	Andrew Schoenbach — OMB Maggie Mitchell — EPA Maureen Wylie — NOAA	Jim Atherton—LMI		
Automating Asset and Property Management with New Technology	Burt Brooks — Navy AIT James Begis — GSA	Joe Kulenguski — Daston		
Steps to Improved Cost Reporting	Angela Norkiewicz — Deloitte	Karen Alderman — Deloitte		
Keynote Address—CFO's Perspective on the Interconnected Worlds of Budget, Accounting, Financial Management, and Performance Management	Phyllis Scheinberg — DOT	Ken Bresnahan — Grant Thornton		
Adding Value Through Internal Controls	Lawrence Neff — DOT Daniel Fletcher — DOI James Martin — HUD	Ken Bresnahan —Grant Thornton		
Realities of Financial Cross-Servicing—The Servicee's Perspective	Steve Balsam — CFTC Gisele Jones — OPM Alan DiGuardia — US Capitol Police	Bob Manuse — Booz Allen Hamilton Steve Johnson — BearingPoint		

Thanks to the Conference Planning Committee for organizing the event:

Karen Alderman Mike Allen Ken Bresnahan Carol Christian Audrey Duchesne Patricia Clark Duncan Lloyd Farmer Phyllis Hunter Darrell Johnson Steve Johnson Susan Johnson Joe Kulenguski Betty Logan Bob Manuse Christina Pfeffer Ron Rhodes Karen Shaffer Maureen Stratford Cliff Williams Bob Yuran



Audrey Duchesne and Lloyd Farmer mingling with the exhibitors.



Participants enjoyed the excellent speakers and presentations at the two-day long conference.



Mike Norman from Treasury presenting on the GWA Modernization project.

Congratulations to AGA-DC Chapter and National Award Winners

by Pat Wensel, AGA-DC Director of Awards

The 47th Annual Awards Presentation was a great success thanks to the hard work of a number of people including Christy Beck, Louella Gorman, and Bryn Rosenfeld. We recognized some of the best in federal financial management. The National Awards Committee has announced the 2006 Award Recipients that will be presented at the 55th Annual Professional Development Conference and Exposition June 18 – 21, 2006, in San Diego, CA. Please join us in congratulating the following Washington, DC Chapter award winners who are also National Award recipients:

Robert W. King Memorial Award

Charles W. Culkin Jr., CGFM, Retired

Frank Greathouse Distinguished Leadership Award

William L. Taylor, CGFM, CPA, Retired

National President's Awards

- Wendy M. Comes, CGFM, CPA, Executive Director, Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board
 Ira Goldstein, Washington, National Director Federal Practice, Deloitte
 - David Mosso, CPA, Chairman, Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board
 - William L. Taylor, CGFM, CPA, Retired
 - · Clifton A. Williams, CGFM, CPA, Partner, Grant Thornton LLP

Educator Award

Virginia B. Robinson, CGFM, CPA, DABFA, Financial Management Consultant, Robinson Consulting

Special Achievement Award

Daniel I. Werfel, JD, MPP, Chief, Financial Integrity and Analysis, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget

Chapter Service Awards

Group A: Washington, DC Chapter, Patricia L. Wensel, CGFM, CPA, Retired

Community Service Awards

Group A: Washington, DC Chapter
Tonya Allen-Shaw, Community Service Co-Chair; Accountant, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Lloyd A. Farmer, Community Service Co-Chair; Vice President, MIL Corporation

Newsletter Awards

Group A: First Place, Washington, DC, Julia Ranagan, Newsletter Editor

Join us at the PDC in San Diego to cheer our Chapter's National award recipients as they accept their much deserved honors.

See pages 22 – 23 of the April newsletter issue at http://www.agadc.org/archive.php for a complete list of chapter award recipients.

continued on page 24

Congratulations to AGA-DC Chapter and National Winners



AGA-DC members and sponsors enjoy a lovely evening at the Pier 7 Restaurant with the keynote speaker, Mr. John Kasich, and AGA's National Executive Director, Relmond Van Daniker.

Back row (I to r): John Kasich, Keynote speaker; Heather Antolini, AGA-DC Silver Sponsor ARC; Relmond Van Daniker, AGA National Executive Director

Front row (I to r): Lisa Casias, AGA-DC President; Michelle Yanok, AGA-DC Silver Sponsor ARC; Pat Wensel, AGA-DC Director of Awards; Karl Boettcher, AGA-DC Director of Member Services and RVP-Elect; and Scott Bell, AGA-DC Director of Programs and President-Elect

AGA-DC Awards 2006 Thank you to our Sponsors!













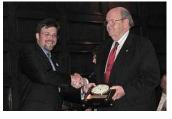




see additional photos on page 25













Congratulations to AGA-DC Chapter and National Award Winners

(continued from page 24)

from top left

- 1 Scott Bell, AGA-DC Director of Programs and President-Elect, congratulates Sam Mok, Department of Labor CFO, on winning the Einhorn/Gary Award.
- 2 Bell awards Lee Lofthus with the Distinguished Leadership Award.
- 3 Charlie Culkin accepts the Robert W. King Memorial Award from Bell. Mr. Culkin will also receive the National Award at the AGA Professional Development Conference (PDC) in June.
- 4 Bell proudly presents Bill Taylor with the Distinguished Service Award. Mr. Taylor will also receive the Frank Greathouse Distinguished Leadership Award and a National President's Award at the PDC.
- 5 Bell awards Ann Davis, past AGA-DC Treasurer, with the James W. Saylor Award.
- 6 Bell presents Virginia Robinson with the Educator Award. Ms. Robinson will also receive the National Award at the PDC.
- 7 Bell awards Mike Allen, AGA-DC Director of Education, with the Chapter Education & Training Award.

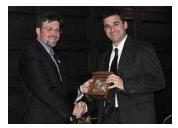
from top right

- 8 Bell awards the Cornelius E. Tierney/Ernst and Young Research Award to Simcha Kuritzky, Publications.
- 9 Bell presents Steve Arisumi and Karl Boettcher with pins in recognition of their 25 and 30 years of membership, respectively.
- 10 Bell awards Danny Werfel, Chief of OMB's Financial Integrity and Analysis Branch, with the Special Achievement Award. Mr. Werfel will also receive the National Award at the PDC.
- 11 Bell awards Laura Glass, AGA-DC Director of Early Careers, with the Early Career Service Award.
- 12 Bell presents Tonya Allen-Shaw and Lloyd Farmer, AGA-DC Community Service representatives, with the Community Service Award. They will also receive the National Award at the PDC.
- 13 Bell congratulates Pat Wensel, Director of Awards, on receiving the Chapter Service Award. Ms. Wensel will also receive the National Service Award for Group A at the PDC in June.

continued on page 26









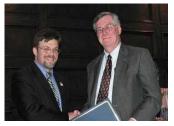














Congratulations to AGA-DC Chapter and National Award Winners

(continued from page 25)

from top left

- 14 Bell proudly presents Linda Combs, OMB Controller, with the Distinguished Federal Leadership Award. Ms. Combs also received the National Award at the AGA National Leadership Conference in February.
- 15 Bell congratulates Karen Alderman, Past President, on receiving an AGA-DC President's Award.
- 16 Bell congratulates Christy Beck, Meetings Chair and Awards Assistant, on receiving an AGA-DC President's Award.
- 17 Bell congratulates Ken Bresnahan, CGFM Coordinator, on receiving an AGA-DC President's Award.
- 18 Bell awards an AGA-DC President's Award to Dan Christovich, who is the current Secretary as well as President-Elect for the 2006 – 2007 program year.

from top right

- 19 Bell congratulates Mia Leswing, Regional Vice President, on receiving an AGA-DC President's Award.
- 20 Pat Wensel presents Lisa Casias, President, with a plaque honoring her service as AGA-DC Chapter President for the 2005 – 2006 chapter year.
- 21 Bell congratulates Marianne Condon, Assistant Treasurer, on receiving an AGA-DC President's Award.
- 22 John Cherbini, Director of Corporate Sponsorship, accepts an AGA-DC President's Award from Bell.
- 23 Karl Boettcher, Director of Member Services, accepts an AGA-DC President's Award from Bell.



John Kasich delivered the keynote address.











The Washington Connection will be back in September 2006.

Thank you for your membership and have a wonderful summer!



What is Missing from this Newsletter?

(from the front page)



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