

The Washington Connection

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS
WASHINGTON D.C. CHAPTER



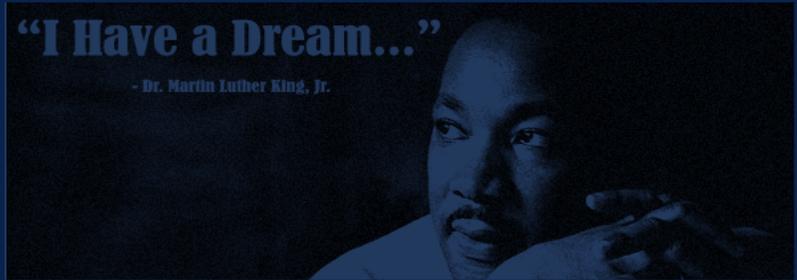
Issue 5 • January 2010

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"I Have a Dream..."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



JAN

LUNCHEON SERIES

*\$10 Early Sign-up Special
for Federal Employees
for January Luncheon*

Daniel Tangherlini



[Read Bio](#)

**Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Management,
Chief Financial Officer, and Chief Performance Officer**

Wednesday, January 20th

Location: Clyde's

The luncheon will be held on
Wednesday, January 20th, from 11:45 - 1:45

Announcements

National Leadership Conference

*February 18th - 19th, 2010
Ronald Reagan Building
and International Trade Center
Washington, D.C.*

[Read More](#)

Winner!



[Read More](#)

Save The Date: Annual Spring Conference

May Conference

The CFO Act Twenty Years Later: Our Past, Our Present and Our Future

Mark your calendar for the AGA DC Chapter Spring Conference,
May 4-5, 2010, at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center.
Stay tuned for program information in our next newsletter.

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

Cover photos by Christian and Barbara Escobar

Note From the Editor

by *Leon Fleischer, Co-Editor*

Welcome to the January edition of the Washington Connection! This is the 1st edition of the New Year. Happy New Year to all our readers. In this month's edition of the newsletter we have information on the up-coming luncheon for January (which remains as popular as ever!), the AGA's intensive review course to obtain the CGFM certification (which is also becoming a source of new members for the AGA DC Chapter), and community service opportunities. In the Inside the Black Box section, Simcha Kuritzky, brings us a technical article on ways to simplify the annual close process. There is also information on upcoming conferences (an excellent way to obtain CPE credits) such as the National Leadership Conference in February and the PDC conference in Orlando in July 2010.



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!

The deadline for submitting articles to appear in the February 2010 issue is January 22, 2010. Please send your comments and contributions to Leon Fleischer and Jorge Asef-Sargent, the newsletter co-editors for the 2009-2010 program year, at leon.fleischer@sba.gov and jasef-sargent@kpmg.com.

Sincerely,

Leon Fleischer

**Leon Fleischer,
AGA D.C. Chapter Newsletter Co-Editor**

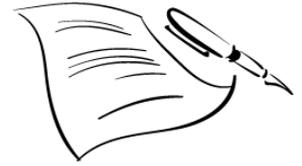
Newsletter Team

Leon Fleischer, Co-Editor

Jorge Asef-Sargent, Co-Editor

Erwin Solbach, Graphics

President's Message



by **Kim Farington**



Happy New Year!! I will begin this New Year's letter with a note of thanks to all of you who have supported the Washington, DC Chapter this year. While we followed some traditions, we attempted some new opportunities this year, and the Chapter Executive Committee and I are very pleased with the results! Without your Executive Committees and volunteers, this program year would not have been as exciting and all the opportunities possible. Be sure to thank your Executive Committee members for volunteering their time to make the first half of the program year such a success.

To start out this New Year, we are pleased to announce Dan Tangherlini as our January luncheon speaker. Mr. Tangherlini is the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at the Department of Treasury. Before becoming CFO at Treasury, Mr. Tangherlini worked at the Office of Management and Budget and also for the DC Government. I look forward to seeing you at the luncheon on January 20th.

Our January luncheon will also spotlight the "Make a Wish" Foundation, which fulfills the wishes of children facing life-threatening medical conditions. "Make a Wish" is a non-profit organization, so we will be taking collections at the January luncheon. If you are unable to make a donation at the luncheon at the registration table, please contact Lloyd Farmer to support this wonderful cause.

Looking back at December, our educational series was successful. Our December luncheon was again a sell-out with 137 attendees where Helen Lew, the first Inspector General for the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority (WMATA) shared her insights into the Transit Authority. Also in December, we held our Certified Government Financial Managers (CGFM) training. Thanks to our corporate sponsors, the Washington DC Chapter was able to offer this training free to all attendees. Due to the overwhelming response to the CGFM training, the Washington DC Chapter will again offer this training, again at no cost to participants, in the March timeframe. Stay tuned for more details on how to register for this free CGFM training.

Our Member Services events were also successful. We hosted a Redskins Gamewatch in early December and also enjoyed another networking reception at Old Ebbitt Grill. Both were well received by participants. Coming this month, watch for information regarding other member service events. We will also be preparing to celebrate the Chinese New Year in early February.

President's Message

Cont'd.



In this New Year, we will kick-off our Mentoring program. Those who volunteered to be a mentor or signed up as a mentee, we will be sending information on the kick-off reception planned for mid-January. If you would like to sign up to be a mentor or mentee, please contact Doug Glenn at Douglas.Glenn@gsa.gov.

Finally, I would like to close by thanking our corporate sponsors, the DC Chapter Executive Committee members, volunteers, and each of our members for making the first half of this program year so enjoyable and educational. I look forward to the remainder of this program year being just as exciting!

Sincerely,

Kim Farington

Kim Farington, CPA

President

Washington DC Chapter

Welcome, New Members!

MEMBERS NEW TO AGA DC

<i>Jessica D. Chapman</i>	<i>December 2009</i>	<i>KPMG LLP</i>
<i>Mr. Scott Bixman</i>	<i>December 2009</i>	<i>Kearney and Company</i>
<i>Ms. Debra Bond</i>	<i>December 2009</i>	<i>OMB</i>
<i>Mr. Andrew J. Grimaldi</i>	<i>December 2009</i>	<i>GAO</i>
<i>Mrs. Sheila G. Miller</i>	<i>November 2009</i>	<i>Dept of Transportation</i>
<i>Mr. Jonathan Lee</i>	<i>December 2009</i>	<i>Deloitte.</i>
<i>Mr. Kenneth Matos, CPA</i>	<i>December 2009</i>	<i>Dept of Housing and Urban Development</i>

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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 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.

The deadline for submitting articles to appear in the **February 2010** issue is **January 22, 2010**. Please send your comments and contributions to **Leon Fleischer** and **Jorge Asef-Sargent**, the newsletter co-editors for the 2009-2010 program year, at leon.fleischer@sba.gov, and jasef-sargent@kpmg.com.



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Winner!



The winner of the AGA DC Design-A-Pin Contest is...

Julia Ranagan

Name: Julia E. Ranagan, CGFM, CPA

Agency: Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB)

Title: Assistant Director

Background: I have been working for the federal government for almost 17 years: six years researching and writing standards for FASAB; two years as a consultant; four years as an accountant; and five years as an auditor. Getting the “soup to nuts” view of federal financial management has greatly enhanced my understanding of the entire process.

How long have you been a member of AGA? 14 years. I was recruited by Ms. Willadene Tolmachoff, CGFM, at a Northern Virginia Chapter Dinner. I joined because Ms. Tolmachoff approached me with a membership form and asked me if I would like to become a member. That is all it takes to recruit someone.

How has AGA helped you with your career? One of the most rewarding things I have done since earning my Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license in 1996 was earning my Certificate in Government Financial Management (CGFM) in 2008. The intensive review course offered by AGA is excellent and I learned a lot about state and local government that I was not aware of before. Studying for the CGFM and taking the exams is a great way to understand the full spectrum of government and how the different aspects interrelate. Signing up for the review course gave me the momentum I needed to dust off my study guides and begin studying for the exam.

What advice do you have for someone thinking of joining the AGA? Join and get involved in some way. The year I served as the editor of the Washington, D.C. Chapter newsletter, The Washington Connection, gave me a valuable look into the workings of the organization that I never saw from the outside in many years of membership. While it was hard work, it was also a lot of fun and I am glad I volunteered.

What is the best thing about working in government service? The variety of work that is available if you take the time to look. There is so much to see and do in federal financial management that it can even keep someone like me interested; the possibilities are practically endless.

What has been the biggest obstacle in getting where you are today? Relying too much on “the way it's always been done.” Benjamin Franklin has been attributed with the following definition of insanity: “doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.” I sometimes have to stop what I am doing and ask myself if this is the best way, the only way, or just the way that has the most tracks.

What is your favorite hobby or outside activity? Currently, my favorite activity would have to be keeping up with my seven-year-old daughter, Heather. She is such a sponge and it is amazing to be able to experience the world from a child's perspective; it is like entering a long-forgotten land that is strangely familiar and yet vastly different.

My favorite activity from all time is skydiving. In 1998, when I was working as a consultant for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in San Diego, I spent my weekends skydiving. I became certified to jump solo after 11 jumps. I have not found anything that tops the thrill of jumping out of “a perfectly good airplane” by myself and zooming across the sky. After inflating the parachute, the ride down to the ground is the most peaceful and surreal thing I have ever experienced. If you want to believe you can do absolutely anything, try jumping out of a plane. Then that system conversion, improper payment report, clean audit opinion, etc. will seem like a piece of cake!



Winner! (cont'd)

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream? Chocolate Oreo® from Baskin Robbins

Anything else that you would like to highlight? My job does not really lend itself much to physical creativity. If your job does not have an outlet for your creative energy, find hobbies or other interests that do. For example, at one place I worked, I joined a scrapbooking club that met once a week during lunch in one of the conference rooms. We even held contests that were judged by independent judges. I have found that taking a short break from pressing work issues to do something physically creative and enjoyable usually returns me to work with a fresh perspective. I had fun submitting pin designs for the AGA-DC Design-a-Pin Contest. Thanks for voting for my design!



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WANT TO HELP?

If you're interested in being a liaison or joining the mentor program, as either a mentor or mentee, please contact Doug Glenn: douglas.Glenn@GSA.gov

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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.

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Luncheon Speaker: Daniel Tangherlini



Daniel Tangherlini was confirmed by the United States Senate on July 24, 2009 to serve as Treasury's Assistant Secretary for Management, Chief Financial Officer, and Chief Performance Officer. In these roles, Tangherlini serves as the principal policy advisor on the development and

execution of the budget and performance plans for Treasury and the internal management of the Treasury and its bureaus.

Tangherlini most recently served as the City Administrator and Deputy Mayor in the administration of Washington, DC's Mayor Adrian M. Fenty. His responsibilities included managing the day-to-day operations, budget development and performance management of District agencies. Tangherlini also served as the Director of the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT) from June 2000 to February 2006.

Prior to his appointment as City Administrator, Tangherlini served as the Interim General Manager of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Tangherlini also served the District of Columbia as Chief Financial Officer of the Metropolitan Police Department from November 1998 to May 2000. Before joining the District government, Tangherlini worked in the Policy Office of the U.S. Secretary of Transportation and in a variety of capacities during six years of service with the Office of Management and Budget in the Executive Office of the President.

Tangherlini received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Public Policy Studies from the University of Chicago and his Master's degree in Business Administration from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

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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 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.

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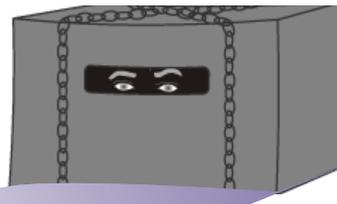
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Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA



One-Step Annual Close

Background

The Standard General Ledger (SGL) Board guidance for annual close is cumbersome and confusing. One way it can be streamlined would be to eliminate ambiguity caused by multiple potential offset accounts. Another way would be to define the closing accounts as end-state accounts only.

Multiple Closing Accounts Example

Entry F112 closes a number of accounts into each other. Let's say that an agency anticipated a transfer from another fund or agency that never materialized (or materialized for less than anticipated). They still have a debit balance in 4160 Anticipated Transfers - Current-Year Authority from entry A468 which they posted originally. The original offset account was 4450 Unapportioned Authority, which is one of the valid offsetting accounts for the pre-closing entry F112. However, OMB could have apportioned the funds and the agency moved the balance from 4450 to 4590 Apportionments - Anticipated Resources - Programs Subject to Apportionment using entry A118. Account 4590 is also listed as a valid offsetting account in pre-closing entry F112. So the closing entry would be to credit 4160 and debit either 4450 or 4590 based on whether or not the agency recorded A118. You have to know the history in order to know which account to debit.

Ideal systems are memory-less, which means you don't need to know the history. In this example, the agency can set up account 4160 to close to 4450 for an unexpired fund (as in entry F308) or 4650 for an expired fund (as in entry F312) if they use the same closing accounts for 4590. Under this method, these accounts would post the same as all other available balance accounts, with the credit balances (generally in accounts 4450 through 4690) increasing available and the debit balances (for anticipated amounts in account such as 4060, 4160, 4210, and 4310) reducing the available.

Other entries which close to multiple accounts use the different accounts for different funds. In these cases, the closing process should be able to use the fund or fund type to determine the proper, unique closing account. For example, entry F336 closes most revenue and expense accounts to 3310 Cumulative Results of Operations for government funds while entries H300 and H301 close them to 3400 Fiduciary Net Assets for fiduciary funds.

Multiple Step Closing Example

Sometimes the SGL lists a series of closing entries. For example, F320 closes 4982 Upward Adjustments of Prior-Year Delivered Orders - Obligations, Paid into 4902 Delivered Orders - Obligations, Paid, while F314 closes 4902 into 4201 Total Actual Resources - Collected. This not only requires two entries, it also requires that F320 be posted before F314 (which means one cannot sequence the closing entries in alphanumeric order). It would make more sense and be easier for F320 to close 4982 directly into 4201, since the balance will end up there anyway. The same goes for entry F322, which should close account 4972 to 4201 and not 4902.

Combined Example

In some cases, it is so difficult to tell which account is closing to which that the SGL guidance gets confused. For example, entry F334 shows accounts 4450 and 4397 Receipts and Appropriations Temporarily Precluded From Obligation closing into account 4320 Adjustments for Changes in Prior-Year Allocations of Budgetary Resources, even though entry F308 shows 4450 closing to 4650, and entry F358 shows account 4399 Special and Trust Fund Refunds and Recoveries Temp. Unavailable - Receipts and Appropriations Temporarily Precluded from Obligation closing into 4397. In fact, entry F334 is supposed to show account 4320 closing to either 4450 or 4397 based on whether the funds are currently available (bolding is supposed to indicate the account closed into, but here it indicates the account being closed).

Inside the Black Box (cont'd.)

Conclusion

Annual close shouldn't be complicated. If the guidance shows a multi-step closing process, the agency should be able to collapse them into one step. If the guidance shows an account closing to multiple accounts, the agency should be able to determine the unique account to be used for closing a particular fund.

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 reviewed substantively before publication.

CGFM Article

Nashville Chapter Secures “Preferred” Status for CGFM Applicants

Job seekers with the CGFM will have an advantage over uncertified competitors if they apply for certain positions in Tennessee’s Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury.

AGA’s Nashville Chapter was instrumental in making the CGFM a “preferred” qualification for three positions in the Office of Management Services within the comptroller’s office: contract review administrator, business administration manager and legislative sourcing oversight manager.

Nashville Chapter President Karen B. Hale, MAOM, CGFM, said she was asked last spring to review job specifications, titles and duties after the retirements of two longtime leaders in the Office of Management Services—including Past AGA National President Charles Harrison, CPA, CGFM. During the reorganization, she proposed the three job specifications include the statement, “A certification as a government finance manager (CGFM) is preferred.” Comptroller of the Treasury Justin P. Wilson approved the change, effective Aug. 1.

The process took a few months, but it was fairly straightforward. Hale’s office is full of AGA supporters and CGFMs, many of whom were involved in the CGFM’s earliest stages, such as Harrison and Past AGA National President Richard Norment, CGFM, CIA. Her director, for example, is Immediate Past Regional Vice President Melinda Parton, CGFM. “We’re fortunate here to have such a rich history,” Hale said. “They laid the groundwork.”

All three positions are now filled with professionals who have passed the CGFM Examinations. Hale, who is the current business administration manager, said she believes that the CGFM certification strengthens an applicant’s knowledge base. “You can’t just walk in off the street and start working and be successful right away,” she said. “These positions involve a lot of on-the-job training, a lot of mentoring, and the more knowledge you bring to the table on the front end, the better.”

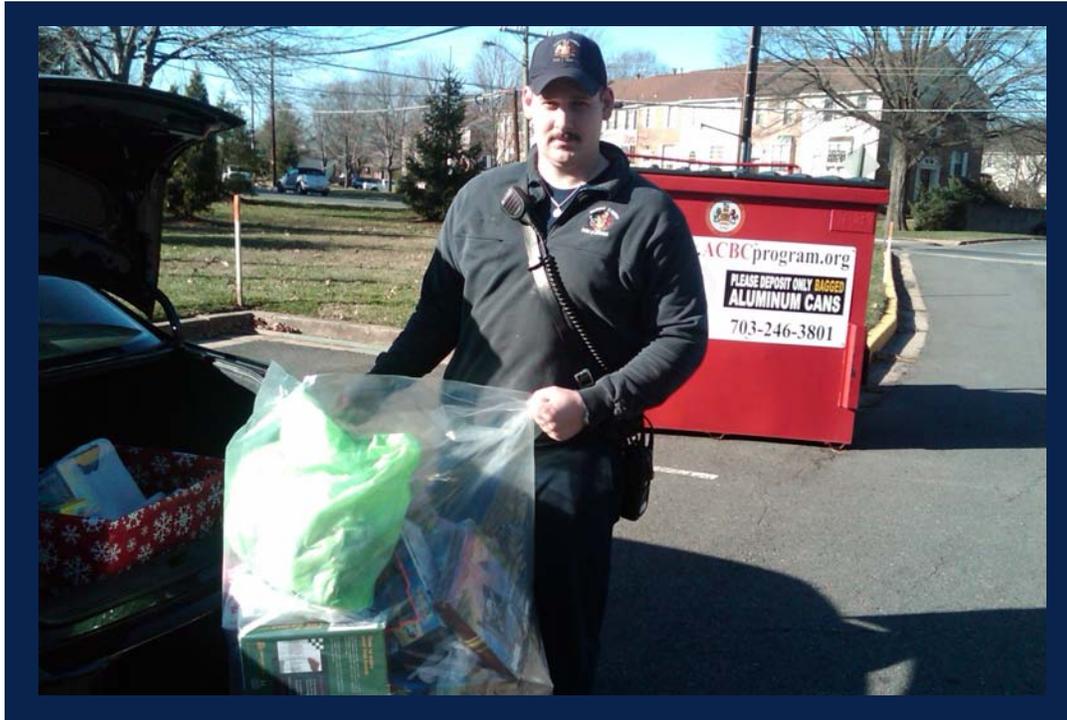
Tennessee has had many successes over the years. The state formally recognizes the CGFM designation with a salary increase if that particular department chooses to do so. The comptroller’s office also sponsored legislation two years ago that requires all municipalities in the state to employ a certified municipal finance officer (CMFO) to produce its financial statements. CGFMs are exempt from the educational requirements of the CMFO designation.

Katya Silver, AGA’s director of Professional Certification Administration, applauds the Nashville Chapter for its work. “It is great to see the Nashville chapter’s initiative and hard work pay off. What a wonderful example of AGA leadership and teamwork!”

In fact, Silver encourages other chapters to learn from what’s been accomplished in Tennessee and around the country. AGA recently held a teleconference dedicated to CGFM recognition—successful practices, challenges, ideas and tools.

Snapshots

TOYS-FOR-TOTS FUNDRAISER



Federal News Article

Agencies promote telework as a powerful tool, not a panacea

By Alyssa Rosenberg arosenberg@govexec.com November 9, 2009

Editor's note: This story is part of a special report on work-life balance. [Click here to view the full report.](#)

Alternative work schedules long have been touted as one solution to the federal government's recruitment and retention challenges. Telework, in particular, has taken narrow but determined root in many federal agencies, and the Obama administration has made it a priority to translate those limited successes into governmentwide standards for telework policies. But the administration also recognizes that agencies and managers have to be more flexible and comfortable making case-by-case decisions. Officials also are trying to balance expectations by underscoring that while flexibility in the workplace is a powerful tool, it's not a magic wand.

"We don't want to make people skeptical by touting telework as a panacea that's going to solve all of society's ills," said Office of Personnel Management Director John Berry during a September meeting of the Telework Exchange, a public-private partnership.

In an OPM report on the state of telework in the federal government in 2008, the latest year for which data is available, 78 federal agencies reported that 102,900 federal employees were working remotely. Of those employees, 64 percent were teleworking on a fairly regular basis at least one day per week. But half those agencies reported that telework was not part of their continuity of operations plans.

"The federal government as a whole is not behind the private sector when you look at the numbers," said OPM Deputy Associate Director Dan Green. "Obviously, there are [individual] companies and sectors that are further along."

Even before those results were released, Berry had decided that federal telework efforts needed to be expanded. In April, he announced that the administration would set up a council of high-level managers to establish standards and best practices for telework policies, require agencies to create appeals processes for employees denied the chance to telework, and develop more extensive training programs to better prepare employees to work remotely and help managers to oversee them properly. All those efforts were part of past telework bills that were introduced in the House and Senate, but failed to move forward.

Green was tapped to lead the administration's efforts. "I would guess only a few of [the policies] are as comprehensive as they need to be," he said. "The Department of Defense is redoing [their policy], OPM, too. GSA just redid theirs. It is a learning process."

As OPM works on its model policy and a checklist tool for agencies to use in evaluating their telework programs, individual agencies and nonprofits with successful programs are trying to continue to promote working remotely to those managers and agency leaders who still are skeptical.

Howard Friedman, an attorney at the Patent and Trademark Office and first vice president of the Society of Federal Labor and Employee Relations Professionals, said PTO has benefited from its telework program, which began more than 12 years ago. PTO is regularly commended, Friedman says, for having patent attorneys answer queries and respond to applications late at night or on weekends. An employee who teleworks from California is able to answer calls and e-mail from applicants who work on Pacific Standard Time, instead of requiring them to schedule calls during the workday on Eastern Standard Time.

Berry has cited the National Transportation Safety Board, which first set up a telework pilot in 2007, and then later moved to an agencywide program. Berry said the number of sick days agency employees take has fallen while retention is up. Green said federal employees with flexible work schedules, including those who work remotely, generally take less time off for emergencies or to recharge from stressful situations because they have more leeway to accommodate unusual circumstances, and to mitigate factors such as lengthy commutes.

Some external groups have urged the federal government to remind its own employees that telework is a possibility and to help them learn if it's an appropriate benefit for them. Cindy Auten, general manager of the Telework Exchange, said Virginia's Telework Day in August, which mostly involved public and private sector employees, had an overwhelmingly positive effect on workers who participated: 91 percent said they were more likely to telework in the future.

Federal News Article (cont'd)

Flexible Feds

Experiments like Telework Day can address one of the most significant barriers to advancing telework: convincing managers that the practice is, well, manageable. OPM's report on the program noted that agencies cited management resistance as one of the biggest impediments to expanding telework in the federal government. Green said that once managers get over the hump of believing that teleworkers somehow have to be managed differently or more aggressively than employees who work in the office, it will be much easier to spur adoption of telework in agencies.

That conversation about management training is an important part of a larger vision of workplace flexibility, says Katie Corrigan, co-director of the Workplace Flexibility 2010 project at Georgetown University Law School.

"I think the bright light has been on telework," she said, "but we also believe there's a much bigger conversation to be had about how the federal government can be a leader across the board on flexible work arrangements, and not just a leader, but an innovator."

Corrigan said government first should create a process that allows federal employees to ask for more flexibility in their schedules. Such a process would foster a sense that telework and other alternate work schedules are not just benefits available to a select few employees, but to all qualified workers. And allowing employees to request more flexibility would mean managers have to be prepared to discuss telework and other options with workers, as well as the performance standards required to succeed in such alternative work schedules.

But Corrigan said the goal of a true workplace flexibility program shouldn't be simply to shunt all workers into telework programs, or schedules with core required hours, or compressed work schedules, which Corrigan said are "a pretty rigid." Instead, a truly flexible workplace would allow employees to move between schedules and arrangements that were most convenient for them at any given time as long as their performance stayed strong.

It's an ambitious goal, but in a November speech at Syracuse University, Berry said the federal government should consider aiming for a "results-only work environment" that would unchain many employees from time clocks.

"It would treat our employees like responsible adults, and if we do it right, with proper training for workers and managers and flexibilities like telework and alternate work schedules, it will boost morale, increase productivity and deliver good value to our taxpayers," Berry said.

And the benefits aren't simply related to job performance, Corrigan said. The Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies has found that among low-wage workers, the risk of cardiovascular disease decreases and the amount of sleep increases when employers are willing to accommodate employees' schedules and family needs. "The case has been made," she said.

According to Corrigan, the federal government now needs to return to the forward-thinking perspective that led Congress to pass workplace flexibility laws for federal agencies in the 1970s.

"They had these same exact issues on the table in terms of major demographic shifts such as women in the workplace, an aging population, people with disabilities having different expectations about being integrated in the workplace as opposed to being dependent on benefits," Corrigan said. Today, "The federal government could be innovating, gathering data, seeing what works, modifying what doesn't, testing it out in a union setting, testing it out in a nonunion setting."

In this administration, Corrigan might finally get her wish.

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Who Is Lloyd A. Farmer?



Name: Lloyd A. Farmer

AGA Position: Assistant Director
Community Service

Company: The MIL Corporation

Title: Vice President

Background: I am currently a Vice President for The MIL Corporation (MIL). I have worked for MIL for the last sixteen years. MIL is a financial management and information technology consulting firm with over 500 employees and has been successfully performing Federal financial management and information technology support services contracts for multiple Federal clients for 29 years.

I have led engagements for MIL in the support of multiple Federal agencies. I have led teams of consultants who have supported MIL's clients in all aspects of financial management, accounting and budget support service. I have also led teams who have supported information technology projects. These teams have been based locally, nationally and internationally.

Prior to joining MIL, I served as a consultant for several large consulting firms. I worked on projects for the Federal government, municipal governments and several commercial organizations. On these projects, I performed testing, programming, configuration management, training, requirement analysis, system design, technical troubleshooting, and project management for financial management systems. I have also developed strategic plans, evaluations of technical hardware and software, system methodology documents, test plans, configuration management plans, computer capacity analysis, cost estimates, project plans, cost benefit analysis documents and implementation plans.

How long have you been a member of AGA? I became a member of AGA in 1998.

How has AGA helped you with your career? The AGA has helped my career by providing me with a constant source of information on emerging issues in the area of financial management and opportunities for education and networking with other financial management professionals.

What advice do you have for someone thinking of joining the AGA? Make sure that you become active. AGA can be a much more rewarding experience if you join the committees and get involved in the organization. Attending the luncheons and conferences are fine but you will get much more if you become involved.

What is the best thing about working in government service? One of the most exciting things about government service is the mission of the organization. When you work in government service you feel like you are really making a difference in the lives of your fellow citizens.

What has been the biggest obstacle in getting where you are today? I would say time management. Like most of us, I have struggled to make good use of my time and have encountered obstacles like over scheduling, over accessibility and procrastination. I have overcome these obstacles by constantly working on improving my time management skills and utilizing tools like PDAs and lists to keep myself on schedule.

What is your favorite hobby or outside activity? I enjoy traveling. My family and I recently took a trip to Seattle and Vancouver and had a wonderful time. I also spend a lot of my time following my favorite professional sports teams (Cleveland Cavaliers and Cleveland Browns). But my most favorite outside activity is spending time with my wife and my two children.

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream? I am a big fan of rainbow sherbet.

Anything else that you would like to highlight? Please don't forget to contact me at 703-294-4473 if you have questions about the Washington DC Chapter's Community Service Activities. We have a lot of great things occurring in 2010 and we need your help.

THANK YOU
For Your Support


MANAGEMENTCONCEPTS
The mind at work

AGADG

Member Services

HAPPY NEW YEAR from Member Services!! So far this winter has been a busy time for us with the Redskins game watch (when they almost ended New Orleans' perfect season!), the Holiday Happy Hour, and the Washington Capitals game. The Capitals game was a joint event with the Northern Virginia chapter, which was a great way to extend our relationship with the NOVA members.

The remainder of the winter is also going to be filled with exciting events including the ever popular Chinese New Year and another networking happy hour. Please keep your eyes out for emails with more information on these events in the coming weeks.

*As always,
we love seeing all the familiar faces at our events and hope to see many new faces at an event in the near future!!*

Community Service

Thanks again to everyone who supported the Toys-for-Tots fundraising effort. Because of your support we were able to contribute approximately 50 new toys and \$660 dollars in donations (\$330 from the DC Chapter & \$330 in matching funds from the AGA National Office) to the Toys-For-Tots Foundation. Thanks to your support many needy children will have a new toy for Christmas.

The AGA DC Chapter will continue their support of the Make-A-Wish Foundation in January. The Make-A-Wish Foundation is a non-profit organization that fulfills the wishes of children facing life-threatening medical conditions. We are asking members and non-members to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation by depositing spare change in a fishbowl that will be at the January 20th luncheon community service table. We will be collecting cash and checks. Please make all checks payable to AGA DC Chapter. We will then deposit the checks and then generate a check from the AGA DC Chapter with all the donations received.

In February, The AGA DC Chapter is continuing our tradition of supporting the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). The VITA Program offers free tax help to low- to moderate-income (\$37,000 and below) people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. Volunteers sponsored by various organizations receive training to help prepare basic tax returns in communities across the country. VITA sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations. Most locations also offer free electronic filing.

Please contact:

Lloyd A. Farmer [703-294-4473](tel:703-294-4473),

Tonya Allen Shaw [202-720-5026](tel:202-720-5026)

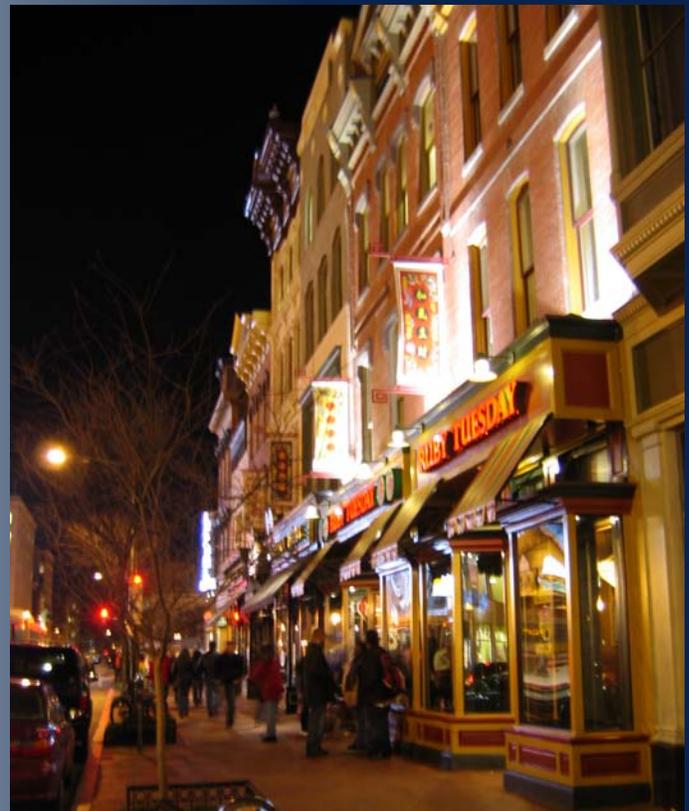
or AnnMarie Walker [202-461-6499](tel:202-461-6499)

if you are interested in these programs.

Raffles at our Monthly Luncheon!

*There will be a drawing at every
monthly luncheon.*

*Another great incentive
to attend the monthly meetings!*



Training Opportunity

Welcome to AGA's Professional Development Conference & Exposition

Location: Orlando World Center Marriott

Conference: July 11-14, 2010

EXPO: July 11-13, 2010

Mark your calendar and make plans to join us in sunny Orlando, Florida for AGA's 59th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition—the premier education and networking event for government financial managers and accountability professionals.

Worth 24 CPE hours, the conference covers the latest research and information about the American Recovery Act, the constantly changing rules and standards, new management techniques, technological advances and practical tips for bringing greater efficiency to government operations. The PDC offers a comprehensive program, captivating speakers, lively discussions, top-quality education sessions, and equips you with knowledge and skills you need to be more effective leader.

While the PDC has long been respected for offering the best training in the profession, it also offers a number of networking events to help you make new contacts, exchange ideas and collaboratively work on solutions to common problems. Exhibitors are also available to demonstrate the newest products, tools and cutting-edge technology available to help your agency achieve its mission.

Registration fees are \$800 for AGA members and \$1000 for nonmembers until June 11, 2010. Register online and save \$25. Early registration saves you money and increases your chances of obtaining accommodations at the conference hotel. Don't miss the opportunity to Dream. Learn. Achieve. – Register today!

- [Register Online Now](#)
- [Registration Form \(PDF\)](#)

We encourage you to bring your families to enjoy everything the Orlando World Center Marriott has to offer. A championship golf course, a full-service spa, and a network of six pools, waterfalls, waterslides and whirlpools, and delectable dishes at world-class restaurants, fun and games at the upscale sports bar, make this hotel a one-stop-shop for relaxation and fun. Discover the magic of Orlando, with its theme parks, water attractions, and many other family destinations, along with the best golfing, night clubs and restaurants in the country.

The rate is \$108 per night (plus tax) for single and double occupancy. However, **rates are only guaranteed until June 18, 2010, or until the room block is sold out.** Reservations received after June 18, or after the room block has been filled, will only be made on a space-available basis, and may be subject to significantly higher rates.

To make a reservation, please call the Orlando World Center Marriott at 800.621.0638 and mention the "AGA PDC" to receive the discounted rate. You can also [reserve a room online](#).

Information about the agenda, speakers, travel discounts and tours is coming soon. Stay tuned to the website for more information...See you in Orlando!

- [Ad/Exhibit/Sponsorship Info](#)
- [Ad/Exhibit/Sponsorship Application](#)
- [Exhibit Floor Plan](#)
- [PDC 2009 Website](#)

Awards Committee Update

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

Annually, the Association of Government Accountants presents at the Professional Development Conference and Exposition a series of awards to recognize individuals for their contributions to the Association. We need your assistance in identifying outstanding individuals who exemplify the characteristics described below:

- **Robert W. King Memorial Award** - an AGA member who has provided superior service that enhanced the AGA's national prestige and stature.
- **Einhorn-Gary Award** - An active AGA member or organization that has, over a sustained period of time, made major contributions to advancing government accountability at the federal, state, and/or local level.
- **Frank Greathouse Distinguished Leadership Award** - A government employee who has demonstrated sustained outstanding leadership and notable contributions to financial management, and to encourage increased interest, growth, development and distinctive leadership in the field of financial management.
- **Achievement of the Year Award** - A government employee who has exhibited leadership or outstanding achievement in developing, implementing and improving financial management in government service in the past year.
- **Educator Award** - An individual who have made significant contributions to the education and training of government financial managers.
- **Cornelius E. Tierney/Ernst & Young Research Award** - An individual who throughout their careers (minimum of 15 years) have made continuous contributions to governmental financial management by their direct participation in research activities and/or through their encouragement and support of others engaged in government financial management research.
- **Chapter Service Award** - An active AGA member who has consistently made important contributions to the development and enhancement of a chapter.
- **International Achievement Award** - A government employee who has exhibited leadership or outstanding achievement in international government financial management.
- **Emerging leader Award of Excellence** - A government financial manager with 5 to 10 years experience providing notable contributions toward excellence in financial management.

Please send the names and nomination information of outstanding professionals to Eleanor Crawford at

Eleanor.long@EY.com

no later than March 15, 2010. If you need assistance or have questions, feel free to contact Eleanor at **202-327-5903**. For more information on each of these awards and their nomination forms, visit AGA's National website:

www.agacgfm.org/membership/awards.

CGFM Exams

Interested in the CGFM certification? Sign up for AGA's special *[Intensive Review Course](#)* and take the CGFM Examinations after the National Leadership Conference (NLC). Don't miss this opportunity to earn your CGFM.

- The Intensive Review Course will take place from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 22, and Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010.
- The CGFM Examinations will be offered by appointment only on Feb. 24-25, at the NLC.
- The cost of the course is only \$249 for qualified participants, and offers 18 CPE hours.

Special Bonus: The CGFM Examinations are offered at no cost to course attendees.

This is a special limited enrollment offer for those individuals who have already been studying for the CGFM Examinations and need extra reinforcement of the material. The Intensive Review Course is not a substitute for the three instructor-led training courses. On the contrary, it is designed as a supplement to previous preparation for the CGFM Examinations. Attending previous courses or studying using CGFM Study Guides before participating in this event is strongly encouraged.

Please go to http://agacgfm.org/nlc_2010/cgfm_exams.htm for more information.

Montgomery County AGA Events

The chapter holds monthly meetings from September through May. Meetings usually occur on the third Wednesday of each month. Reception starts at 6:00 p.m., and the dinner meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

The dinner meetings take place at the *[Hilton Hotel](#)*, located at 1750 Rockville Pike in Rockville, MD. The hotel is across from the Congressional Shopping Center, and also across the street from the Twinbrook Metro Station on the Red Line. Parking is complimentary in the hotel's parking garage. For specific directions or questions about the hotel, you can contact the Hilton Hotel at 301-468-1100.

You will earn 1 CPE for attending. It costs \$30 to attend. You can pay by cash, check or credit card. Remember to bring new or used toys to be provided to the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program.

Monthly Schedule

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC	LOCATION	TIME	DINNER
<u>1/20/10</u>	Al Runnels, Deputy Chief Financial Officer of the Department of the Treasury	Results of the 2009 Audit, TARP and Recovery Act	Hilton Hotel <u>1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852</u>	Reception 6:00pm-6:30pm Dinner and Presentation 6:30-8:30pm	

AGADC Mentor Program



Mentors have had a direct and positive influence on my career throughout the years and have probably helped you in one way or another as well.

The Washington DC chapter of the Association of Government Accountants is organizing a mentorship subcommittee and is looking for volunteers to serve as a mentor. The time requirements and format for mentoring are flexible. It could take as little 1 - 2 hours a month and be conducted via email, phone, Facebook, happy hour, or whatever venue you and your mentee find appropriate (e.g., at the local polka festival). This is your opportunity to "pay it forward" and positively impact the career of someone else.



If you are interested in serving as a mentor, please contact **Douglas Glenn** at 202-501-0562 or Douglas.Glenn@GSA.Gov.

Training Opportunity: National Leadership Conference

Welcome!

Government financial managers are deeply committed to producing timely, reliable and useful financial information, with the goal of running government programs more efficiently. At AGA's National Leadership Conference (NLC), those sentiments are more than just words.

The NLC brings together a stellar lineup of respected government financial management and accountability leaders to share valuable insight, proven strategies, lessons learned, and discuss the newest management techniques and the most recent information on always-changing standards and regulations.

Stay on top of issues that affect you. Sessions cover current issues relating to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the effects of political transitions, a look at the first year of Obama's presidency, and what the future holds. This event also features the newest tools and innovations to help agencies do their jobs more easily and more effectively.

Don't miss this opportunity to earn 14 CPE hours, share best practices, find solutions to shared challenges, network with your peers and learn from the top financial management leaders and industry experts.

Join us **Feb.18-19, 2010** at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. and show your commitment to a more accountable future.

- [Register Online Now!](#)
- [Print Registration Form](#)

http://www.agacgfm.org/nlc_2010/index.htm

Education Training

JANUARY TRAINING EVENT

Assessing the Quality of Performance Information and Performance Reports
 Thursday, January 28 from 8AM - 4PM. KPMG Office located at 2001 M Street, NW, Washington, DC

This course emphasizes participants roles in assuring government accountability by assessing the quality of performance information reported to the public and used by elected officials and other policy-makers.

The course covers the following topics:

- Professional standards that apply to audits of performance information quality.
- Developing objectives, scope and methods for such audits.
- Criteria for reporting results to the public and testing relevance and reliability of measures.
- Best practice case examples for using these techniques.
- A concluding exercise to develop an audit program for assessing the quality of performance information.

CPE credits: 8

Field of Study: Management Advisory Services

Format: Lecture, Group Discussion and Class Examples

Our Instructor - Stuart S. Grifel, CIA, CGAP, Audit Services Division, Palm Beach County Clerk & Comptroller's Office. Mr. Grifel has over 25 years experience in government performance measurement, operations review, performance auditing, and productivity improvement. Mr. Grifel has assisted many jurisdictions in performance measurement and improvement while at KPMG Peat Marwick, the National Center for Public Productivity at Rutgers University, the Innovations Group, the City of Tampa, Florida, and Polk County, Florida. Mr. Grifel has also trained numerous public managers in performance measurement and productivity improvement. Mr. Grifel co-authored the book Auditor Roles in Government Performance Measurement: A Guide to Exemplary Practices at the Local, State, and Provincial Levels (The Institute of Internal Auditors Research Foundation, 2004).

Registration - To register, please e-mail Bob Manuse at manuse_robert@bah.com by Tuesday, January 19. You will receive an email confirming your registration and containing further details about accessing the facility the day of the training and other logistics information.

Course Fee - Free to AGA DC Chapter Members on a first come, first served basis

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Financial Management and IT Advisors 

AGADG

JANUARY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 New Years Day	2
3	4	5 AGA CEC <small>Member Service Event Washington Capitals Game @ Verizon Center</small>	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King Day	19	20 Luncheon (Clyde's)	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31		NOTES: Community Service Event: Make A Wish. Donations will be accepted at the Chapter luncheon. Please contact Lloyd Farmer at 703-284-4473 for more information				

FEBRUARY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 AGA CEC	3	4		6
7	8	9	10 AUDIO CONFERENCE Understanding IT Audits for Program Managers and Auditors Chinese New Year China Garden	11	12	13
14	15 President's Day	16	17 Luncheon (Clyde's)	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						
		NOTES:				

MARCH 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 AGA CEC	3 AUDIO CONFERENCE FRAUD	4		6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Luncheon (Clyde's)	18	19	20
21	22	23 JFMIP Conference	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
		NOTES:				



Calendar of Events — 2009/2010 Program Year

Month	Luncheons	Community Service	Member Service	Education	Early Careers	Membership/ Liason Committee	Awards	CEC Meetings
December	9-Dec-2009	9-Dec-2009	15-Dec-2009	2-Dec thry 3-Dec-2009				1-Dec-2009
	Luncheon Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm Speaker and Location: Helen Lew, Clydes CPE: 1	Toys for Tots. Toys and donations will be accepted at the Chapter luncheon. Please contact Lloyd Farmer at 703-294-4473 for more information.	Holiday Happy Hour @ Old Ebbitt Grill	CGFM Training, Mod 1 and Mod 3 Location: Booz Allen Hamilton				Veterans Administration Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
			6-Dec-2009	8-Dec thru 10-Dec-2009				
January			Redskins vs. Saints Gamewatch Location: Buffalo Billiards	CGFM Training, Mod 2 Location: TBD				
	20-Jan-2010	20-Jan-2010	5-Jan-2010					5-Jan-2010
February	Luncheon Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm Speaker and Location: Daniel Tangherlini, Clydes CPE: 1	Make-a-Wish. Donations will be accepted at the Chapter Luncheon. Please contact Lloyd Farmer at 703-294-4473 for more information.	Washington Capitals Game @ Verizon Center					Veterans Administration Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
	17-Feb-2010	TBD	10-Feb-2010	10-Feb-2010				2-Feb-2010
March	Luncheon Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm Speaker and Location: Phyllis Fong, Clydes, DC CPE: 1	VITA	Chinese New Year	Audio Conference: Understanding IT Audits for Program Managers and Auditors				Veterans Administration Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
	17-Mar-2010	TBD	TBD	3-Mar-2010				2-Mar-2010
April	Luncheon Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm Speaker and Location: Treasury, Clydes CPE: 1	Designer Fashion Show	Australian Embassy Wine Tasting and Art Show	Audio Conference: Fraud				Veterans Administration Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
	20-Apr-2010		TBD	21-Apr-2010				6-Apr-2010
May	Luncheon Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm Speaker and Location: Danny Werfel, University Club, DC CPE: 1	Virginia Vineyards Tour		Audio Conference: The Latest Tools and Techniques for Auditors				Veterans Administration Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
	18-May-2010	18-May-2010	TBD	4-May thru 5-May-2010				4-May-2010
June		Cell Phones and Eyeglasses	Charity Fashion Show and Brunch	Federal Financial Management Conference				Veterans Administration Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
		TBD	Date: TBD				12-Jun-2010	1-Jun-2010
July		Golf Tournament for Charity	Nationals Game ***** Golf Tournament				Awards Dinner Location: Hyatt Downtown Time: 6:30 - 11:00pm	Veterans Administration Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
	TBD							

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