



THE WASHINGTON CONNECTION



Washington DC Chapter • P.O. Box 423 • Washington, D.C. 20044-0423 • (703) 758-4080 • March 2000

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Upcoming Events:

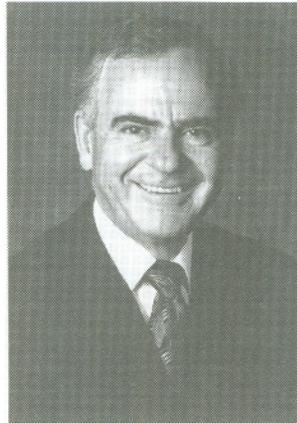
March 14, 2000: JFMIP Annual Financial Management Conference

April 11, 2000: Monthly Luncheon meeting featuring David Walker, Comptroller General of the U.S. (see page 5)

April 18, 2000: Special Evening Meeting featuring Valerie Holt, CFO DC Government (see page 5)

May 4, 2000: Monthly Luncheon meeting featuring Edward A. Powell, Assistant Secretary/CFO, Veterans Affairs

July 3-7, 2000 AGA Professional Development Conference & Exposition, San Francisco Marriott, San Francisco, CA (see page 12 and 13)



Richard L. Gregg,
Commissioner, FMS

Luncheon Speaker

Richard L. Gregg was appointed Commissioner of the Financial Management Service, a bureau of the Department of the Treasury, on February 15, 1998. Since 1987, Mr. Gregg had served as Commissioner of the Bureau of the Public Debt.

The Financial Management Service provides leadership and direction to Federal agencies on a variety of financial management matters. The mission of the Service is to develop and manage Federal financial systems to move the

government's cash flows efficiently, effectively, and securely.

Mr. Gregg will provide his perspective on the progress that the federal government is making in the preparation of the consolidated governmentwide financial statements.

1999/2000 AGA Washington DC Chapter

Monthly Luncheon and CPE Session Thursday, March 2, 2000

Grand Hyatt Hotel
1000 H Street, NW (At Metro Center - 11th Street Exit)

11:30 to 12:00	Social
12:00 to 1:10 pm	Luncheon Meeting (1 CPE):
<i>Announcements</i>	
<i>Lunch</i>	
<i>Luncheon Speaker</i>	
1:15 to 4:00 pm	Afternoon Session (3 CPEs):
1:15 to 2:30 pm	<i>CPE Session</i>
2:30 to 2:45 pm	<i>Break</i>
2:45 to 4:00 pm	<i>CPE Session</i>

Costs:

Luncheon:	Members	\$19.00
	Non-members	\$30.00
Luncheon & Afternoon CPE Session:	Members	\$40.00
	Non-members	\$50.00
Afternoon CPE Session Only:	Members	\$30.00
	Non-members	\$40.00

For reservations, please call the AGA Washington DC Chapter voice mail line at (703) 758-4080 and select option 1. If you prefer, you can register by email to cdavis@gt.com or you can register at our homepage: www.agadc.org. Please forward your name, agency/company, and telephone number.

President's Message

AGA

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I believe that everyone in the Metropolitan DC area will welcome March—mostly, because we can look forward to *Spring!* After wondering whether winter would ever come this year, we are all wishing it would leave early!

Another very familiar March milestone to the federal financial community is the delivery of the Consolidated Governmentwide Financial Statements. The Government Management and Reform Act of 1994 required all of the federal agencies to prepare annual audited financial statements for FY 1997 and thereafter. The first-ever consolidated financial statement for all of government was issued by the Department of Treasury on March 31, 1998. The third consolidated statement will be issued this March 31 for FY1999. Much progress has been made since the initial financial statements were prepared in audited as early as 1992 after the Chief Financial Officer's Act of 1990 was passed and required 10 agencies to pilot this effort. There are steep challenges to be overcome for the federal government to receive a "clean opinion" on their consolidated statements. Thirteen agencies received unqualified opinions for FY 1998 and there is an expectation that 21 may receive them for FY 1999. However, they must first overcome obstacles that include such things as cash reconciliation, valuation of plant, property and equipment, identification of intra-governmental transactions, properly accounting for loan program costs, and others.

We will have the opportunity to hear how the federal government is proceed-

ing with these challenges from the senior federal executive in charge of preparing the governmentwide financial statements. Richard L. Gregg, Commissioner of the Financial Management Service, Department of Treasury must annually ensure that these financial statements are prepared from information from all 24 department agencies by March 1 and forwarded to the General Accounting Office for audit. Considering the complexity of our government, we know that he and his staff conduct a miracle each year to do this. Please join us on March 2 to hear Mr. Gregg's perspective on the progress of the federal government to deliver credible and reliable financial information to our federal agencies, the Congress, and most importantly, our taxpayers.

Our luncheon seminar continues on March 2 with a session on the Balanced Scorecard. Management Concepts, Inc. will conduct this session that will include an introduction to this concept and present the participants with some real world examples where this concept is used for managing programs.

I would encourage all of you to consider attending the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program Conference on March 14, 2000. This one-day conference always presents an outstanding set of keynote speakers and very relevant workshops for the federal financial community. I hope that many of you were able to attend our Performance Measurement training program in February, which also had an excellent agenda of speakers and topics. Our final training event will be in May and will feature financial systems management. Look for more information on the specifics of that event next month.

It's hard to imagine, but it's time again for all of you to exercise your *right to vote* for our 2000-2001 Washington DC AGA Chapter officers and directors. In this newsletter is a ballot of the slate of nominees for election to these positions.

(Continued on next page)

(President's Message, continued)

Please take the time to vote and chose our next set of leaders for this great chapter.

Just a bit of great news for the chapter, Past President Eva Williams was elected as the National Treasurer-Elect for AGA for the Leadership Year 2000-2001. Please give her your congratulations and support for this very important position in our national organization.

As always, I look forward to seeing you at our coming events and I also very much look forward to warmer temperatures and spring flowers!

Vincette

The Chapter has earned 8,390 points in the Chapter Recognition Program as of January 2000.

March 2nd CPE Presentation – Balanced Scorecard

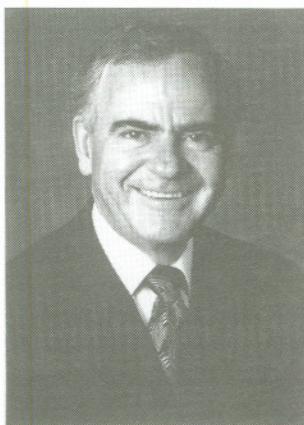
Management Concepts, Inc will conduct a CPE session on the Balanced Scorecard at our March 2nd meeting with an introduction to the concept and recent real world examples.

The Balanced Scorecard was developed jointly by a businessman and a Harvard Business School professor to guide organizations away from strict “bottom line” measurement. Balance means creating and maintaining specific measures of customer satisfaction, employee growth and development, and productivity alongside traditional financial measures.

Widely accepted in the private sector, the Balanced Scorecard concept is gradually being adapted for Federal strategic planning and performing for results.

The presenter, Bill Magrogan of Management Concepts, is a Stanford MBA who has performed and consulted in strategic planning and performance measurement in the private and public sectors.

March Luncheon Speaker: Richard L. Gregg, Commissioner, FMS



*Richard L. Gregg,
Commissioner, FMS*

Richard L. Gregg was appointed Commissioner of the Financial Management Service, a bureau of the Department of the Treasury, on February 15, 1998. Since 1987, Mr. Gregg had served as Commissioner of the Bureau of the Public Debt.

The Financial Management Service provides leadership and direction to Federal agencies on a variety of financial management matters. The mission of the Service is to develop and manage Federal

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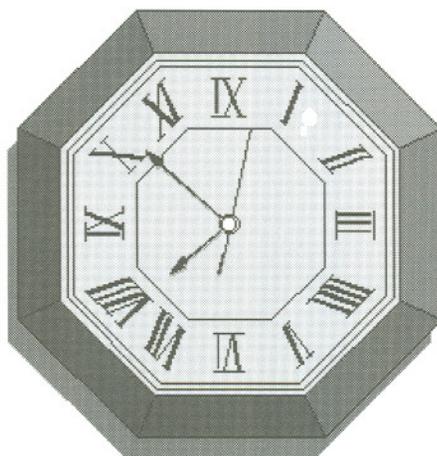
As Commissioner of the Financial Management Service, Mr. Gregg has the responsibility for managing over \$2 trillion a

year in collections and disbursements of Federal revenues. He also oversees government wide program responsibilities for cash management, credit administration, and debt collection.

Richard Gregg joined the Department of Treasury in 1970, and has served in a variety of managerial positions. He began his Federal civilian service in 1970 with the Financial Management Service. In 1976, Mr. Gregg joined the Bureau of Public Debt and served as the Assistant Commissioner in the Office of Financing. From 1981 through January 1987, he was the Deputy Commissioner of Public Debt. In addition, Mr. Gregg served in the United States Air Force.

A native of Harrold, South Dakota, Mr. Gregg holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, South Dakota (1969), a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the George Washington University, Washington, DC (1971), and a Law Degree, also from the George Washington University (1977). He is a member of the Virginia Bar Association.

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Upcoming Events in April

Plan now to attend the chapter’s two outstanding events that will be held in April. These are “Can’t miss” opportunities for everyone. The annual evening meeting featuring a local government official has been a highly successful event for several years and this year’s meeting promises to continue that tradition. Our September meeting that was to feature Comptroller General David Walker was cancelled because of the hurricane, but Mr. Walker agreed to come back.



**Special Evening Meeting and Awards Presentations—
Tuesday Evening, April 18, 2000: Guest Speaker—
Valerie Holt, Chief Financial Officer, Government of
the District of Columbia**

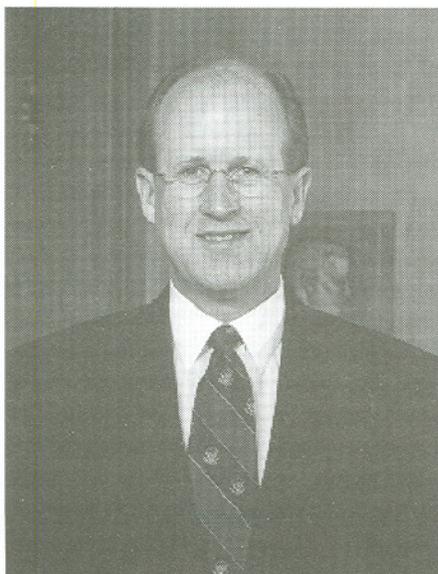
Valerie Holt was appointed in May of 1999 by Mayor Anthony A. Williams to serve as Chief Financial Officer for the District of Columbia. Established by the U.S. Congress in the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act of 1995, the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for establishing financial stability and integrity in the District Government. A senior executive with over 26 years experience in public and private sector finance, She is responsible for maintaining the District’s fiscal stability, and promoting accountability and integrity throughout the District’s financial operations.

Ms. Holt is a Certified Public Accountant and holds a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Michigan. She also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Ben Franklin University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from Eastern Michigan University.

Ms. Holt has received national recognition for her financial reporting and auditing skills. She served as chairman of the Government Finance Officers Association’s prestigious Committee on Auditing, Accounting and Financial Reporting. She also received the Anna Lee Berman Award for Excellence in Government Finance.



**April Luncheon Meeting—Tuesday, April 11, 2000, Joint Meeting with Northern
Virginia and Montgomery/Prince Georges Chapters: The Honorable David M.
Walker—Comptroller General of the United States**



David M. Walker became the seventh Comptroller General of the United States when he took the oath of office on November 9, 1998. He was nominated for the post by President Clinton on October 5, 1998, and was confirmed by the Senate on October 21, 1998.

As Comptroller General, Mr. Walker is the nation’s top auditor and the head of the 77-year-old General Accounting Office (GAO), a legislative branch agency charged with “following the federal dollar” and assessing federal programs throughout the world. GAO conducts financial audits assists Congress with public policy analysis; evaluates the effectiveness of federal programs; issues legal opinions and decisions; adjudicates bid protests filed by private companies concerning the award of federal contracts; and investigates waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in government. Among his many other responsibilities as CG, Mr. Walker chairs the Intergovernmental Audit Forum, serves as a member of the governing board of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI), and co-chairs the Financial Accounting Standards Advisory Council.

50th Anniversary Corner: Relations with Others

Though the Washington DC Chapter provides numerous opportunities to bring its membership together for educational and professional development, as well as networking and socializing purposes, it by no means is an inward focusing organization. The chapter has a rich history of relations with other professional organizations and the public.

Professional Organizations

Creation of the Federal Government Accountants Association (FGAA), AGA's predecessor organization, and the Washington DC Chapter was a natural result of expanding government and increasing employment of professional accountants and financial executives in government departments and agencies. Cooperative relations between it and organizations in the private sector with mutual interests and common goals were inevitable, though exasperatingly slow in their development and at times seeming to be more adversarial than friendly. However, members of many other professional organizations were invited to attend and often were the guest speakers at the chapter's monthly meetings.

The following are some of the organizations that were represented at early Washington DC Chapter meetings:

- the National Association of Cost Accountants,
- the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA),
- the American Accounting Association, and
- the District of Columbia Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

The original by-laws of the Washington DC Chapter emphasized the professional character of the new association. Its members represented the professional staffs of most of the major departments and agencies and they were determined to create a responsible professional organization. This approach proved correct, achieving words of acceptance and praise from the AICPA leadership once they had the opportunity to observe firsthand the Washington DC Chapter and FGAA's activities.

Even though there were some early questions about the status of the organization as an equal among other financial management organizations, the Washington DC Chapter enjoyed a good relationship with all the professional organizations in the Washington, D.C. area. Attesting to the professionalism displayed throughout the chapter's history, many Washington DC Chapter members have served as officers, directors, and committee chairs in other professional organizations and vice versa.

Further, in recognition of the importance of participation by government accountants in the execution of its functions, the Financial Accounting Standards Board appointed Washington DC Chapter member Arthur Litke as a Board member soon after its creation. At the end of Mr. Litke's term, another Washington

DC Chapter member, David Mosso, was named as his replacement. Other chapter members have served on the Board's Advisory Council and numerous AICPA committees.

On April 11, 2000 the chapter will host a luncheon meeting featuring Comptroller General of the U.S., David Walker, that will be a joint event with the Northern Virginia and Montgomery/Prince Georges chapters.

Academia

For many years the Washington DC Chapter had a Committee for Cooperation with Educational Institutions. Professors from local universities serve on chapter committees, and many chapter members teach accounting, auditing, and other financial management subjects at area universities.

The chapter was instrumental in encouraging American University sponsorship of a graduate degree program in government financial management. Efforts to develop additional government financial management courses at the university level continue.

For a number of years, the chapter annually invited top accounting students from each of the local universities to be guests at its monthly meetings. Often, faculty representatives of the school's accounting department accompanied them. The chapter held joint meetings with the Beta Alpha Psi chapter at George Washington University. In addition, the chapter's scholarship program has included numerous awards to students of local colleges and universities.

The Public

The Washington DC Chapter has interfaced with the Washington, DC. community in many ways. The chapter sponsors an annual training course to teach small business people how to develop and maintain a bookkeeping system. These courses have been presented, using chapter members as instructors, since the early 1970's—at first with assistance from the Small Business Administration's Office of Minority Business Enterprises. Also, the chapter has worked with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program since the early 1960s. Through this program, chapter members provide free assistance in the preparation of tax returns for low income, elderly, disabled, and/or non-English speaking citizens. In addition, we make donations annually to Project Harvest and the Central Union Mission. For the past four years, at our annual holiday reception, the chapter has conducted very successful toy donation and fund-raising campaigns in cooperation with the United States Marine Corps and its Toys-for-Tots program.



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Inside the Black Box: Writing Off Public Expenditure Receivables and Advances

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM, CPA

The SGL Board back in 1997 recognized the importance of segregating funded and unfunded expenses. This distinction is critical for preparing the Statement of Financing. Accounts such as 6100 (Operating Expenses/Program Costs) and 6330 (Other Interest Expenses) now are only used in conjunction with an expenditure, and unfunded expenses have been given accounts such as 6710 (Depreciation), 6720 (Bad Debts), 6730 (Imputed Costs), and 6790 (Other Unfunded Expenses). Agencies have to be careful, though, how they use account 6720 (Bad Debt Expense). It can be very easy to accidentally turn it into a funded expense for a particular transaction, which will cause headaches when trying to prepare the Statement of Financing.

The simplest case is as follows. An agency incurs an expenditure and expense with the standard posting (B102) debit 6100 (Operating Expenses), 3100 (Appropriated Capital), 4610 (Allotments), and credit 1010 (Fund Balance with Treasury) 5700 (Expended Appropriations Used), 4902 (Expended Authority – Paid). Since the balance of 6100 equals that of 4902, expenses and expenditures are in balance. Now the agency realizes they overpaid, so they recognize a receivable by posting (C212) a debit to 1310 (Accounts Receivable) and a credit to 6790 (Other Unfunded Expenses). They accrue bad debts with (D204) a debit to 6720 (Bad Debts Expense) and a credit to 1319 (Allowance for Loss on A/R).. Lastly, they write off the receivable with (D206) a debit to 1319 and a credit to 1310. The net effect of all the receivable activity (assuming the accrual is for the same amount as the write off) is a debit to 6720 (Bad Debt Expense) and a credit to 6790 (Other Unfunded Expenses). Since both these expenses are unfunded, expenses and expenditures are still in balance.

The situation gets slightly more complicated with an asset purchase. An equipment purchase would be recognized with the posting (B302 + B110) a debit to 1750, 3100, and 4610 and a credit to 1010, 5700, and 4902. If the agency returns the asset, the entry is (C212) a debit to 1310 (A/R) and a credit to 1750 (Equipment). If one is not careful, one could assume the net posting is a debit to 1310, 3100, and, 4610 and a credit to 1010, 5700, and 4902, which would make the receivable funded. In

fact, the 1750 account has to be split into funded and unfunded pieces, just as the expense in the first example was (the expenditure posted to account 6100 while the receivable posted to 6790). Let us say the agency has two subaccounts for 1750: 1750P for new purchases (funded) and 1750T for transfers and disposals (unfunded). The expenditure entry should post to 1750P, while the receivable posts to 1750T. In this way, expenditures (4902) equal purchases (1750P). If the agency collects the amount owed them, then the entry would be (C138) a debit to 1010, 5700, 1750T, and 4902 and a credit to 1310, 3100, 1750P, and 4610. It is necessary to zero out both 1750P and 1750T, to recognize the reduction to both the expenditure and receivable. The entries for the write off accrual and write off is the same as in the simple case above. The net effect of all the receivable activity, though, is debit to 6720 (Bad Debt Expense) and a credit to 1750T (Unfunded equipment transfers/disposal), which

are both unfunded, so expenditures still equal purchases.

Much more complex is the case of an advance write off, since advances are funded. An agency obligates and issues the advance with the entry (B206) a debit to 1410 (Advances), 4610 (Allotments), and a credit to 1010 (Fund Balance with Treasury), 4802 (Unexpended Obligations – Paid). Now, let us say the advance will not be collected or

used. An example of this is a travel advance to an employee who dies before using the advance, and the agency does not want to ask the estate for a refund. A less morbid example is an advance given to a company that goes bankrupt. In order to write off the advance, one must first apply it by liquidating the obligation and recognizing an expenditure (B404) a debit to 6100, 3100, and 4802 and a credit to 1410, 5700, and 4902), then recognize the write-off with a debit to 6720 (Bad Debt Expense) and a credit to 6790 (Other Unfunded Expense). Since the advance was funded, it is necessary to recognize a funded expense (6100), and since an obligation was recorded, it is necessary to liquidate it with an expenditure (4902). Only with these postings is the end result the same as with the simple receivable example above.

Comments, suggestions, and critiques are welcome. Send them to Simcha_Kuritzky@amsinc.com and not to the AGA.



It's Not Too Late To...

GO for the GOLD

Don't let your colleagues be left unaware of all that AGA can do for them. Help a friend or business associate improve their professional skills. They will benefit from increased access to the latest technical information and new business contacts.

Recruitment is easy, ask yourself these simple questions: "What benefits have I received from my ACA membership? Have

I been an active participant in member programs, seminars and conferences? I low has my professional development been enhanced through active AGA participation?" By finding the answers to these questions, you will be able to more effectively demonstrate the benefits of membership to a potential member.

Earn recognition and a gift. Consider it our way of thanking you for your dedication and commitment. Each recruiter will receive a newly designed "Sponsor's Only" lapel pin. Also, recruit at least two new members (Full or Early Career) and cam 10 ACA Dollars! Members who recruit three or more members are also highlighted quarterly in Government Financial Management TOPICS. Other exciting prizes include, Palm Pilot, Airline Tickets, complimentary AGA membership and free AGA meeting registrations.

Become eligible to win by making sure new members you recruit return their completed applications no later than April 30, 2000. Remember to print your name on the Sponsor's Line section of the application to receive sponsor credit.

Questions? Comments? Always feel free to call any of the officers or directors listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Membership Application

Name Mr. Ms. Mrs. Dr. Prof.

Employer _____

Employer Address _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____

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Preferred mailing address Business Home

Sponsor'sName(if applicable) _____

Membership # (if known) _____

Employer: Federal State County Retired

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Field: Accounting Auditing Budgeting Systems Other

Education: Highest degree attained _____ Year _____

Accreditation Certificates: _____

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Payment Method: Check enclosed (payable to AGA, including Chapter dues)

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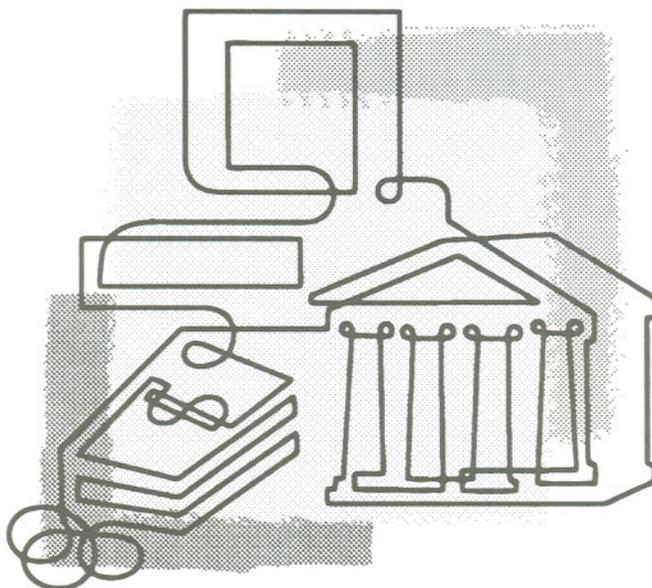
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Positions Available at the IRS

The IRS seeks accountants with experience in federal financial systems, financial statement preparation and audits of federal agencies. These positions involve challenging work in the design, implementation and maintenance of large-scale automated financial systems. A thorough knowledge of federal financial standards, laws and regulations is required. A CPA certificate or experience in computer programming, database/PC systems and applications is a plus. External applicants with prior government or consulting experience are encouraged to apply. Full announcements are available on the OPM web page at the URL listed below. For more information call Dana Szaflarski at (304) 264-7569.

GS 14 <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov> (Announcement No. DEU-00-M-0007-S-N)
GS 13 <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov> (Announcement No. DEU-00-M-0006-S-B)

Positions Available at the Library of Congress

The Library of Congress, Financial Services Directorate is hiring two grade 12 Operating Accountants. The positions are in the Accounting Division and involving a variety of accounting, payment, financial statement, and reporting activities.

All positions are located at the Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave., SE, Washington, D.C. across from the U.S. Capitol Building. For information on the announcement, expected to be open from February until mid-March 2000, please call Byron Colvin at (202)707-2190.

From the AGADC.org Webmaster: How to Get On (and Off) the Washington DC Chapter Mailing List

The Chapter's website has been up and running for a couple of months now, and we would like to remind you of the Association of Government Accountant's Washington DC Chapter Mailing List Server on the site. By being added to the mailing list, members or any other interested persons will receive emails from the Washington DC Chapter updating them on upcoming chapter educational events and other activities.

We also make *The Washington Connection* available through this same service. One can subscribe by going to the main web site (<http://www.agadc.org>) and clicking on the mail-list button and choosing the subscribe option. You will be asked to enter your email address. Enter your address and click the subscribe button.

As a chapter member, you may already have been added to the mailing list. If you wish to remove yourself from the mailing list, you can unsubscribe by going to the web site and clicking on the mail-list button and choosing the unsubscribe option. You will be asked to enter your email address. Be sure to enter the email address that you wish to unsubscribe. Finally, click the unsubscribe button.

If you know of other members or non-members who would be interested in receiving emails from the Washington DC Chapter, please inform them of the new mail-list feature on the web site.

If you have any questions or comments, please e-mail the webmaster at webmaster@agadc.org or go the web site (<http://www.agadc.org>) and click on the e-mail button.

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Cancellations/Refunds/Substitutions AGA will assess a \$50 processing fee on all refunds. If a registrant is unable to attend the conference, AGA must receive a written request by June 19, 2000 to receive a refund, less processing fee. Confirmed registrants who fail to attend and do not cancel two weeks prior to the conference will be charged the entire registration fee. To receive a refund, you must have written verification from the National Office Registrar that your cancellation was received. Telephone cancellations will not be accepted. Substitutions will be accepted if authorized in writing by the registrant.

Please let us know of any special requests (including dietary): _____

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Immediate Past President, Eva J. Williams, CGFM

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Email: healy@ukw.com

Education, Eleanor Long, CGFM

Ernst & Young (202) 327-5903
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Membership, Chad Davis

Grant Thornton (703) 847-7659
Email: cdavis@gt.com

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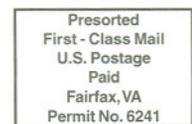
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