The Washington Connection

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS
WASHINGTON D.C. CHAPTER

Issue 6 • February 2009

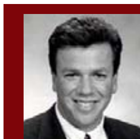
In This Issue

Cover photos by Christian and Barbara Escobar

FEB

Snapshots

Luncheon Series



Read Bio

Michael S. Miles,
Founder, CEO, and Principal Advisor, Variplan
February 18th, 2009

We are honored to have Michael Miles, Founder, CEO, and Principal Advisor of Variplan as our luncheon speaker on February 18th.

Mr. Miles has more than ten years of experience in providing financial planning and advice to both federal and private sector clients.

The luncheon will be held on February 18th, 2009, 11:30-1:30 at the Army Navy Club.

Announcements

AGA SEVENTH ANNUAL NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

February 19 - 20, 2009

Earn 14 CPE Hours!

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Save The Date: Spring Conference

The Association of Government Accountants Washington, DC Chapter will be hosting its annual spring conference on May 12 and 13, 2009. This 2-day conference will address emerging issues related to federal financial management and systems.

Dates:	Tuesday, May 12 and Wednesday, May 13, 2009
Time:	8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Location:	Ronald Reagan Building
Continuing Education:	15 CPE

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

Note From the Editor

by Leon Fleischer, Editor

I hope everyone enjoyed our previous January issue. During this month we observe President's Day and pay tribute to each and every person who has served in the office as President of the United States of America. This newsletter promises to contain much information of events for the year including the monthly luncheons, education events, member services, early careers, etc.

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 rollouts 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 March 2009 issue is February 20, 2008. Please send your comments and contributions to Leon Fleischer, the newsletter editor at **leon.fleischer@sba.gov**.

Sincerely,

Leon Fleischer

Leon Fleischer,
AGA D.C. Chapter Newsletter Editor

Newsletter Team

Leon Fleisher, Editor

Jorge Sargent, Assistant Editor

Erwin Solbach, Graphics

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MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS

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President's Message

by Ann Davis

"SOLD OUT"! REALLY? Yes. If you were late responding to our invitation to attend our lunches or training events, then you heard it right. Over the past few months, our lunches and training events have been selling out. I am elated about the success of our events. Your response has been phenomenal. Thanks to all of you who have attended and a special thanks to our board members for their creative ideas.

Our first event of the month is our Chinese New Year celebration. This has always been a crowd pleaser and a great way to network with chapter members. This year's event is jointly sponsored by the DC and Northern Virginia chapters and the chapter Presidents will also be in attendance. Join us for cocktails, dinner, and fun at the China Garden, Rosslyn, VA, 6:30 - 9:00 PM.

The speaker at our next luncheon is especially pertinent in these troubling times. Michael S. Miles, a financial planner, is Principal Advisor and Chief Executive of Variplan. Make plans to join us on February 18, 2009 at the Army Navy Club, 11:45 AM - 1:45 PM. Be sure to get your tickets early so that you don't hear **"SOLD OUT"**.

Join us as we lend our support to the Washington Wizards as they play the Philadelphia 76ers on February 25, 2009 at the Verizon Center at 7:00 PM. We'll be there cheering them onto victory. Bring your family and friends for an evening of excitement.

Save the Dates:

March 10, 2009 - Early Careers Luncheon Speaker Series - GAO Building - more details to follow

March 18, 2009 - Early Careers Happy Hour - Chef Geoff's, Metro Center - more details to follow

March 19, 2009 - Luncheon - Larry White, Captain USCG (retired) and Executive Director of the Resource Consumption Accounting Institute, Army Navy Club, 11:45 - 1:45 PM.

TBD - Post Financial Management Conference Happy Hour - Smithsonian Jazz Cafe

Please refer to our website at www.agadc.org for more details

Happy New Year!

Thanks to you, we are off to a great start after a year of sold out lunches and training events and fun-filled happy hours. We hope that you will continue to participate in the exciting events we have planned for you.

Ann Davis

Ann Davis

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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 Washington Connection will not be issued in July or August. The deadline for submitting articles to appear in the **March 2009** issue is **February 20, 2008**. Please send you comments and contributions to **Leon Fleischer**, the newsletter editor for the **2009-2010** program year, at leon.fleischer@sba.gov.

Who is Doug Bennett?

Name: Doug Bennett

AGA Position: Former CGFM Coordinator, DC Chapter

Company: Broadcasting Board of Governors

Title: Director, Financial Operations

Background I started my working career as a merchant seaman sailing about oil tankers. After college, I joined the Navy for four years and then came ashore to finish up school and work in a variety of finance related positions. I later earned my CMA, CPA and CGFM and joined the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2004. In May 2006, I went to work for the National Gallery of Art and in December 2007 started in my current position with the BBG.

How long have you been a member of AGA? I've been with the AGA since 2005.

How has AGA helped you with your career? I believe it has. It has certainly given me a great opportunity to meet others in our business and make some great friends.

What advice do you have for someone thinking of joining the AGA? Join, get involved and go to the monthly events.

What is the best thing about working in government service? We get Columbus Day off. Seriously, the best thing is the sense of mission. I've worked in the private sector and never had the sense of mission that I have working for the Federal government.

What has been the biggest obstacle in getting where you are today? I've been lucky and can't think of any obstacles. In fact, I've benefited from some terrific supervisors including Jim Bradley at VA, Dave Rada at the National Gallery of Art and my current supervisor, Janet Stormes at the BBG.

What is your favorite hobby or outside activity? I enjoy running on the mall. It is a great way to burn off energy and clear the mind, plus there is always something interesting to see.

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream? Whatever flavor you are buying.

Anything else that you would like to highlight? Although work can be challenging, you should look forward to every day and take every opportunity to learn something new.

Doug Bennett

Doug Bennett

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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 Ruthie Apelt: ruth.apelt@thomson.com

Connect to the World of Government

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

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 February 8, 2009. 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.

Michael S. Miles

Biography

Michael S. Miles is Variplan's founder and principal advisor. He currently serves as Variplan's chief executive and is responsible for all of the firm's planning and other business activity.

Mike has more than ten years of experience in providing financial planning and advice to both federal and private sector clients. He has earned a number of the planning industry's top credentials and has been recognized as a leading provider of advanced financial planning services. Among his credentials are:

· Certified Financial Planner® (CFP) licensee
· Registered Employee Benefit Consultant®
· 5-Star Advisor® (The Paladin Registry)
· America's Top Financial Planners® (Consumer's Research Council)
· Licensed insurance consultant

Mike is a regular contributing financial expert to the Federal Times newspaper where he writes a popular financial column geared toward the special concerns of federal employees. Mike is also part of the Federal Times "Ask the Expert" team where through email he answers questions about the complicated Federal savings, retirement, and insurance programs.

In addition, Mike has been providing benefits to members of the Senior Executives Association since 1998 and has helped hundreds of SEA members and their families to make better financial decisions.

Mike's experience is backed by a solid financial education having earned a Master of Business Administration degree from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia and strong analytical training from earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Michael S. Miles (Cont'd.)

Licenses and Credentials

Education and Designations

Certified Financial Planner®, CFP Board of Standards, Inc., Denver, Colorado
Five-Star Advisor, The Paladin Registry
"America's Top Financial Planners" by The Consumer's Research Council
Registered Employee Benefits Consultant, American College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania
Master of Business Administration, 1991, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia
Bachelor of Science, 1985, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia

Licenses

Registered Investment Adviser Representative
Life and Health Insurance Broker
Insurance Consultant

Membership and Affiliation

Member, Society of Financial Service Professionals
Member, Financial Planning Association
Member, Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan Washington, DC
"Money Matters" columnist, Federal Times Newspaper
"Ask the Experts" advisor, Federal Times Newspaper
Benefit Provider, Senior Executives Association

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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 or contact Jessica Jones.

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National Leadership Conference

AGA

SEVENTH ANNUAL NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

February 19–20, 2009
Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
Washington, D.C.
14 CPE Hours

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 Seventh Annual National Leadership Conference (NLC), those sentiments are more than just words.

The conference brings together the top minds in the industry to provide "how-to" lessons, the newest management techniques, and the most recent information on always-changing standards and regulations. The conference, set for February 19-20, 2009, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C., also features the newest tools to help agencies do their jobs more easily and more effectively.

Don't miss this opportunity to earn 14 CPE hours, network with your peers and learn from the top financial management leaders and industry experts, including:

- Tom Allen, Chairman, Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board
- Ernest A. Almonte, CGFM, Chairman, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and Auditor General, State of Rhode Island
- Douglas Brook, Ph.D., Professor, Naval Postgraduate School, and former Under Secretary (Comptroller) and Chief Financial Officer (Acting), Office of the Secretary of Defense, U.S. Department of Defense
- Lisa Casias, CPA, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Department of Commerce; AGA National President Elect-Designate
- Thomas N. Cooley, Chief Financial Officer and Director, Office of the Budget, Finance and Award Management, National Science Foundation
- Former Congressman Tom Davis
- Gene L. Dodaro, CGFM, Acting Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office
- Ron Elving, Senior Washington Editor, National Public Radio
- Peter Franchot, Comptroller, State of Maryland
- Scott Pattison, Executive Director, National Association of State Budget Officers

The Exhibit Hall is also a gathering spot to meet with colleagues from around the country. The NLC offers outstanding training, dynamic speakers and multiple networking events.

Show your commitment to excellence—register today!

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- AGA Northern Virginia Home Page (Virginia)
- AGA Montgomery/PG Home Page (Maryland)
- MACPA Home Page (Maryland)
- VSCPA Home Page (Virginia)
- GWSCPA Home Page (D.C.)
- AICPA Home Page

AGA WASHINGTON, DC CHAPTER

AGA-DC/GWSCPA 8th Annual Conference

Financial Management in Challenging Times

May 12-13, 2009

Highlights

Join us for our annual spring conference. This year's theme focuses on the challenging financial times faced by the federal government and how the federal financial management community can respond to these challenges.

Conference Information

CPE credits:	15 hours CPE credit (recommended) for each paid attendee
Length :	2 days (from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Registration

AGA/GWSCPA members:	$375 early registration fee by April 24 ($425 after April 24)
Non-members:	$425 early registration fee by April 24 ($475 after April 24)
Group discount:	5 percent for three or more. 10 percent for six or more
Registration deadline:	Wednesday, May 6, 2009. Space is limited, so register early.

Location

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, Pavilion Ballroom
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

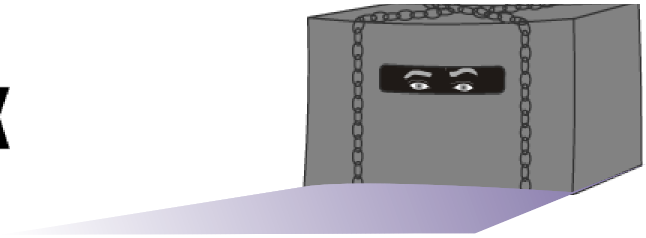
Suggested Attendees

Government financial management professionals, accounting, audit, and other professionals who deal with government financial management professionals.

For more information and to register, visit: http://www.agadc.org

Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA



Capitalizing Expenses

Background

Government agencies have traditionally focused on their budgets, not accrual accounting. The Anti-Deficiency Act was passed in 1870; the first income statements were required by the Accounting and Auditing Act which was not passed until 1950, and accrual accounting was not mandated until 1956 (31 U.S.C. 3512e). When an invoice is accrued or paid, it is important to record the expenditure in a timely manner. Whether the expenditure for services or goods was expensed or capitalized is of less concern. Overspending one's budget by even a small amount can be prosecuted as a criminal act while under- or over-capitalizing will only result in an audit finding, and then only if it is material.

So it is not surprising that many agencies expense most or all of their expenditures and only afterwards decide if the expenditure should have been capitalized. In some cases, this treatment is necessary because the Agency doesn't know if the spending will exceed capitalization thresholds until the year is almost over. In other cases, management may have to determine if the spending will benefit future periods (e.g., will the software being developed today actually be employed in future years), or there may be legal or contractual issues that need to be resolved before management can determine the proper accounting treatment.

The Standard General Ledger (SGL) Board has given us two models for capitalizing expenses: direct and offset. However, the guidance on when to use which one is sparse and confusing.

Models

A typical accrued expense entry in an appropriated fund combines entries B406 and B134:

Debit	6100	Operating Expenses/Program Costs
	3107	Unexpended Appropriations - Used
	4610	Allotments - Realized Resources
Credit	2110	Accounts Payable
	5700	Expended Appropriations
	4901	Delivered Orders - Obligations, Unpaid

The same entries also include the definition for an accrued capital expenditure (though entry G120 is added). This is the direct model, and an example is:

Debit	1720	Construction-in-Progress
	3107	Unexpended Appropriations - Used
	4610	Allotments - Realized Resources
	8802	Purchases of Property, Plant, and Equipment
Credit	2110	Accounts Payable
	5700	Expended Appropriations
	4901	Delivered Orders - Obligations, Unpaid
	8801	Offset for Purchases of Assets

Inside the Black Box (Cont'd.)

This means that, if an accrual was expensed and was later determined to be capitalizable, the capitalization adjustment for the direct model would be:

Debit	1720	Construction-in-Progress
	8802	Purchases of Property, Plant, and Equipment
Credit	6100	Operating Expenses/Program Costs
	8801	Offset for Purchases of Assets

However, the SGL Board has set up separate accounts and entries for capitalizing expenses. The entry D514 would record this capitalization using the offset model as follows:

Debit	1720	Construction-in-Progress
Credit	6610	Cost Capitalization Offset

If the agency knows this expenditure is a purchase of construction in progress, then the direct expense and offset entries can be combined (since any Trading Partner recorded in Accounts 1720 and 6610 are ignored):

Debit	1720	Construction-in-Progress
	3107	Unexpended Appropriations - Used
	4610	Allotments - Realized Resources
	6100	Operating Expenses/Program Costs
Credit	2110	Accounts Payable
	5700	Expended Appropriations
	4901	Delivered Orders - Obligations, Unpaid
	6610	Cost Capitalization Offset

Determining the Model to Use

The explanation for using entry D514 is: "Due to the reconciliation of interagency expenses and revenues, agencies must first record all direct costs to the USSGL account 6000 series and then offset those amounts using the USSGL account 6610 when the costs are capitalized to the appropriate 'in-process type' account." However, entries B402, B406, B604, C132, C134, C646, C648, D102, D104, D106, D107, D108, D110, and D134 record purchases from or returns to federal vendors that post to 1720 and other assets directly, not using the capitalization offset entry D514.

The issue seems to be one of reconciliation. If the purchase is from the public (i.e., anyone but a federal agency), then either model can be used because there is no interagency reconciliation. If another agency is involved, then they are either recording the purchaser as a Trading Partner using account 5100 Revenue from Goods Sold or 5200 Revenue from Services Provided, or they are not recording a Trading Partner (such as for certain types of withholding, in which case the transaction is treated like a purchase from the public). If the seller agency uses 5100, then the buyer should use the direct approach (debit 1720 originally, or else reduce 6100 to post 1720 instead); if the seller uses 5200, then the buyer should debit expense and capitalize using the offset account 6610.

Inside the Black Box (Cont'd.)

What's peculiar is that the D514 entry is first described in B102 which records payroll entries to expense accounts 6100 and 6900. Payroll is, by definition, with the public, so no reconciliation or offset entry is needed. Only postings to account 6400 Benefit Expense for a number of specific federally-maintained employee benefit programs require a Trading Partner and thus would need the offset entry if the payroll is capitalized as work in progress. However, entry B102 for payroll does not even list 6400. It is only listed for year-end accrual in entries E104 and E106. The list of benefit programs is given under the definition of account 6400 and not in the transaction listing.

Conclusion

If capitalized goods or services are purchased from another agency, which includes capitalized payroll benefits that are administered by a federal agency, then record an expense first and capitalize by debiting the appropriate asset account and crediting 6610 Cost Capitalization Offset. If there is no such activity, it is probably easiest to record the asset when purchased, and if an expense entry has to be reclassified later, just credit the original expense account and debit the asset, plus post the 8800 series of memo accounts. There is no harm to using the offset model, so if some entries require that model, you can post all entries with the offset model.

The SGL Board should adjust the payroll entries to include account 6400 and change the note that the capitalization offset is only required for account 6400.

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.

Snapshots

LUNCHEON ARMY & NAVY CLUB

Federal News Article

Leading Questions

By Brian Friel
January 21, 2009

Nearly every presidential administration begins with a review of the current shape of government -- which agencies are doing what work, at what cost and to what end. The Obama administration is no exception, with the new president promising a top-to-bottom review of federal operations.

Each president has entered office with preferences and assumptions about government, beliefs about management and political prerogatives that help determine the course of their management reviews.

In his 1993 inaugural address, President Bill Clinton pledged a government of "bold, persistent experimentation," and subsequently put Vice President Al Gore in charge of the Reinventing Government initiative. That effort focused heavily on the management concept of employee empowerment. Clinton's team mined the ranks of government employees for ideas to improve the federal bureaucracy. This emphasis on the rank-and-file aligned with Clinton's political alliance with labor unions. His focus on empowerment helped pave the way for union acquiescence to his plans to downsize government -- a move also aided by Clinton's emphasis on the elimination of management and headquarters positions rather than front-line service workers' jobs.

Eight years later, President George W. Bush in his inaugural address emphasized the limits of government, telling Americans that "what you do is as important as anything government does." His President's Management Agenda reflected Bush's MBA background. It was run in a top-down style from the Office of Management and Budget, imposing goals on federal agencies for human resources, technology and performance management --as well as goals for opening government jobs to competition from private contractors. OMB regularly rated agencies' progress on meeting the targets the office set. Bush reversed some of Clinton's power arrangements with unions, in keeping with his administration's political differences with labor unions.

This week, President Barack Obama outlined his initial take on government management. "The question we ask today is not whether our government is too big or too small, but whether it works," Obama said during his Jan. 20 inaugural speech. "Where the answer is yes, we intend to move forward. Where the answer is no, programs will end."

Both Clinton and Bush pursued their management agendas in parallel with the 1993 Government Performance and Results Act, which was Congress' effort to improve management in the agencies. The law requires agencies to set annual and five-year goals and to report on progress toward the achievement of those goals each year. In 1997, Clinton's deputy director for management at OMB, John Koskinen, said the Results Act asked three questions of federal managers:

- What are we getting for the money we are spending?
- What are federal programs and organizations trying to achieve?
- How can the effectiveness of these activities be determined?

The Clinton and Bush administrations approached these questions with different assumptions, and they got different answers. The Obama administration has yet to reveal the assumptions it brings to the task of management review. But every leader has predilections, and those beliefs often are just as important in shaping the answers they get as are the questions that they ask.

Brian Friel covered management and human resources at Government Executive for six years and is now a National Journal *staff correspondent.*

Win Baseball Tickets at next Luncheon!

There will be a drawing at every
monthly luncheon for 2 free tickets to a Washington National's game.
Another great incentive to attend the monthly meetings!

Winners!

December – Elaine Munroe

January – Doris Chew

Federal Financial Management Conference

Financial Management in Transition

Federal Financial Management Conference

Thursday March 12, 2009

Sponsored by the JFMIP Principals, Financial Systems Integration Office, General Services Administration, and Graduate School, USDA

Keynote Speaker

- Gene Dodaro, Acting Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office

Session Topics:

- Auditing Information System Controls in the Federal Government
- Standardize, Consolidate and Optimize Financial Management
- Improving the Relevance of Financial Reports-PAR Pilot
- Federal Financial Accounting –Changes on the Horizon
- Human Capital Best Practices for the Financial Community
- Fiscal Turmoil: The Role of the Auditors in Oversight and Accountability
- Implementing the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act
- Forensic Auditing: Are You Up to Speed?

Location:
The Renaissance Washington DC Hotel
999 Ninth Street NW
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Federal Leadership Awards

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U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Elmer Staats Award Winner

Sheila O. Conley, CPA and CGFM
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Andy Barr Award Winner

Stephen B. Watson,
CGFM, CPA, CMA, CIA
IBM Global Business Services

CGFM Exams

Interested in the CGFM certification? Sign up for AGA's special Intensive Review Course and take the CGFM Examinations before the 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, February 16, and Tuesday, February 17, 2009. The CGFM Examinations will be offered by appointment only on February 18 and 19, 2009.

The cost of the course is only $249 for qualified participants, and it 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. The cost of this course is not included in the NLC registration fee.

Registration

Registration: To participate in this event, individuals must:

1. Apply for the CGFM Program (submitting CGFM application form, fee and college transcript – see Eligibility section below).
2. Pre-register for this event by submitting the Intensive Review Course Registration Form and appropriate fee. Walk-ins will not be accepted.

The complete application for the CGFM Program must be submitted BEFORE or TOGETHER with the Intensive Review Course Registration Form. Registrations for this event will not be confirmed until after the CGFM application is accepted.

Cancellations must be received by January 20, 2009; refunds will not be granted after this date.

Deadline: Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first-served basis. Space is limited, so we encourage you to sign up early. Registrations will not be accepted after **February 4, 2009**.

Location

The Intensive Review Course and the CGFM Examinations will be held in Alexandria, VA (near King Street Metro). The exact address will be provided to all registered attendees.

The facilities for this event are provided by Grant Thornton LLP

Eligibility

To attend the Intensive Review Course and/or take the CGFM Examinations participants must first apply and be accepted into the CGFM Program. Candidates need to submit the CGFM Program application form with $85 application fee and a copy of a transcript from an accredited college or university. The transcript must show that a degree (bachelor's or higher) was awarded and list at least 24 credit hours of courses in financial management or related topics. Applicant's name and the name of the college or university must appear on all transcripts. Please see **www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/start/** for more information.

In addition, those individuals who want to complete their CGFM at this event need to submit a Work Verification Form listing at least two years of professional-level government financial management experience.

Prior attendance of CGFM training course(s) or purchase of the CGFM Study Guides is not required but is strongly encouraged.

If you have already taken a CGFM Examination and did not pass, you must satisfy the waiting period before taking that CGFM Examinations at this event.

Materials

No materials will be provided at the Intensive Review Course. However, participants are encouraged to order CGFM Study Guides at least eight weeks before the course date. For more information on study guides visit www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/prepare/studyguide.aspx.

The cost of the study guides is not included in the price of the Intensive Review Course.

Examination Information

Three time slots are available for CGFM Examinations to be held February 18-19, 2009:

- 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- Noon – 3:00 p.m.
- 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.

The actual exam time is limited to 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Space is limited, so participants are encouraged to send in the registration form indicating their preference for an examination date and time as soon a possible (**Intensive Review Course Registration Form**). Some of the time slots may fill up and no longer be available. We will confirm your registration and indicate whether we are able to accommodate your request for the particular examination time slot(s).

CGFM Exams (Cont'd)

Individuals who want to take the CGFM Examinations at this event without attending the review course can do so by following the same registration procedures. The fee for taking the three CGFM Examinations is the same as the Intensive Review Course fee – see **Intensive Review Course Registration Form** for more details.

The CGFM Examinations are:

- Examination 1—Governmental Environment
- Examination 2— Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting
- Examination 3—Governmental Financial Management and Control

More detailed information on CGFM Examinations content can be found on www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/exams/.

The examination results will be available immediately.

Testing Procedures

You must be at the CGFM Examination registration desk at least 15 minutes prior to the testing time to check in. If you are not at the registration desk at the start of your examination time slot, we cannot guarantee your requested time slot.

Please bring a valid photo ID to the CGFM Examination registration desk—your ID must match the name you provide in the Intensive Review Course Registration Form and on the CGFM Program application form and must contain a photograph and a signature.

Personal belongings, including food, drink, papers, books, writing utensils, electronic and other organizers, cameras, cell phones, beepers, briefcases, bags, purses, pocketbooks and hats, may not be brought near the testing computer station and must be left in the designated area within the testing room. Scratch paper, a pen and a calculator will be provided.

For more information, please contact Crystal Vanison, Certification Program Coordinator via e-mail at **cvanison@agacgfm.org** or by phone at 800.AGA.7211, ext. 316.

Thank you!

Member Services

Hello Again from Member Services!!

Hello again from Member Services. We hope that you are finding time to relax after the Holiday season. In December we held a chapter happy hour at Old Ebbit Grill. As with all of our events this year we had a great turnout! We hope that everyone enjoyed themselves! The new year is bringing more exciting events for our chapter. This month we will celebrating the Chinese New Year at China Garden in Rosslyn. Please look for an email in the coming days with more information. On February 25th we will be hosting a combined event with the Northern Virginia AGA chapter at the Washington Wizards game. Tickets are $15 for members and $35 for guests. Tickets are selling fast so please visit the following website for more information and to RSVP:

http://agadc.org/page.php?name=basketball_registration

Hope to see you all at one of our many events scheduled for the coming months!!!

Membership & Liaison

Mentoring: How It Has Helped AGA D.C. Members

By: The Membership/Liaison Committee, with Norm Ingram and Carolyn Hicks

AGA D.C.'s Membership/Liaison Committee is proud that its mentoring program has caught fire, attracting 20 individuals eager to be mentored and 11 others to serve as mentors. What accomplishments can this program point to? Well, let's hear from two mentees-those who have learned from mentors and can say they have personally benefited from the mentoring relationship. If you are interested in joining this program, read on and contact the Committee's Co-Directors identified at the end of this article.

Question from Membership/Liaison Committee (M/L C) to Norm Ingram: Norm, when did you first learn about AGA D.C. and how did you become interested in the mentoring program?

Norm: I have been a member of the AGA since 2006. I first heard of AGA D.C. from a financial officer while working at the U.S. Peace Corps. She encouraged me to join AGA D.C. and take advantage of its many benefits. I was reluctant at first, but joined eventually. After I started receiving the monthly newsletter "Washington Connection" and chapter e-mails, I decided to attend Agency Liaison/ Mentor meeting. There, I met Marguerite Nealon, Ruth Apelt, and LeAnn Corcoran who spoke and encouraged attendees to join the Mentorship program and handed out booklets. Most of the mentors were on hand and gave a brief biography of themselves and suggested we utilize their skills, resources and most important their knowledge.

M/L C: What was your mentoring experience like?

Norm: The Committee provided me information on the mentors and from that information I chose two mentors, Derald Emory and Evelyn Brown. I met with Derald on several occasions and he provided invaluable forward thinking career advice. He emphasized the need to view your career from the perspective of what skills sets do I require to enhance my career for today, tomorrow, and beyond. Derald Emory is an Exec.VP with Savantage Solutions, and has a wide range of experiences.

My other mentor, Evelyn Brown is the former Deputy CFO of Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and retired from federal employment. Evelyn played a pivotal role in my transition from federal employee to the private sector. During my final months on the federal payroll, Evelyn coached me on how to prepare my resume. Although my resume was on the street, I did not get any response. Evelyn and I worked together to refine the document to highlight my experiences that would attract private sector employers. However, the most important part of the exercise was that she taught me to look at my resume from a hiring official's perspective. We were able to construct a resume that was clear, concise, and not overloaded with unnecessary information. Within two weeks of reposting my resume, I was flooded with offers, and secured a job as a contractor at the U.S. Trade and Development Agency. I still receive job offers five month after posting the resume.

M/L C: Would you recommend the mentoring program to others?

Norm: The AGA mentorship program is an integral tool that all new or fairly new federal employees should take advantage of. The social/ networking benefits are incredible. No where other than the AGA allows you to connect with those having hundreds of years of government financial experience under one roof at a happy hour. I was lucky to meet people who were happy to explain complex government financial issues that were puzzling to me. The two mentors that I chose have given me priceless insights on career management which I use everyday. I continually look to the AGA for training and other events which provide career enhancement opportunities.

Finally, I would recommend the mentorship program to any member of the AGA Washington, DC Chapter. Whether you are a recent member or a long-term member, this program allows its participants to meet members of the Federal and State financial management community. AGA D.C.'s members are always willing to provide advice and guidance, that is essential to your government career.

Question from Membership/Liaison Committee (M/L C) to Carolyn Hicks: Carolyn, what are your thoughts on the mentoring program?

Becoming a mentee in the AGADC Mentoring Program is not just about networking to find one's next employer or agency, it is about making connections with other accountants who have knowledge and experience in the Federal government. I have learned many valuable lessons from my mentor, Stephen Wills, over the few months. As a fellow government accountant, his career path has showed me that there are many different and exciting opportunities available to accountants. His career has taken him through various positions serving many agencies, which has shown me that the Federal government has much more to offer than simply debits and credits. There are auditing, performance, internal controls, systems, and consulting positions - all for an accountant.

Membership & Liaison (Cont'd.)

The mentor/mentee program has also helped prepare me for the CPA examination. Stephen. a CPA and holder of many other certifications, has been very helpful providing me study tips and suggestions. He has also taught me about other certifications and the benefits of each. Prior to meeting him, I thought that certifications available to accountants would not be beneficial to those working for the Federal government. Now I see that certifications have great value in the Federal government. In January I will be starting a new position with a non-profit. The lessons Stephen provided me will continue to help me in reaching my career goals.

Would you like to serve as a mentor or mentee? The mentoring program is open to AGA D.C. members. Those wishing to participate in the program must submit a resume to the Co-Directors of the Membership /Liaison Committee: Ruthie Apelt, e-mail: **ruth.apelt@thomsonreuters.com**, or Marguerite Nealon, e-mail: **wnealon01@aol.com**.

Community Service

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.

If you are interested in finding out more details about these projects, please contact Lloyd A. Farmer 703-294-4473, Tonya Allen Shaw 202-720-5026 or AnnMarie Walker 202 461-6499.

Montgomery County AGA Events

02/18/09 February Dinner Meeting

Event Description:

Presentation: "Marketing Brand You" by Marshall Brown, PCC, Presidentof Marshall Brown & Associates, certified executive and career coach.

CPE's: You will receive 1 CPE for attending this dinner meeting.

Community Service Activity: Please bring new or used toys to be provided to the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program.

Dinner and Speaker: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (approximate ending time)

Location: Hilton Hotel (formerly the Double Tree Inn) at 1750 Rockville Pike

Cost: $30 per person - Checks made payable to "AGA."

RSVP: Please RSVP no later than COB on Monday, February 16th.

Contact: Scott Turnbull

Phone: 301-931-2050
For More Information: February Dinner Meeting

Virginia AGA Events

Wed 03/18/09 Using A-123 to Meet Risk Management Challenges

Event Description:

Presentation: "Using A-123 to Meet Risk Management Challenges".

CPE's: You will receive 8 CPE for attending this dinner meeting.

Community Service Activity: Please bring new or used toys to be provided to the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program.

Dinner and Speaker: 08:00 AM - 04:30 PM p.m. (approximate ending time)

Location: Doubletree Hotel in Crystal City
300 Army-Navy Drive
Arlington, VA

Cost: $125 per person ($150 for non-members)
Checks made payable to "AGA."

Registration will be limited, so be sure to sign up early!

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Calendar of Events — 2008/2009 Program Year

Month	Luncheons	Community Service	Member Service	Education	Early Careers	Membership	Awards	CEC Meetings
August			17-Aug-2008	20-Aug-2008				6-Aug-2008
			Washington Nationals Game: Pre-game Tailgate: 11:30 AM at RFK Stadium 1st Pitch: 1:35 PM	**Audio Conference:** Everything You Wanted to Know About Performance Management and Reporting But Were Afraid to Ask Time: 2-4 PM CPEs: 2				**Veterans Administration** Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
September	17-Sep-2008	17-Sept-2008		3-5 Sept-2008 10-12 Sept 2008	19-Sep-2008			3 Sep 2008
	Luncheon **Time:** 11:45 - 1:45 **Speaker:** Danny Werfel, OMB **Location:** D'Acqua Restaurant CPE: 1	American Cancer Society (Raffle) during the **Luncheon**		**Training:** CGFM **CPEs:** 48	**"Explore DC Series" Jazz** **Location:** Sculpture Garden **Time:** 5:30pm			**Veterans Administration** Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 **Access code:** 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
				10-Sep-2008				
				Audio Conference: Fraud Prevention and Detection **Time:** 2-4 PM CPEs: 2				
October	14-Oct-2008	12-Oct-2008	4-Oct-2008	15-Oct-2008	Date: TBD	22-Oct-2008		8-Oct-2008
	Luncheon **Time:** 11:45am - 1:45pm **Speaker and Location:** Army Navy Club **CPE:** 1	**Walk to D'Feet ALS®** Constitution Gardens, Washington, DC	**C&O Canal Tour and Lunch**	**Audio Conference:** Results of AGA's Research on Performance Based Management Reporting **Time:** 2-4 PM **CPEs:** 2	**Luncheon Speaker Series** **Location:** GAO Building	**Fall Membership Liaison Luncheon:** The Value of Certifications **Location:** Veterans Administration		**Veterans Administration** Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 **Access code:** 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
			23-Oct-2008		23-Oct-2008			
			Haunted Tour of DC **Location:** 17th and I Exit of the Farragut West Metro Station **Time:** 7:30pm		**Early Careers Happy Hour** **Location:** Chef Geoff's, Washington, DC **Time:** 5:30pm			
November		14-Nov-2008	Date: TBD		18-Nov-2008			5-Nov-2008
		DC Chapter AGA's Food2Feed Thanksgiving Donation Old Post Office Pavilion, Washington, DC **Collection of donations are accepted until Nov. 14th**			**Happy Hour Kickoff** **Location:** ESPN Zone **Time:** 6:30pm			**Veterans Administration** Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
December	10-Dec-2008	10-Dec-2008	15-Dec-2008	10-Dec-2008				
	Luncheon **Time:** 11:45 - 1:45 **Speaker and Location:** Mr. Stan Collender, Managing Director, Qorvis Communications @ Army Navy Club **CPE:** 1	Toys for Tots during the **Luncheon**	**AGA DC Holiday Happy Hour** **Location:** Old Ebbitt Grill, Back Bar **Time:** 4:30 - 6:00pm	**Audio Conference:** 21st Century **Managers:** New Mix of Skills and Education Levels **Time:** 2-4 PM **CPEs:** 2				

Calendar of Events — 2008/2009 Program Year

Month	Luncheons	Community Service	Member Service	Education	Early Careers	Membership	Awards	CEC Meetings
	22-Jan-2008	22-Jan-2009	Date: TBD	15-Jan-2009	20-Jan-2009			
January	**Luncheon** **Time:** 11:45 - 1:45 **Speaker and Location:** Ken Carfine, Treasury Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Army Navy Club **CPE:** 1	Make-a-Wish Foundation during the **Luncheon**	**Chinese New Year**	**Training:** Internal Controls in the Federal Government--Understanding A-123 **Location:** Ernst & Young, Washington DC **Time:** 8AM - 4:30PM **CPEs:** 8 **21-Jan-2009** **Audio Conference:** How XBRL Can Enable Improved Financial and Performance Reporting **Location:** Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC **Time:** 2-4 PM **CPEs:** 2	**Happy Hour** **Location:** Buffalo Billiards Dupont **Time:** 6:30 PM			
	18-Feb-2009	Date: TBD	3-Feb-2009		Date: TBD			
February	**Luncheon** Time: 11:45am - 1:45pm **Speaker and Location:** Mr. Michael S. Miles, Principal Advisor and Chief Executive of Variplan, Army Navy Club **CPE:** 1	**Volunteer Tax Assistance Program - (Throughout the Month of February)**	**Chinese New Year -** Location: China Garden, Rosslyn, VA Time: 6:30 - 9:00pm **25-Feb-2009** **Wizards Game -** Wizards vs. Philadelphia 76ers **Location:** Verizon Center, Washington, DC **Time:** 7pm		**Lucky Strikes Event** ************************ Explore DC Series			
	19-Mar-2009	19-Mar-2009	Dates: TBD		10-Mar-2009			
March	**Luncheon** Time: 11:45am - 1:45pm **Speaker and Location:** Larry White, Captain, USCG (retired), CPA, CMA, CFP, CGFM and Executive Director of the Resource Consumption Accounting Institute, Army Navy Club **CPE:** 1	Dress for Success Suit Drive during the **Luncheon**	**Post Financial Management Conference Happy Hour** ************************** **Smithsonian Jazz Cafe**		**Luncheon Speaker Series** **Location:** GAO Building **18-Mar-2009** **Happy Hour** **Location:** Chef Geoff's, Metro Center			
	21-Apr-2009	Date: TBD	Date: TBD	8-Apr-2009	10-April-2008 17-April-2008	22-Apr-2009		
April	**Luncheon** **Time:** 11:45 - 1:45 **Speaker and Location:** Clydes **CPE:** 1	**DC Habitat for Humanity**	**Virginia Vineyards Tour** (new vineyards)	**Audio Conference:** Auditing **Time:** 2-4 PM **CPEs:** 2	**White House Tour**	**Spring Luncheon** **Time:** 12:00pm -1:00pm **Speaker and Location:** TBD **CPE:** N/A		
	20-May-2009	20-May-2009	Date: TBD	12 thru 13-May-2009	10-May-2009			
May	**Luncheon** **Time:** 11:45 - 1:45 **Speaker and Location:** Army Navy Club CPE: 1	Cell Phones/Eyeglass Donation during the **Luncheon**	**Botanical Gardens**	**Training:** Annual Spring Conference **Time:** 8-4:30 PM CPEs: 15	**US Capital Tour** **19-May-2009** **Happy Hour** **Location:** Bar Louie, Chinatown			
	16-Jun-2009	16-Jun-2009	Date: TBD		4-Jun-2009		6-Jun-2009	
June	**Luncheon** **Time:** 11:45 - 1:45 **Speaker and Location:** TBD **CPE:** 1	So Others Might Eat (SOME) during the **Luncheon**	**Nationals Game and Tailgate**		**Explore DC** **Location:** Kennedy Center Millenium Stage		**Awards Dinner** **Location:** Hyatt Hotel, WDC **Time:** TBD	

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