

THE WASHINGTON CONNECTION



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What's New at FASAB?

January 8, 2004 Luncheon Meeting



Ms. Wendy Comes

At our January 8 luncheon meeting at the Bank of America, 730 15th St. NW, Wendy Comes, Executive Director of the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB), will speak on new FASAB initiatives. FASAB is reviewing its conceptual framework from the ground up and is also addressing increasingly complex liability issues. These efforts may impact the recognition of liabilities for a variety of social insurance programs, treaties, contract obligations and environmental liabilities. Ms. Comes will share her views on agencies' relationships with FASAB, including effective responses to exposure drafts. This is an excellent opportunity to hear what's on the horizon and what agencies should do to be prepared.

Wendy Comes is the FASAB Executive Director. Ms. Comes has been with FASAB since its inception and has been directly involved in many of the standards promulgated. As executive director, she manages the research staff supporting Board deliberations. She currently chairs the Accounting and Auditing Policy Committee of the FASAB. The committee provides implementation guidance for FASAB standards.

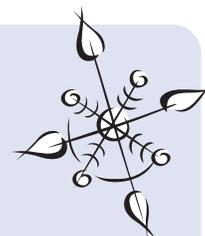
Prior to joining the FASAB staff in 1991, Ms. Comes worked in the utility field. Her experience includes consumer advocacy and corporate financial planning. She served as an auditor and expert witness for the Public Staff of the North Carolina Utilities Commission. She represented the Navy's interests in utility rate cases throughout the country while employed by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command. With Potomac Electric Power Company, Ms. Comes was responsible for long term financial forecasting, cash planning and bond rating agency presentations.

Ms. Comes graduated with distinction from the University of Virginia with a Bachelor of Science degree in Commerce. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Association of Government Accountants. She has served as chairperson of the AGA Professional Certification Board, President of the AGA's Washington DC Chapter, and member of the AICPA's Members in Government Committee and Group of 100. She has published in the Journal of Accountancy and is the author of the federal portion of the AGA's Study Guide for CGFM Exam 2 – Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting.

January Luncheon

Thursday, January 8th- Luncheon - 11:30 - 1:30pm
Bank of America, 730 15th St. NW (see page 2 for directions)
"What's New at FASAB"

Ms. Wendy Comes, Executive Director, FASAB
(Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board)
Members: \$22.00, Non-Members: \$35.00



President's Message

by Bob Reid, President



Greetings!

I hope your holidays were happy and your financial statements and reports are in good shape! In the New Year, the AGA-DC chapter's calendar is filled with the programs and activities listed here. Please mark your calendar for these informative meetings and enjoyable events. I look forward to seeing you!

**Best wishes,
Bob Reid**

January 8

At this luncheon meeting, Federal Accounting Standards Board Executive Director, Wendy Comes, will discuss FASAB's new initiatives and efforts to address recognition of liabilities for social insurance and other programs.

January 17

As the host chapter for the National Professional Development Conference in Washington in June, we need lots of volunteers to help with this major event. If you can help out, come to this initial volunteer meeting.

January 17

After the PDC volunteer meeting, come to our annual Chinese New Year Dinner with Sam Mok at the China Garden Restaurant in Rosslyn. Sorry, no CPEs for this popular event—just lots of fun and great Chinese food!

February 12

At this breakfast briefing, Karen Alderman, Executive Director of the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program, will update us on JFMIP activities. If you like to get your day started early, you'll appreciate this 7:30 am breakfast.

March 11

If your agency has distinct budget and accounting stovepipes, you'll want to attend this luncheon to hear the budget perspective from Jolene Lauria Sullens, Chair of the Budget Officers Advisory Council and Budget Staff Director at the Justice Department.

April 21

Enjoy a superb surf and turf dinner at our Annual Awards Dinner and Reception at the Pier 7 Restaurant and greet members of the profession who have made significant contributions to the field.

May 4-5

Our AGA-DC two-day education conference on FFMIA compliance will be held at George Washington University's Marvin Center. The keynote speaker will be Sally Thompson, the principal author of GAO's recently released report on what is needed to achieve FFMIA accountability.

June 27-30

You'll want to attend the National AGA Professional Development Conference here in Washington. The theme is "Technology: Powering the Accountability Age." Come join many of the key players in the accountability profession at this terrific training event.

Bank of America's Office Bldg, 730 15th Street NW (across from the Treasury Dept) **Metro:** McPherson Square, (Blue/Orange lines -2 blocks) Exit at either Vermont Ave/White House or 14th Franklin Square. Walk one block to H St., then go one block on H to 15th St. You'll see the American Bar Association building on the corner of 15th and H. Bank of America offices are next door at 730 15th St. NW. **Metro Center**, (Red line-3 blocks) Take exit for 13th and G Sts. Walk two blocks west on G St. to 15th St. Turn right and cross 15th St. and Pennsylvania Ave/New York Ave. Bank of America offices are at 730 15th St. **Parking:** Pay parking is available at Colonial Parking, 1420 New York Ave. NW, just east of 15th St.

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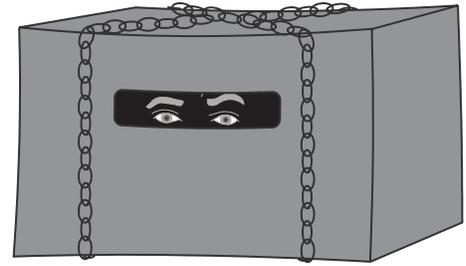


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Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA



Using the Intra-Governmental Transactions Portal (IGTP)

Reconciling Eliminations

In order to assist in reconciliations between federal agencies, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has instituted a web portal to record and manage interagency transactions. The problem of non-matching reports of interagency transactions has been known for decades. Also known was the fact that such transactions can be very complex, especially now that agencies are required to break the transactions out by General Ledger (GL) account, and not just track the cash flow or expenditure of authority (which continues to be a problem by itself). Only the great advances made recently in computing power and telecommunications has permitted the federal government to attempt a comprehensive solution.

One for One

The guidance from Treasury FMS and OMB is good, and I won't replicate it here. However, the examples they give only capture some of the complexities of interagency transactions, such as timing and GL account posting, but all the transactions shown are between two entities. One of the complexities innate to government transactions is the use of multiple funding sources, something that is meaningful to only the purchaser.

Two or More for One

For example, an agency rents space from GSA. The rental comes from several different managers' allotments. It might also come from different Fund Symbols (especially now that multi-year funds are increasingly common). The space allocation may change during the year. The costs associated with rent might also be allocated after the fact, which would force GSA to adjust bills that they thought were closed.

Solutions

The easiest solution is to break out the order into separate orders for each funding source. This assumes the allocation is done in advance, and is worthwhile only if the amounts are significant. What does an agency do if both of these do not hold true?

If the purchaser has a revolving fund, they could put the contract under its authority, then get reimbursed as the costs are allocated. Currently, such an allocation would be recorded on Treasury's Statement of Transactions (such as the SF-224). Once these monthly statements go away, it would be necessary to enter the intra-agency allocation transaction itself into the portal.

If the purchaser does not have a revolving fund, then one funding source could be the point of contact for the transaction and use its symbol. The allocation would be performed with an expenditure transfer (reducing costs and expenditures for the contact source and increasing them for the allocated source). Again, this would need to be reported on the Statement of Transactions or in the portal if different Fund Symbols are used (but not if the allocation is between allotments using the same Fund Symbol). If the amounts are significant enough for the contact allotment, it may be necessary to record the expenditure transfer before the expenditure takes place (in order to prevent the allotment from going deficient). So long as both pieces take place in the same month, the timing should not cause any reporting problems.

Another solution is to separate the funding from the cost. Give the point of contact allotment all the funding for this contract, so expenditure transactions are not needed (if multiple Fund Symbols are involved, then Congressional and OMB approval is necessary). The contact allotment would hold the budget, but record the various cost centers (allotments) associated with the contract for purposes of calculating net cost and performance measures.

The SGL concepts in this column represent the opinions of the Author and are not endorsed by AMS, the AGA, the USSGL Board, or the Treasury Financial Management Service. Guidance is available at the USSGL web site maintained by the Treasury at www.fms.treas.gov/ussgl. Please send comments, suggestions, and critiques to Simcha.Kuritzky@ams.com.

Ski trip to Liberty Mountain Resort

Membership Services is sponsoring a day ski trip to Liberty Mountain Resort on Friday February 13, 2004. This will be in partnership with the Northern Virginia, Montgomery/PG and Baltimore chapters. We will meet at the Clock Tower circle entrance area at 10am. Liberty is conveniently located just one hour from the DC area. Just take 495 to 270 North to Fredrick. Then take 15 North to Emmitsburg exit into South Seton Avenue. Left on to Rt 140 west which becomes Rt. 16. Follow Rt. 16 to 116E. Right on 116E for 3 miles. Complete ski packages (equipment, lessons and lift tickets) are available for AGA

members at discounted group prices (\$46.00 Learn to Ski/Snowboard - limited mountain *** \$56.00 Intermediate and advanced - all mountain and *** \$30.00 lift ticket only – all mountain). The date of this activity may be subject to change due to weather conditions. The alternate date is Friday February 20. Please check the AGADC web site for any last minute changes. If you are interested in attending this activity, or for more information, please contact karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov (202.874.6131).

H·A·P·P·Y·N·E·W·Y·E·A·R

Chinese New Year Dinner



Member Services, in conjunction with Sam Mok (CFO) Dept. of Labor, is sponsoring a Chinese New Year Dinner at the China Garden Restaurant on Saturday, January 17, starting at 6 p.m. Come and enjoy a wide variety of delicious Chinese cuisine. The cost is \$30 per person. Dinner is 10 courses (2 appetizers, 1 soup, 5 entrees, 1 fried rice and 1 desert). Soft drinks and hot tea are included. Cash bar is optional. Plenty of complimentary parking is available in the building. Dress is business casual. The China Garden is located at 1100 Wilson Blvd. in Rosslyn, (Arlington) Virginia. If you are interested in attending this activity, please contact Karl.I.boettcher@FMS.treas.gov (202.874.6131) by Friday, January 9th. For additional information you also can contact the China Garden at (703.525.5317).

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Chapter Meetings, Talk it up and ATTEND!

Schedule of Meetings

Date: Thursday, January 8th
Location: Bank of America, 730 15th St. NW
Time: 11:30 – 1:30pm
Speaker: Ms. Wendy Comes, Executive Director, FASAB (Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board)
Topic: What's New at FASAB

Date: Thursday, February 12th
Location: Bank of America, 730 15th St. NW
Time: 7:30 – 8:30 am
Speaker: Ms. Karen Alderman, Director, JFMIP (Joint Financial Management Improvement Program)
Topic: JFMIP Update

Date: Thursday, March 11th
Location: Bank of America, 730 15th St. NW
Time: 11:30 – 1:30pm
Speaker: Jolene Lauria-Sullens, Budget Director, Dept. of Justice
Topic: TBD

Date: Thursday, May 13th
Location: Pier 7 Restaurant-Channel Inn, 650 Water St. SW
Time: TBD
Speaker: TBD
Topic: TBD

Special Events and Member Activities

Event/Activity: Awards Dinner/Reception
Date: Wednesday, April 21st
Location: Pier 7 Restaurant-Channel Inn, 650 Water St. SW
Time: Cash Bar 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:00 pm, Speaker 7:00 pm
Speaker: Sallyanne Harper, Chief Mission Support/CFO

Education Events/Conferences

Event/Conference: Achieving FFMA Compliance
Date: May 4th-5th
Location: George Washington University's Marvin Center
Speaker: Sally Thompson (principal author of GAO's recently released report on what is needed to achieve FFMA accountability)

Event/Conference: National AGA Professional Development Conference
Date: June 27th-30th
Location: Washington
Speaker: "Technology: Powering the Accountability Age", Various Speakers



Washington DC Chapter AGA Board Meeting Minutes from Tuesday December 2nd, 2003

Eighteen Members of the board participated. The following topics were discussed:

- Bob Reid announced that the February meeting will be a breakfast at Bank of America with Karen Alderman giving an update on JFMIP activities.
- Remaining breakfast/luncheon events are posted on the meeting schedule, please see the website. The Awards Dinner will be held at Pier 7 on Wednesday April 21, 2004. The price will be about \$50 per person.
- Dr. Linda M. Combs from DOT is invited to speak at the May luncheon but acceptance is pending her Senate Confirmation.
- Peter Gilmour is working on setting up a 15 minute CGFM update at the February meeting.
- There will be a two-day educational conference on May 5th and 6th at The George Washington University's Marvin Center. The Education Committee and members of the Board are working out details.
- The Chinese New Year dinner co-sponsored by Sam Mok will be at the China Garden Restaurant in Rosslyn, Virginia, 1/17/2004 from about 6 to 9 pm.
- A Ski Trip is being planned for February at Ski Liberty. Family Event.
- The Professional Development Conference Coordinating Committee has scheduled a meeting for Saturday January 17th. Time and location To Be Determined. The Committee needs lots of chapter members to volunteer to help out at the June PDC.

The next Director's Meeting will be held at JFMIP on January 6, 2004.

AGA Washington Chapter Membership Services Events 2003-2004

In an effort to provide our membership with a variety of social activities, Members Services is scheduling the following events for the coming membership year. These events represent some new initiatives and repeats of our most successful prior year's activities. We will again attempt to partner our activities with, local

AGA chapters and other professional organizations. Also, watch for our participation in additional partnership activities being planned by other regional AGA chapters and by our own Community Service and Early Careers.

Date	Event	Partnership
January 17, 2004	Chinese New Year Dinner	Sam Mok, CFO, Dept of Labor
February 13, 2004	Ski trip to Liberty Mountain Resort <i>Alternate date is February 20, 2004</i>	NVA/Montgomery/PG/Baltimore Chapters
March 13, 2004	Tour of the National Cathedral	NVA/PG Chapters
April, 2004	Mt. Vernon Tour	
May 30, 2004	Wolf Trap Event	
May/June, 2004	Attend Baltimore Orioles or Northern Virginia Cannons Baseball Game	Baltimore Chapter NVA Chapter Early Careers
June, 2004	Golf Tournament	ASMC/KPMG

Additional event information will be provided as the activity draws near and more information becomes available. Some of the activities may be subject to change due to our partnership with the GWSCPA, ASMC and the AGA - NVA, PG and Baltimore chapters. Please check your newsletter, web site or agency liaison for the latest event update. Due to advance notification

requirements and space limitations, most activities will have a response cut off date. If you are interested in an activity please let us know as soon as possible. Send your responses or direct any questions to our chapter Member Services Director, Karl Boettcher at karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov (202.874.6131).

Job Announcements

Job Type	Series	Agency	Announcement Number	Application Close Date	Contact
Supervisory Staff Accountant	GS-0510-14/14	Treasury, IRS	04-M-0021-S-M	01/15/2004	304.264.7863
Senior Systems Accountant	CP-0510-11/12	US Capitol Police	03.76	01/19/2004	employment@cap-police.senate.gov
Senior Accountant /Accountant	CP-0510-10/11	US Capitol Police	03.75	01/19/2004	employment@cap-police.senate.gov
Accountant	SK-510-13	Securities and Exchange Commission	ESHA-03-060-DP	01/17/2004	http://www.sec.futurestep.com
Auditor	CG-0511-07/07	FDIC	WA183192-CG	02/28/2004	202.606.0974
Auditor	CG-0511-09/09	FDIC	WA183195-CG	02/28/2004	202.606.0974

If your organization would like to list job announcements in the newsletter, please send announcement information to diane.wright@ams.com.

E-mail Mailing List

Would you like to receive e-mail reminders of our monthly meetings and conferences? If so, please go to <http://www.agadc.org> to sign up for our mailing list in the Member Services section of the website.

Welcome to the Washington DC Chapter's Newest Members

Individual	Employer
Mrs. Meredith Ann Brodsky	Booz Allen Hamilton
Mrs. Kathy S. Crouch	Department of State
Mr. David J. Gribble	Retired
Mr. Anthony Lopresti	American Management Service
Ms. Kathleen McGettigan, CPA	Office of Personnel Management
Mr. James J. McKay	
Ms. Thembi McWhite	Metaformers Inc.
Mr. William J. Mea	Department of Labor
Mr. Carl R. Pfitzinger	Farm Credit System Insurance Corp
Ms. Kieu T. Rubb, CPA, CMA	Department of Energy
Mrs. Susan Santos, CPA	Australian Government Department of Defense
Mr. Ludwig Terterian	
Ms. Dorothy S. Willey	Federal Deposit Insurance Corp

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today!*

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Newsletter Comments or Suggestions?

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter? Do you have an article you'd like to see in print? The deadline for submitting articles to appear in the February 2004 issue is January 15, 2004. Please send your comments and contributions to the newsletter editor, Diane Wright at diane.wright@ams.com.

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Are you interested in serving as a reviewer for AGA's Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) Program? We are continually seeking senior-level (GS-14 and above) individuals representing the CFO offices, IG offices, performance measurement experts and independent public accounting firm representatives who can volunteer their time and expertise to serve in this critical capacity.

Reviewers read one Performance and Accountability Report, evaluate it using AGA's Reviewer Guidelines, submit detailed recommendations for improving the report, and discuss all recommendations during a team meeting. Visit www.agacgfm.org/performance/cear/cearreviewer.aspx for all the details including benefits of participation (including receiving 2.5 to 3 CPE hours in "management" for completing the reviewer's classroom training), eligibility, level of commitment and an application form. Contact Lisa Thatcher at lthatcher@agacgfm.org for more information.

AGA DC Conference

The conference is being held on May 4 and 5 at George Washington University. The conference is titled "Achieving FFMI Compliance", and will include sessions that address these areas:

- **Integrating Financial Systems**
- **Improving Reconciliation Procedures**
- **Achieving Accurate and Timely Reporting**
- **Complying with the SGL**
- **Adhering to Federal Accounting Standards**
- **Strengthening Security Over Information Systems**

Featured speakers include Sally Thompson, Director, Financial Management and Assurance, General Accounting Office, and Sam Mok, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Labor. Other speakers will be announced as they are confirmed.

Register Now for National Leadership Conference

AGA is proud to present the Second Annual National Leadership Conference (NLC), Feb. 19-20, 2004, in Washington, D.C. "First Responders: Financial Leadership in an Era of Crisis" will bring together federal, state and local government leaders to discuss common challenges. In an age of heightened security and increased demand for services, the three levels of government are working together to do more with less. Hear from top-ranking government leaders who are facing these challenges head on. In addition to an outstanding technical program, the NLC offers excellent networking opportunities, an Exhibit Hall showcasing the latest innovations in financial management and accountability, and the ability to earn 14 CPE hours. Early registration fees (by Jan. 16) are \$500 for AGA members and \$675 for nonmembers. Register online and save \$25!

For more information, please visit www.agacgfm.org/nlc.



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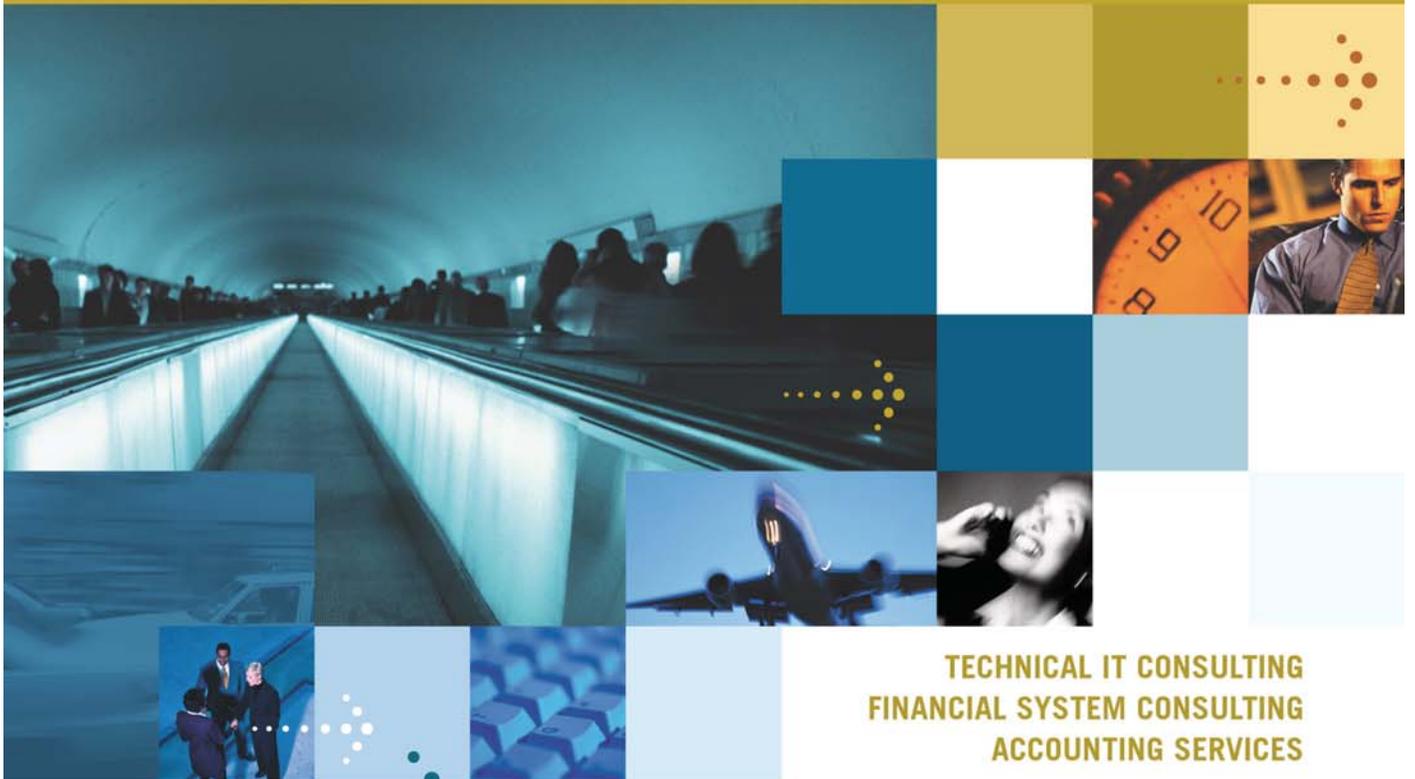


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AGA Volunteers Needed!

Camera-person

Did Santa bring you a digital camera for Christmas? Or do you already have a camera, and can you usually take a photo without cutting off your subject's head? If you fit this description and are willing to take at least one shot of our guest speaker at our monthly meetings, we need you! We'd like to include the guest speaker's photo in our monthly newsletter. Please contact Diane Wright at 703.227.7325 or diane.wright@ams.com if you want to be our "photo journalist."

Agency Liaisons

We need a contact person in each agency or bureau who will notify members in their organizations of upcoming events and generally get the word out. Do you know the AGA members in your agency or bureau, or would you like to know them? This is a good networking opportunity. If you haven't heard from a liaison person in your agency or bureau, and you're willing to put in just a little time each month, please contact Marguerite Nealon at 202.927.2971 or marguerite.nealon@dhs.gov.

Registrars for May Conference

On May 4-5, 2004, the Chapter will host its annual education conference at George Washington University's Marvin Center, 21st and H Sts. NW. We will need volunteers to help with the registration. If you can do this, please contact Susan Johnson at 703.917.7082 or ssjohnson@lmi.org.

Host Chapter Volunteers for June PDC

We will need lots of help as the Washington chapter hosts the national AGA Professional Development Conference, June 27-30 here in Washington at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. We're looking for people who are available both days during the weekend before the PDC and each day during the PDC. A preliminary meeting of those interested in serving as volunteers will be held Saturday, January 17 at the AGA National Office in Alexandria. Please contact Eva Williams at eva.williams@irs.gov.



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If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Wendy Papagjika of Altum, program sponsor, at wendy.papagjika@altum.com or 301-570-6219. Or contact Eternitree directly at the contact information provided on their website.

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AGA Launching CEAR Evaluations Early

AGA is launching the Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) Program evaluations early and extending the option for federal agencies to submit their Fiscal Year 2003 Performance and Accountability Reports (PARs) and related documents anytime between now and March 1, 2004. Participants will receive the evaluation results approximately 12

weeks after submission, which will allow sufficient time to consider and incorporate the review panel's recommendations into Fiscal Year 2004 PARs due to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget on Nov. 15, 2004. Agencies interested in taking advantage of this option should contact Lisa Thatcher at lthatcher@agacgfm.org or 703.684.6931, ext. 212.

NASA Official: Congress Should Encourage Linking Budgets, Performance

Agencies will have no incentive to manage programs efficiently and prepare thorough reports documenting their results if they believe that lawmakers are not paying attention, a NASA management adviser said Tuesday. Without cooperation from Congress, the Bush administration will have difficulty prompting federal agencies to get the most bang for their budgets, said Lloyd Blanchard, senior adviser for financial management at NASA. President Bush's five-part management agenda asks agencies to consider the performance of past projects when formulating

budget requests. In turn, Congress is expected to base funding decisions partly on agencies' progress at meeting goals. If Congress fails to do so, it sends the wrong message to agencies, he said. Blanchard spoke at a Capitol Hill workshop hosted by the Mercatus Center, a Fairfax, VA-based policy institute run by George Mason University.

—Amelia Gruber, *Government Executive*.

Read more at www.govexec.com/daillyfed/1203/120203a1.htm.

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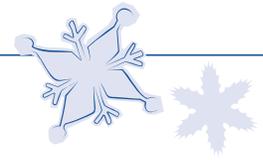
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Management Internship Program Expands

Mid-career professionals will soon be able to participate in the 26-year-old Presidential Management Intern Program. The White House has ordered the program's name changed to the "Presidential Management Fellows Program." The renamed program will remain open to recent graduates of advanced degree programs in various disciplines, but will also leave room for mid-career professionals with significant leadership potential to enter

as "senior fellows." A U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) spokesman declined to offer a timeline or other details about the program's changes, but he did say that OPM and the White House would collaborate over the coming months to create a "greatly expanded, prestigious" program.

—*Amelia Gruber, Government Executive.*

Read more at www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1103/112603a1.htm.

New Website Ranks Best Places to Work in Federal Government

The Partnership for Public Service, together with the Institute for the Study of Public Policy Implementation, has launched the Best Places to Work in the Federal Government website (www.bestplacetowork.org). It is the first-of-its-kind ranking of federal organizations and the most comprehensive rating of employee satisfaction in federal government agencies to date.

The rankings use the opinions of more than 100,000 federal workers to rate nearly every federal agency and sub-agency in the executive branch. The employee satisfaction data was collected in OPM's 2002 Federal Human Capital Survey.

—*Partnership for Public Service.*

Women Still Unable to Bridge the Salary Gap

Women in the accounting, finance and banking profession are earning 28 percent less than their male counterparts, according to a report released Wednesday by online career site CareerBank.com. The report also said the salary gap between men and women remained about the same as last year, with women earning an average of \$19,596 less than men in 2003 compared to an average of \$19,448 less in 2002. Employees are being paid 8 percent more than last year, the survey went on to say. "In a tough economic market, we see employees being asked to take on more responsibility to make up for other positions that have been downsized," said Robert G. Epstein, CareerBank.com

CEO. "In a climate such as this, it only makes sense that employers are doing what they can to keep their core employees satisfied." In its fourth year, the CareerBank.com Salary Survey is conducted annually through an online survey form. The 2003 survey results are based on the voluntary responses of 2,900 professionals in the accounting, finance and banking industries.

Read the complete report at

www.careerbank.com/resource/ssurvey/survey_results.cfm.



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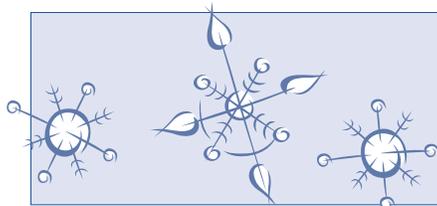
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