AGA™
Washington D.C. Chapter

The Washington Connection

What's Inside

Up Next!

April 20, 2024. Potomac River Cleanup at Gravelly Point. *Reached Capacity.*

April 24, 2024, 2:00pm-3:50pm; Webinar on the CARES Act and ARPA. **Register Here!**

May 7-8, 2024, 22nd Annual DC Chapter Hybrid Training Event. This year's event, sponsored by the DC & Northern Virginia AGA chapters. **Register Here**!

May 8, 2024, 2:00pm-3:50pm; Webinar on Fraud and Data Analytics. **Register Here!**

May 11, 2024, 9am-6pm. Annual Wine Tour. *Reached Capacity.*

May 15, 2024, 11:30am -1pm; Monthly Hybrid Luncheon. Speaker: Phyllis Fong, Inspector General, Department of Agriculture (USDA). Topic: *TBD*

May 22, 2024, 2:00pm-3:50pm; Webinar on Leadership. **Register Here**!

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to those who participated in the following events:

- Monthly Hybrid Luncheon. 03/20/24.
- AGA DC Chapter Webinar on Ethics. 04/10/24.
- April Monthly Hybrid Luncheon. 04/17/24.

SAVE THE DATE

June 22, 2024
DC Chapter Annual Gala @ *JW Marriott, DC*. **Get Tickets Here**!

NEW ADDRESS

AGA DC Chapter
Attn: Mr. Shawn Syed
1640 Boro Place, 4th Floor
Mclean, VA 22102

President's Message

Dear AGA Washington DC Chapter Members,

As the sun warms the earth, the cherry trees and flowers begin to bloom, and the days lengthen, I am filled with immense gratitude for our AGA Washington DC Chapter members, sponsors, and dedicated volunteers. Your unwavering commitment to advancing government and supporting the AGA Washington DC Chapter is honorable and commendable.

To our AGA Members: Your expertise, passion, and collaborative spirit drive progress in government operations and accountability. Whether you're in budget, audit/internal controls, financial reporting/analysis, IT, or navigating a complex series of regulations, your work matters. You are the backbone of our community and this great nation, and your contributions ripple beyond the spreadsheets and reports in which you labor. Thank you for your service and dedication to transparency, efficiency, and excellence.

To our Volunteers: You are the heartbeat of our chapter. Your selfless service—whether organizing our legendary luncheons and social events, growing our diverse membership, providing first-class education and CGFM events, mentoring emerging professionals, recognizing and celebrating greatness in government, or championing causes like local charities and fundraisers—creates a vibrant tapestry of awesomeness (yes, I said that). Springtime brings with it renewal, and your efforts breathe new energy into our chapter. Your hard work helps to ensure our members thrive, learn, and connect. I can't wait for our annual spring training on May 7th and 8th!

To Our Sponsors: I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our corporate sponsors. Your outstanding support fuels our mission, allowing us to create meaningful experiences for our members. Your commitment to the Washington DC Chapter has made you welcome partners on this great journey, nurturing growth and fostering connections. Your support for the government financial management community allows us to reach higher, learn more, and serve better.

May this season inspire us all to collaborate, innovate, and sow seeds of positive change. Thank you for being the driving force behind our shared mission and contributing to our Chapter's success and the advancement of our profession.

Sincerely,

Lal Harter, *President*
AGA Washington DC Chapter

Vision

AGA is the premier association for advancing government accountability. AGA defines government accountability as a government's obligation to the people for its actions and use of resources.

Mission Statement

AGA fosters learning , certification, leadership and collaboration for professionals and stakeholders committed to advancing government accountability.

National Council of Chapters Meeting

February 2024 NCC Meeting Summary

By Paul Marshall, Chapter President-Elect, for Caitlin Holmes McGurn, NCC Representative

The AGA National Council of Chapters (NCC) provides chapter and membership representation by furnishing critical input to the National Governing Board (NGB) on current topics, new initiatives, and governance decisions related to chapter growth and volunteerism. The NCC is composed of one member from each chapter, with 8 regional leaders also serving on the NGB as Chapter Directors. The NCC held a virtual meeting on February 7, 2024, to discuss strategic goals, successes, challenges, and innovative ideas.

This time, break out groups focused on the topic of chapter leadership succession planning. Ideas for keeping continuity in chapter leadership included:

Start succession planning a year or two in advance for positions like President and Treasurer. These are challenging roles that require years of experience with a chapter and command many hours during the year. Chapters need to engage future chapter leaders early to give them a chance to learn multiple aspects of how to lead a chapter, including providing benefits to members, but also the administrative duties required to run a chapter.

Encourage committee Directors to coach and mentor committee members so that one day they will take on Director positions.

Encourage movement from one committee to another to provide a variety of experience and also train future chapter executive committee members

Recently AGA National announced the election of new National Governing Board officers.

- Mark Mitchell as National President-Elect
- Donna Sandoval as National Treasure-Elect
- Demek Adams as Director At-Large.

Their two-year terms will commence July 1, 2024.

Leadership Announcements

The AGA DC Nominating Committee is proud to announce that we recently selected two new leaders for the upcoming program year!

Crystal Wolf will be serving as the **Chapter President-Elect** beginning on July 1, 2024, and her presidency will begin on July 1, 2025. Crystal has provided services in finance optimization, governance, risk and control, and compliance for various Federal agencies, including the government's largest loan and grant programs to support families, students, and small businesses across the country. Crystal is a proud CGFM and has been a part of the DC Chapter since 2007 and has been serving as the Chair or Co-Chair of the Member Services Committee since then. Under Crystal's leadership, the DC Chapter consistently puts on sold out networking events throughout the year as she's looking for new and creative ideas to bring Chapter members together and also connect with other local chapters. Crystal also actively participates in various national and local chapter activities, including participating and moderating training sessions, leading surveys and thought leadership development, and attending the AGA LEAD. We are excited for Crystal to bring her vast AGA experience to this important role!

Crystal Wolf
Chapter President-Elect

Wendy Allen was selected to serve as the **Treasurer-Elect**, also beginning on July 1, 2024, and will support Mona Amatie when her term as Treasurer begins on July 1, 2024. Wendy is a Managing Director in KPMG's Federal Audit Practice. She has over 28 years of accounting experience, including 20 years providing professional audit services to the Federal government. Wendy has been a member of AGA DC Chapter for more than 16 years. As a CGFM herself, Wendy has served on the DC Chapter's CGFM Committee for four years to support our members to pursue the CGFM certification. Her leadership as the CGFM Committee Director led our Chapter to win the national CGFM Chapter awards for multiple years. Wendy has been serving on our Chapter's Strategic Direction Committee since 2020. Wendy leads the Chapter's various survey planning, execution, and analysis efforts, which are critical work for our Chapter to meet the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) requirements in providing CPEs for our luncheon program and to analyze our members' satisfaction with our Chapter's events and programs. Wendy also leads the Chapter's annual operating plan development efforts and currently serves as one of the appointed Chapter Directors.

Wendy Allen
Treasurer-Elect

Please join us in congratulating and welcoming our new leaders!

AGA DC Nominating Committee

- Lal Harter, Chapter President
- Paul Marshall, Chapter President-Elect (Nominating Committee Chair)
- Caitlin Holmes McGurn, National Council of Chapters Representative and Past Chapter President (2022-23)
- Paul Lionikis, Senior Advisor and Past Chapter President (2020-21)
- Frank Petersen, Monthly Luncheon Program and National President-Elect
- Thomas Chin, Newsletter and Chapter Director (Appointed)

Your challenges may be complex.
Our solutions help make them simple.

J.P. Morgan proudly serves governments at the federal, state and local levels—delivering to you the same proven success we've brought to the private sector in a secure and compliant manner.

With deep expertise and industry-leading solutions, we work with government financial professionals across the country to solve the most complex treasury challenges of the day.

Developing a resiliency and readiness plan	**Protecting against payment fraud**	**Automating manual processes**
Increasing transparency across your cash operations	**Digitizing your infrastructure and processes**	**Simplifying the payments experience for constituents**

Learn how our digital-first solutions can help shape the future of your organization.

jpmorgan.com/public-sector

J.P.Morgan

2024 AGA DC Chapter Spring Training

Advancing Government Innovation

Registration is now open for the 22nd Annual AGA DC Chapter Hybrid Training Event! This year's event, sponsored by the DC & Northern Virginia AGA chapters, will take place on **May 7th & 8th, 2024**. Similar to years past, you are able to join us either in-person or virtually and earn up to 16 CPE credits.

The in-person ticket price includes continental breakfast & lunch & break-time refreshments both days as well as a cocktail hour at the end of Day 1. In-person cost is the same as for virtual attendance -- $350 for members and $450 for non-members. Don't miss this opportunity to hear firsthand from government leaders about the issues impacting Federal financial management and related functions. As is our tradition, we offer ethics training that meets VA, DC, and MD CPE requirements. Space is limited so reserve your attendance now as this event sells out.

Confirmed speakers include Taka Ariga, GAO's Chief Data Scientist and Director of the Innovation Lab, Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics, and David Lebryk, Fiscal Assistant Secretary for the US Department of the Treasury.

This year's training will offer ethics training that meets VA, DC, and MD CPE requirements. The agenda is expected to include these topics and more:

- Ethics, recruitment and retention of diverse talent;
- Understanding AI Challenges;
- Accounting for Loans;
- Diversity in Finance;
- Potential for Generative AI in CFO Organizations;
- Improving Data Quality for usage with AI and other technologies; and,
- More to come!

Don't miss this opportunity to hear firsthand from top government leaders about current issues impacting innovation in Federal financial management and related functions! For more information on the training, please see the **AGA DC website**.

2024 AGA DC Chapter Spring Training Cont'd.

All registration closes on April 30th, so sign up early as not to miss this informative training. Register Here.

Learning Objectives: Provide training by key leaders in the federal financial management sphere with insight into the current financial environment.

Delivery Method: In Person and Virtual

CPE Credits: Up to 16 credit hours

Fields of Study: Various including Accounting-Governmental, Finance, Regulatory Ethics, and more.

Prerequisites: None

Program Level: Basic

Advanced Preparation: None

In-Person Venue: Marymount University Ballston-Center; 1000 N Glebe Rd, Arlington, VA 22201 - **Directions**

Participants will sit in a 200-person auditorium with stadium seating. Presenters will be on a stage in front. Each chair has a portable desk to use if desired. Only covered drinks are allowed in the auditorium. There are no electrical outlets in the auditorium seating section. A workspace will be reserved on the 3rd floor for use to work if desired. There are several common area spaces on the floors that can be used as well.

In-Person Parking: Marymount University Ballston Center's parking garage may be accessed from the rear of the building, off N. Wakefield Street. Participants can park in spots that are not marked for Marymount or CGI for $11. Overflow parking is available in the Arlington Gateway building located across from Ballston Center at 901 North Glebe Road (Monday-Friday, 6 a.m. to 12 a.m., rates vary). Meter parking is available on N. Glebe Road and N. Fairfax Drive.

Metro: Marymount University's Ballston Center is located at the intersection of Glebe Road and Fairfax Drive, two blocks from Ballston-MU Metro (Orange/Silver lines).

Group Registration: Agencies/Organizations can select group registration for 5 or more attendees for a reduced price per attendee (7% discount for each Member and Non-Member price). Please note that you must have information for each attendee that you are registering for the group registration at the time of registration.

Please email Tyler Hampton (thampton@guidehouse.com) for information and support registering.

Refund Policy

No refunds are permitted unless the event is rescheduled or canceled. You may transfer your registration to someone else for no added cost by notifying us by April 23, 2024. You may also change your registration from in-person to virtual, or from virtual to in-person at no added cost if you notify us by 5pm EST April 23, 2024.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL

AGA DC CHAPTER

Awards Gala

22 JUNE

SATURDAY

COCKTAILS AT 6 PM
DINNER/PROGRAM AT 7 PM

JW MARRIOTT - WASHINGTON, DC
1331 PENNSYLVANIA AVE NW

COST: $25 BOARD | $35 MEMBER | $70 NON-MEMBER

SPACE IS LIMITED. RSVP BY JUNE 3

Get your tickets in advance HERE!

Tickets will *not* be sold at the door.

Awards Committee Announcement

AGA Washington DC Chapter Seeks Nominations for the Annual DC Chapter Awards!

The AGA Washington DC Chapter is seeking nominations to recognize well-deserving professionals from across the federal, state, and local sectors of government, as well as the private sector, who have made outstanding contributions to the field of accounting, auditing, budgeting, and other areas of government financial management!

The awards will be presented on **June 22, 2024** at the annual **AGA Washington DC Chapter Awards Gala**. We are now accepting nominations for the 2024 AGA Washington, DC Chapter awards. Please take a moment and review the award categories below and nominate colleagues who have made a difference in government financial management.

Completed nomination forms are due to the Washington DC Chapter Awards Committee by **April 26, 2024**, for all award categories.

Washington DC Chapter Award Categories (the Chapter will subsequently nominate awardees for AGA National Awards as indicated below):

DC Chapter Founder's Award for Enhancing the Prestige of the Government Accountability Profession recognizes superior service that enhanced the AGA DC Chapter prestige and stature. The award is bestowed in tribute to the memory of AGA and DC Chapter founding member and first National President, Robert W. King, who led the establishment of AGA and the DC Chapter. The recipient of this DC Chapter Award will be the DC Chapter's nominee for the AGA National Robert W. King Memorial Award.

- All AGA DC Chapter members are eligible, except for individuals serving on the National Governing Board or employees of AGA at the time the award is presented.

DC Chapter Founder's Award for Advancing Government Accountability recognizes an active AGA DC Chapter member or a DC-based organization that has, over a sustained period of time, made major contributions to advancing government accountability at the federal, state, and/or local level. This award is bestowed in tribute to the memory of two AGA and DC Chapter founding leaders and Past National Presidents, Raymond Einhorn and T. Jack Gary, whose contributions to advancing government accountability spanned over five decades. The recipient of this DC Chapter Award will be the DC Chapter's nominee for the AGA National Einhorn-Gary Leadership Award.

- Nominees must have a record of active participation in activities and/or programs at the AGA DC Chapter level (and national level to be considered for the national award).

Achievement of the Year Award recognizes a chapter member government employee or organization who has exhibited leadership or outstanding achievement in developing, implementing, and improving financial management in government service in the past year.

- Nominees must have been employed in government service at the time the work being recognized was performed.

Educator Award recognizes individuals in the metro-DC area who have made significant contributions to the education and training of government financial managers.

- Nominees do not have to be government employees or AGA members.

International Achievement Award recognizes a government employee who has exhibited leadership or outstanding achievement in international government financial management.

- Nominees must have been employed in government service at the time the work being recognized was performed.

Emerging Leader Award of Excellence recognizes younger government financial professionals with 5 to 10 years of experience providing notable contributions toward excellence in financial management, with the desire that the recognition will encourage others to achieve early in their professional lives.

- Nominees must have 5–10 years of experience within the government financial management arena.
- Nominees do not have to be AGA members.
- Nominees cannot receive this award more than once.

Excellence in Research Award recognizes individuals who throughout their careers (minimum of 15 years) have made continuous contributions to government financial management by their direct participation in research activities and/or through their encouragement and support of others engaged in government financial management research. Washington DC Chapter nominees for this award will be forwarded by the chapter for consideration for the *AGA National Cornelius E. Tierney/EY Research Award*.

- The nominated researchers, through their individual efforts, enhanced the image and effectiveness of government accountants, auditors, and other financial managers by their efforts in one or more of the following areas:
  - Basic Research—The gathering of information on a systemic basis for a fuller knowledge or understanding of government financial management, thereby contributing to the improvement of government financial management policies, procedures, and practices.
  - Applied Research—The application of knowledge leading to the development of new methods and techniques for government financial management, thereby contributing to the improvement of the image, operations, control, and accountability of government.
  - Education—Basic and applied research relating to the education of government accountants and other financial managers, thereby enhancing their technical and operational capabilities.
- Nominees do not have to be members of AGA.

Government Innovator of the Year Award recognizes outstanding innovation by a government employee or organization who over the past year has made significant contributions to government through the implementation of new technology, systems, or processes (e.g., non-human intelligence (a.k.a. artificial intelligence or AI), automation, machine learning, blockchain, data analytics, forensic innovations, novel software/applications, websites, dashboards, data visualization, etc.). The Washington DC Chapter award nominee will be forwarded by the chapter for consideration for the *AGA National Relmond P. Van Daniker Government Transparency Award*.

James W. Saylor Chapter Service Award recognizes an active DC Chapter member who has consistently made important contributions to the development and enhancement of the chapter during the past year. The Washington DC Chapter award nominee will be forwarded by the chapter for consideration for the *AGA National Volunteer of the Year Award*.

For more information on the AGA National awards see AGA - PDT Awards of Distinction (agacgfm.org)

Other Washington DC Chapter Award Categories:

William J. Anderson Lifetime Achievement Award is given in appreciation for significant and continuous contributions to governmental financial management and the DC Chapter.

For more information on DC Chapter awards see AGA Washington DC Chapter (agacgfm.org)

Contact Orinda Basha and Alicia Pelican at dcchapterawards@agadc.org for nomination submissions or questions.

AGA DC Training and Events

AGA DC Upcoming Events

April 20, 2024 – Potomac River Cleanup @ Gravelly Point. Sign up for any of the 20 spots available! *Reached Capacity.*

May 7-8, 2024 – DC Chapter Annual Training at Marymount University in Arlington, VA.

May 11, 2024 – 9am-6pm. Annual Wine Tour. *Reached Capacity.*

May 15, 2024 – Monthly Hybrid Luncheon, 11:30am – 1pm. Speaker: Phyllis Fong, Inspector General, Department of Agriculture (USDA).

June 22, 2024 – *DC Chapter Annual Gala* at the JW Marriott, DC. **Get your tickets here**.

****

You can earn 1 CPE from each monthly luncheon.

****

For questions regarding AGA DC events listed here, please contact us at **agadc@agadc.org**.

**** SAVE THE DATE****

AGA DC Sponsored - National Webinar Training Schedule

AGA DC sponsored National webinars will continue to be offered in a virtual format.

All webinars start at 2:00pm and end at 3:50pm ET.

You can earn 2 CPEs for each webinar!

For questions, please contact: Danielle Burrell at **danielle.c.burrell@hud.gov.**

The AGA DC Chapter will host the following AGA National webinar sessions throughout the 2024 program year.

When:

April 24, 2024 — CARES Act/ARPA

May 8, 2024 — Fraud/Data Analytics

May 22, 2024 — Leadership

For more information on these webinars and the full schedule please visit the AGA National website at: **AGA National Webinars**

**** SAVE THE DATE ****

Financial Management News Express

Joint Financial Management Improvement Program's Payment Integrity Initiative

by JFMIP Payment Integrity Initiative Working Group

The **Joint Financial Management Improvement Program (JFMIP)**, a cooperative venture between the Government Accountability Office, the Office of Management and Budget, the Office of Personnel Management, and the Department of the Treasury, recently released a plan that establishes a "whole of government" approach to promote fraud prevention and payment integrity in federally funded programs and increase accountability and transparency across all levels of government operations.

While we observed the positive effects of federal spending in supporting COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery, the pandemic exposed vulnerabilities in federal and state government payment systems and processes, leading to increased improper payments – including fraud – in federal programs.

The Payment Integrity Initiative, launched in FY 2023, aims to reinforce and amplify each JFMIP organizations' respective efforts to promote payment integrity, build off past success, and apply lessons learned, especially from experiences borne from the pandemic. Our vision is to strengthen trust in government by promoting fraud prevention and payment integrity in federally funded programs.

Payment integrity – paying the right person, in the right amount, at the right time – is one of the most important functions that the government performs. This plan focuses on three key pillars—Prevention, Best Practices, and Partnerships—to equip programs with the information, tools, and resources needed to make the shift from compliance-driven to data-driven.

- **Focus on prevention by promoting greater access and use of data and analytics.** Getting money out the door quickly to respond to an emergency does not mean we need to weaken controls and safeguards. Innovative tools can help agencies spot fraud and improper payments in seconds, preserving the user experience while preventing and detecting fraud and improper payments.

Focus on prevention   Promote best practices   Strengthen partnerships

- **Promote best practices to equip agencies and states with information, tools, and resources to prevent fraud and improper payments.** Leveraging the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and other large-scale government spending initiatives, we can apply best practices and embrace a continuous improvement approach to payment integrity.
- **Strengthen partnerships between key stakeholders throughout the payment lifecycle.** Payment integrity relies on a network of stakeholders, systems, processes, and controls throughout the payment lifecycle. Strengthening partnerships through collaboration and proactive engagement is critical to defending against current and future payment integrity challenges.

The JFMIP Principal organizations envision the nexus of these three pillars as the nucleus of the critical effort to enhance payment integrity across government. An effort that will showcase the power of collaboration across federal agencies and beyond.

Stay engaged and learn more about these efforts at **JFMIP Payment Integrity Initiative**.

DIAMOND SPONSOR

2ndWave LLC

Delivering Value and Innovation at the Intersection of Federal Financial Management, Program Management, and Technology

ABOUT 2NDWAVE

2ndWave LLC (2ndWave) is a management and technology consulting firm specialized in providing financial management, grants management, program management, and technology solutions to public sector clients. Our team of certified professionals have extensive experience implementing complex public sector programs and leading-edge technology solutions that help our clients solve their most pressing challenges while maximizing performance and minimizing risks and costs. We are a small disadvantaged 8(a) and service-disabled veteran-owned company (SDVOSB) with principal offices in the Washington, DC area.

Your Voice Matters!

by Wendy Allen, Strategic Direction Committee

You may have heard it before, but it remains true: AGA DC Leadership is dedicated to consistently improving and enhancing the benefits and services we provide to our members.

We are after all a membership organization – without you, there is no AGA and so it makes sense why we are often requesting your feedback on our luncheons, our training, as well as overall member satisfaction. The Strategic Direction Committee leads the charge on developing and administering surveys to ensure we gather relevant and timely feedback.

While some may look at it as "one more email" for those members who take the time (and often it's only a few minutes) to answer our questions **we cannot thank you enough**.

What do we do with that information you ask? Well rest assured it does not get ignored! We always take the time to analyze it, compare it with previous feedback, share it with the committee leads, and use it to either immediately course correct if necessary, or help build our future year activities. The timing of the annual member survey serves as a good indicator on what we should incorporate into the following year operating plan.

Some of the topics and updates we have made as a result of feedback include:

1. Keeping a hybrid format for our luncheons/training. Feedback received was that some of you have conflicting telework days, or meetings, or are even out of state which prevents you from joining us in person, but the hybrid option still provides you an opportunity to listen to our wonderful speakers and participate in the meeting/training.
2. Luncheons – we receive some very good real-time relevant feedback from our luncheon surveys, including feedback on food, technical difficulties encountered, views on polling questions, giveaways, and CPEs.
3. Newsletter / Social media content - Making sure that we are on the platforms you use, and also sharing relevant and pertinent information.
4. After COVID we did some outreach on when you would be comfortable coming back. We listened and incorporated that into our luncheon, training

AND events planning, and increased exponentially our in-person events. We're also happy to report an increase in our luncheon in-person attendance!

5. Speaker suggestions – our program's team is always on the look for new and relevant topics and speakers, your suggestions have provided us some great additions this year. We also receive feedback that you want to receive updates from OMB and FASAB (for example) and so make an effort to include them each year.
6. CGFM studies – for those of you pursuing your CGFM we asked how we could help with your studies and offer study groups and materials.
7. Networking events - We received feedback that we needed more in person networking and volunteer events, and so have built our calendar with that in mind, providing time at luncheons for people to network, but also planning activities and community impact events that provide an opportunity for our members to come together.

While some feedback relates directly to National specific offerings/requirements, we do pass on our AGA Survey results to them so they can hear directly from our members on what is working and what is not. By the time this newsletter is published, our committee will be actively reviewing the feedback received from our *2023/2024 Annual Member Survey*.

We sincerely appreciate your thoughtful responses. ….and while we're on the topic… *Did you know you can also provide your feedback on this newsletter?* For the link click here!

Thank you for helping us make your membership experience a great one!

Thought Leadership

Revolutionizing Conversations:

ChatGPT's Potential Uses and Limitations in Conversational AI

By Daniella Dorio, Consultant, Kearney & Company

As technology continually pushes the boundaries of human ingenuity, conversational AI has emerged as a fascinating and transformative force. These Natural Language Processing (NLP) advancements, like ChatGPT, have revolutionized the way we interact with virtual assistants. This article explores Generative Pre-Trained Transformer (GPT) 4 architecture, prompt engineering, potential uses, and limitations.

GPT 4 Architecture

Conversational AI has become a highly sought-after component of human-computer interaction, with language models playing a crucial role in this development. NLP has undergone significant advancements with the emergence of Large Language Models (LLM).[1] These advancements gave way to ChatGPT's model version GPT 4 architectures, employed on an unprecedented and disruptive scale of 175 billion parameters.[2] Given the speed and scale of AI technological advancements, there is evidently a monumental shift in human-computer interaction.

Developed on November 30, 2022, by OpenAI, ChatGPT is a groundbreaking advanced language model capable of generating responses remarkably similar to those of human conversations.[3] The "GPT" in ChatGPT stands for Generative Pre-trained Transformer, a type of neural network that learns context and can perform data analytics, typically on language data.[4] GPTs are "generative" because they can create new data and are "pre-trained" because they leverage existing models instead of creating new ones.

Prompt Engineering

To optimally use conversational AI, such as ChatGPT, it is important to understand prompt engineering. Prompt engineering is the process of describing a task that a user wants an AI chatbot to accomplish.[5] By

ENGINEERING DESIGN PROCESS

1. IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM
2. BRAINSTORM
3. DESIGN
4. BUILD TEST & EVALUATE REDESIGN
5. SHARE SOLUTIONS

understanding how AI processes the query, a prompt engineer can manipulate responses to achieve the intended results. For example, if an AI bot is asked "what is the weather," the results can widely vary from indoor and outdoor temperatures, location, and any additional desired information, such as humidity or air quality. By refining the prompt to "what is the outdoor temperature, humidity, and air quality in Washington, DC" the chatbot can more accurately respond with the requested information.

ChatGPT Potential Uses

1. ***Simplify Complex Ideas***
   Subject Matter Experts must simplify their technically robust findings into digestible,

[1] What is Natural Language Processing? | IBM
[2] Introducing ChatGPT (openai.com)
[3] ChatGPT — Release Notes | OpenAI Help Center
[4] The A to Z of Artificial Intelligence | Time
[5] What is prompt engineering? Definition + skills | Zapier

ChatGPT | OpenAI
How to Get a Six-Figure Job as an AI Prompt Engineer | Time
How to write an effective GPT-3 or GPT-4 prompt | Zapier

Thought Leadership cont'd.

easy-to-understand topics. For example, if a client is working with AI and does not understand what LLMs are, then they can ask ChatGPT to "explain what a large language model is, at a high-level." Or they can ask ChatGPT to "rewrite this sentence to remove unnecessary jargon" to provide concise explanations.

2. *Code Composition Development*
ChatGPT can additionally be applied as a code composition resource. For example, users can instruct ChatGPT to write code in specific languages by inputting, "write code to concatenate Employee and Salary data tables in Python." ChatGPT should be used as a supplementary resource similar to developers leveraging Stack Overflow to ask coding questions and investigate syntax best practices.

3. *Résumé Review and Evaluation*
ChatGPT can write, edit, and read résumés, making the AI chatbot an invaluable resource for recruiting staff. ChatGPT can assist with content analysis, keyword matching, and overall impressions of the applicant's résumé. To optimize ChatGPT for résumé evaluation, recruiters and users should consider uploading the job description, sample résumés, and other materials to maximize context and relevance.

Limitations

With every new technology, there are always areas of potential improvement. While ChatGPT provides powerful conversational capabilities, users should also be mindful of its limitations and exercise caution to relying solely on its responses, especially in sensitive domains. Limitations include virtual assistants' lack of contextual understanding, sensitivity to prompt engineering, and ethical and legal considerations.

Conclusion

The emergence of conversational AI has heralded a new era in human-computer interaction, transcending the boundaries of what was once thought possible. As technology continues to advance, AI's capacity to comprehend and engage in meaningful conversations with users has become increasingly sophisticated. Language models' wide-ranging applications make it a powerful tool for democratizing AI technology for average consumers. However, addressing ethical and legal considerations is critical to effectively harness AI's full potential while ensuring its responsible integration into our lives.

Kearney & Company is a Diamond Sponsor of our AGA DC Chapter.
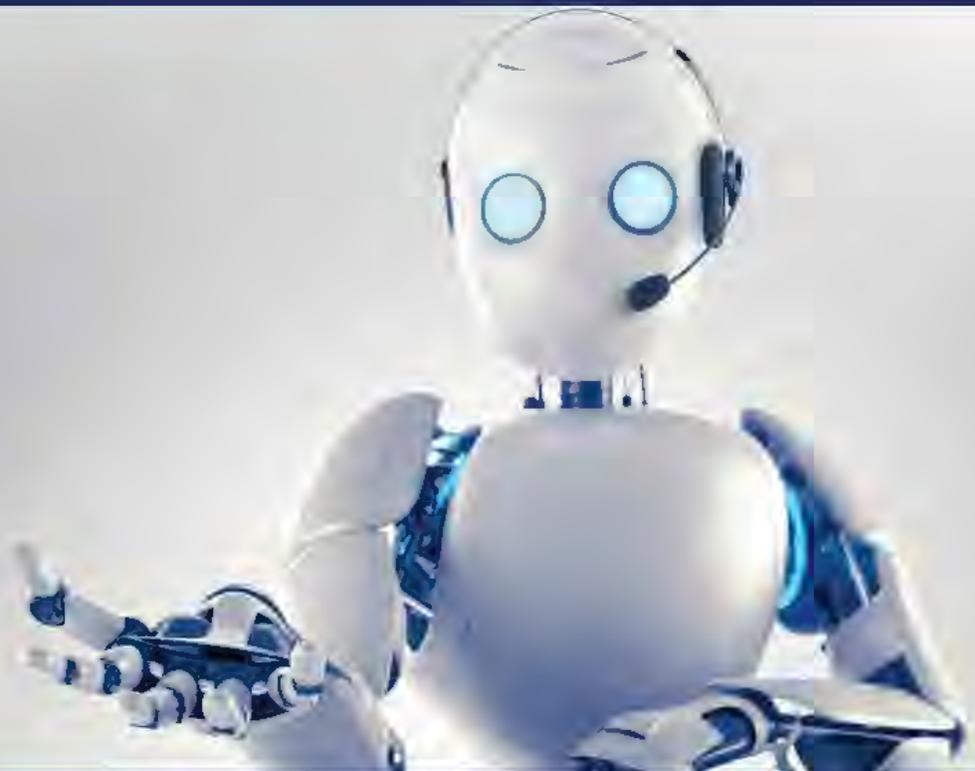
Disability Visibility:

A Book Review by the AGA DC DEIA Committee

By: Julia Duquette and Salim Mawani

Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century (2020) stands as a profound collection of thirty-seven nonfiction essays penned by disabled activists and advocates, carefully curated by the esteemed disability rights activist, Alice Wong. Wong's introduction sets the stage, championing the notion of centering the wisdom of disabled individuals: "Collectively, through our stories, our connections, and our actions, disabled people will continue to confront and transform the status quo."

Each essay delves into a unique facet of the disabled experience, offering poignant insights and lived realities spanning a diverse spectrum of physical and mental disabilities. Since its publication, **Disability Visibility** has emerged as a seminal text, resonating deeply within both the disability justice movement and the realm of disabled writers.

With one in five Americans living with a disability, there arises a pressing need to expand our comprehension of both visible and less apparent disabilities. This anthology rises admirably to this challenge, inviting readers to interrogate their own awareness while gaining a deeper understanding of the multifaceted nature of disability. Its accessible format facilitates easy engagement, requiring only a few moments of quiet contemplation to absorb the firsthand narratives that illuminate the struggles of existing in unwelcoming spaces.

Ultimately, **Disability Visibility** beckons readers to ponder their role in fostering inclusivity and equity. How can each of us contribute to the creation of more accommodating environments? How might we, as members of AGA and the DC Chapter, offer meaningful support in this endeavor? These are the questions that linger long after the final page is turned, urging us to translate reflection into action that is the mosaic of a more inclusive society.

The **AGA DC Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Committee** is dedicated to cultivating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment for the DC Chapter and our members. By reflecting on the diversity of our community, we strive to enrich AGA, foster innovation, and achieve excellence.

"These essays are the heart, the bones, and the blood of Disability Rights."
—Gaelynn Lea, musician and activist

Disability Visibility

FIRST-PERSON STORIES FROM THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

EDITED BY

Alice Wong

Thought Leadership

Embracing Change: 2024 Updates to the Yellow Book
Authored by Nishit Kurani, Manager at RMA Associates

Background: The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has taken a significant step forward in enhancing the accountability and transparency of government operations with the release of the updated Government Auditing Standards, commonly referred to as the Yellow Book, for 2024. These revisions reflect the GAO's continued commitment to promoting excellence in auditing practices and ensuring the highest levels of integrity in the use of public funds.

Effective for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2025, with the option for early implementation, these changes will strengthen future audit practices. One of the most notable updates is the replacement of Chapter 5, "Quality Control and Peer Review," with a new focus on quality management. This transition underscores the GAO's recognition for a more proactive and holistic approach to comply with government auditing standards.

GAO stresses that implementing an effective quality management plan provides the audit organizations with reasonable assurance that the entity meets requisite responsibilities in accordance with government auditing standards. Factors like the 1) organization's size; 2) number of offices and geographical location(s); 3) experience and knowledge of the staff; 4) nature and complexity of the labor; and 5) cost-benefit considerations will influence the nature, extent, and formality of the final quality management system.


Specific Requirements: Audit organizations are now tasked with designing and implementing a system of quality management that aligns with the Yellow Book by December 15, 2025. Early adoption for financial audits, attestation engagements, and reviews of financial statements is not only permissible but encouraged, providing entities with the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to excellence and accountability. By December 15, 2026, audit organizations must have completed an assessment of their new quality management system, highlighting the GAO's emphasis on proactivity, continuous improvement, and adherence to best practices in auditing. At the heart of these updates lies a fundamental shift from quality control to quality management. This strategic realignment underscores the importance of:

1. Proactive monitoring activities tailored to the specific needs and risks faced by each organization;
2. Establishing quality objectives to properly attain, manage, and distribute resources to facilitate the design and use of the quality management system; and
3. Documenting the system of quality management to support the staff's understanding of the system and roles and responsibilities.

In addition to the overarching emphasis on quality management, the 2024 updates introduce guidance for GAGAS engagements for optional engagement quality reviews, further enhancing the rigor and reliability of financial audits. These quality reviews, which are now applicable to both government entities and recipients of governmental aid, serve as a mechanism for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of audit findings, thereby strengthening the credibility of audit reports.

Of particular significance is the inclusion of paragraph 6.39 in Chapter 6, which addresses the reporting of auditors' compliance with GAGAS. While not explicitly required by the standards, auditors are now encouraged to communicate key audit matters in their
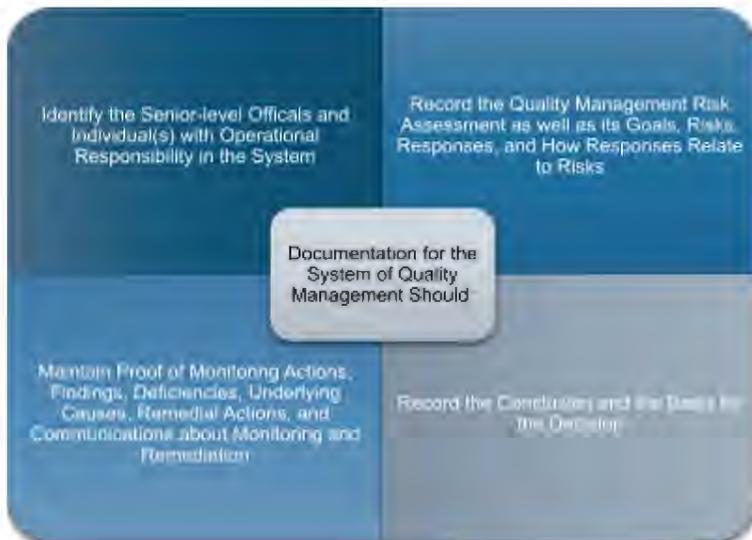
Thought Leadership cont'd.

reports if legally obligated or upon request from management or governance entities. This provision reflects the GAO's commitment to transparency and accountability, empowering auditors to disclose relevant information in the interest of public trust.

As audit organizations navigate these changes, it is imperative to heed the key takeaways from the 2024 updates. Initiating the development of a new quality management system in accordance with the revised Yellow Book is essential, with early action serving as a testament to the audit organization's commitment to excellence and accountability. Moreover, a thorough review of Chapter 5 is recommended to gain a comprehensive understanding of the new quality management system requirements, given its substantial overhaul from previous editions.

2024 updates to the Yellow Book represent a significant milestone in the evolution of government auditing standards. By embracing these changes and implementing robust quality management systems, audit organizations can uphold the highest standards of integrity and transparency.

RMA Associates is a Diamond Sponsor of our AGA DC Chapter.

Thought Leadership

How Federal Agencies Can Avoid "Pay and Chase"

By: PSFS Grants Management Team, Guidehouse

Grant disbursements have continuously increased, year over year, in proportion to federal spending. From 2020-2022, the federal government provided ~$4.6 trillion to help the nation respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.[6] During this period, federal agencies were entrusted with the responsibility of quickly disbursing these grant funds, while balancing risks associated with payment integrity. In FY22 alone, ~$247 billion improper and unknown payments were reported by federal agencies. This overall amount may become a loss to the federal government.[7,8]

What is Pay and Chase?

Pay and Chase refers to a process where grant recipients are awarded and receive grant funds prior to the grant-making agency confirming eligibility. If fraud or improper payments are discovered during this review, the grant-making agencies may be required to "chase" these funds in order to recoup the payment.

What Causes Pay and Chase?

There are multiple factors that can contribute to a Pay and Chase scenario. Grantors may not have the time, resources, or training necessary to review and verify grantee eligibility prior to funding an award. Once the award is funded, new rules, waivers, and requirements may be rolled out at various phases of the grant life cycle, which can revise previous eligibility and allowability standards.

Consequences of Pay and Chase

- Awarded funds being used outside of the intended purpose.
- Concerns around the awarding agencies' program integrity from regulatory bodies and compliance issues with regulations (e.g., OMB Circular A-123 Appendix A).
- Increased time and effort toward risk mitigation measures, which result in administrative burden and significant costs for the grantor.
- Bad publicity/compromised reputation amongst the U.S. population.

What Solutions can be Employed to Mitigate Pay and Chase?

The key to mitigating a Pay and Chase scenario is establishing repeatable processes and tools that can be applied quickly during the award phase. Some example methods include:

- **Standardized Risk and Control Matrix (RCM):** Establish a standardized set of risk factors and internal controls that cover areas such as eligibility determination, disbursement tracking, data reporting, and monitoring. In alignment with GAO-23-105876, the control activities should be preventative in nature and target the prepayment process.[9] By adopting this approach, federal financial assistance staff will eliminate the effort used to construct and validate a new RCM each time one is required and can, instead, customize the standard RCM to meet specified needs.
- **Standard Operating Procedures (SOP):** Develop SOPs that include operational best practices from prior programs and cite examples of potential fraud schemes. For example, the SOP may walk the application reviewer through the process of validating applications against the Do Not Pay system, which checks various data sources to verify the eligibility of a vendor, grantee, loan recipient, or beneficiary to receive federal payments.[10] Such SOPs help to enable federal

---

[6] 1 U. S. Government Accountability Office. n.d. "COVID-19 Relief: Funding and Spending as of Jan. 31, 2023 | U.S. GAO." www.gao.gov. Accessed March 7, 2024. https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-23-106647. Accessed March 7, 2024.
[7] U. S. Government Accountability Office. n.d. "Emergency Relief Funds: Significant Improvements Are Needed to Address Fraud and Improper Payments | U.S. GAO." www.gao.gov. Accessed March 7, 2024. https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-23-106556.
[8] Latest publicly available improper and unknown payments data.
[9] U. S. Government Accountability Office. 2023. "A Framework for Managing Improper Payments in Emergency Assistance Programs | U.S. GAO." www.gao.gov. Accessed March 7, 2024. https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-23-105876.
[10] "Do Not Pay." n.d. Fiscal.treasury.gov. Accessed March 7, 2024. https://fiscal.treasury.gov/DNP/.

Thought Leadership cont'd.

financial assistance staff to independently complete their evaluation and compliance actions prior to awarding new funding. Additionally, these SOPs should be frequently reviewed to ensure the information is relevant and up to date.

- **Training:** Maintain a standardized training method that concentrates on topics such as emerging guidance, new grant requirements, corrective action plans, and the appropriate use of current agency technologies such as grant systems, financial systems, etc. Agencies should seek to provide such training at the beginning of every new program to enable all federal financial assistance staff to perform their duties efficiently and effectively.
- **Technology and Automation:** Utilize readily available technologies and tools to perform automated controls that assist in critical processes like determining applicant eligibility, validating entity and account information, and performing checks on publicly available databases to confirm the applicant is not flagged for malfeasance, inadequate performance, or other detrimental financial actions. For example, the automated tool may be used to detect incorrect financial information in an application by comparing the reported Adjusted Gross Income against other income documentation submitted with the application, such as tax returns or Form W-2s. Grantors should reference the digital identity

control guidance for government information systems published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the SP 800-53, "Security and Privacy Controls for Information Systems and Organizations" for best practices when developing these automated controls.

Grantors should evaluate all aforementioned methods in conjunction with the U.S. Government Accountability Office Report "A Framework for Managing Improper Payments in Emergency Assistance Programs."[11]

Conclusion

The Pay and Chase scenario highlights the inherent challenges in balancing the urgency of fund distribution with the need for rigorous eligibility verification. The consequences of this approach, ranging from misused funds to reputational damage, underscore the importance and need for proactive solutions. By employing the aforementioned solutions, grantors may be able to fortify their payment processes and also contribute to the broader goals of transparency, reliability, and effective risk management in federal grant disbursements.

Guidehouse is a Diamond Sponsor of our AGA DC Chapter.

---

[11] U. S. Government Accountability Office. 2023. "A Framework for Managing Improper Payments in Emergency Assistance Programs | U.S. GAO." www.gao.gov. Accessed March 7, 2024. https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-23-105876.

Thought Leadership

Exploring the World of Large Language Models

Authored by The MIL Corporation with the assistance of ChatGPT

In the ever-evolving landscape of artificial intelligence (AI), one innovation stands out for its remarkable capabilities – Large Language Models (LLMs). Let's delve into the fascinating realm of these AI models.

What is a Large Language Model?

A Large Language Model is an advanced artificial intelligence system trained on extensive text data to not only understand but also generate and interact with human-like language. Unlike conventional chatbots, LLMs possess emergent abilities such as arithmetic calculations, question answering, and passage summarization, all without adhering to scripted responses.

Neural Network/Deep Learning

Inspired by the neural networks of the human brain, LLMs consist of interconnected nodes organized in layers. These nodes process data hierarchically, mimicking the transmission of information between neurons. With millions of parameters or weights, LLMs undergo extensive training on massive datasets to refine their understanding and adaptability.

Transformer Model: Revolutionizing Language Processing

Introduced by Google in 2017, the Transformer Model revolutionized language processing with its Graph Neural Network foundation. By analyzing word relationships within sentences or paragraphs, this model dynamically adjusts attention and comprehension to grasp contextual nuances. This breakthrough not only significantly improved the efficiency of language understanding but also paved the way for the development of more advanced models like BERT, GPT, and XLNet, which have since become cornerstones in natural language processing research and applications. Its innovative architecture has been instrumental in advancing various fields such as machine translation, text summarization, and sentiment analysis. Moreover, the Transformer Model's flexibility and scalability have enabled its adaptation to diverse tasks and domains, making it a cornerstone in modern AI research and development.

Meet ChatGPT: A Pinnacle in LLM Technology?

ChatGPT, short for Generative Pre-Trained Transformer, has been recently heralded as the pinnacle of LLM technology. With backing from Microsoft and recent FedRAMP approval, ChatGPT is certainly one of the most advanced LLMs available to the general public. Its latest iteration, ChatGPT 4-Turbo, can process 1.76 trillion parameters, enabling impressive language processing capabilities.

Training and Application: How Does it Work?

LLMs like ChatGPT are trained through prompts that guide their responses and actions. With each model accommodating a specific context size, users can fine-tune them for various applications, from financial analysis to email management. During training, the model learns to understand the structure and patterns of human language, enabling it to generate contextually relevant responses. For instance, prompts can guide the model to generate specific types of responses, such as answering questions, providing recommendations, code generation, creative writing, and even help provide decision support.

Where to Find LLM Technology

Companies like Microsoft, Google, Bing, OpenAI, and LLM Arena have already integrated LLMs into their platforms, offering users access to advanced language processing tools. Moreover, platforms like LLM Arena provide opportunities to explore various open-source models and their applications.

The Future Awaits: Anticipating Advancements

As we look ahead, the future of LLMs holds promises of enhanced reasoning, real-time communication, and even integration into user hardware. With ChatGPT-5 on the horizon and the rise of nano LLMs, specialized models designed to run directly on user hardware, the possibilities for AI-driven language processing are limitless.

Thought Leadership cont'd.

LLMs for Government Financial Management

Large Language Models (LLMs) will be able to offer government financial managers powerful tools for enhanced financial analysis, risk management, and compliance efforts. By processing vast amounts of data, LLMs could enable data-driven decision-making, accurate budget forecasting, and informed policy analysis. Use cases that are already being piloted at government agencies with LLM include:

- Automating the creation of procurement documents, utilizing standard forms and clauses, generating statements of work, and other administrative documents
- Quickly finding and interpreting guidance from multiple sources such as the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), GAO Red Book, FASAB standards and agency policies
- Extracting appropriations language from Congressional documents and translating that into budgetary entries
- Helping create and edit reports such as the Annual Financial Report and Annual Performance Report
- Creating standard operating procedures and policy documents
- Creating audit cycle memos, process narratives and flow diagrams to document internal controls
- Helping create interesting articles like this one!

The MIL Corporation is a Diamond Sponsor of our AGA DC Chapter.

VIP Luncheon

AGA Washington D.C. Chapter

With Guest Speaker Mr. Mike Wetklow

Our Chapter hosted the VIP Luncheon at The Hamilton in downtown DC on February 21. Mr. Mike Wetklow, Deputy Chief Financial Officer (DCFO) of the National Science Foundation (NSF), was our guest speaker. John Hooley, Director of the DC Chapter Sponsorship Committee, VP at MIL, made the speaker introduction.

Mr. Wetklow, CGFM, CPA, focused on incorporating RPA, blockchain, cybersecurity and data analytics into its financial management. In more than 27 years in federal, state and local government, he has led OMB in developing the first formal federal ERM guidance and the Department of Homeland Security to establish internal control over financial reporting. A member of AGA's Washington DC Chapter, Mike holds an MPA in public sector finance and a B.S. in accounting from the University of Maryland at College Park. He is currently pursuing a graduate degree in data science at the University of Virginia, serves on a Northern Virginia Community College Accounting Advisory Board, and teaches at George Mason University as an adjunct professor.

Mr. Wetklow published an article, Accounting and the Need for STEAM, in last spring's *AGA Journal of Government Financial Management*. Mr. Wetklow's presentation at the VIP Luncheon was about the article subject matter. Emerging risks and a growing body of research, data and evidence suggest a crisis in the near future of accounting. The economic and

Mr. Mike Wetklow

structural nature of ongoing trends are forcing the accounting profession to keep up with technological advances, face new risks, and act on new opportunities. The solution may be a more solid connection between accountancy and data science. Mr. Wetklow's remarks and the discussion made during the VIP Luncheon was very relevant and timely topic

During the VIP Luncheon, Mr. Wetklow also answered questions from our Diamond sponsor representatives (2nd Wave Consulting; Sikich; Guidehouse; J. P. Morgan; Kearney & Company; The MIL Corporation; RMA Associates). Thank you Mr. Wetklow for his insights, our Diamond sponsors for the participation and support, and our sponsorship committee for organizing this in-person VIP Luncheon!

VIP Luncheon cont'd.

Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM, CPA

Are Abnormal Balances Always Abnormal?

Background

For over a decade, the general ledger account listing by the U.S. Standard General Ledger (USSGL) has included a designation of a normal debit or credit balance for each account. However, sometimes an agency has to back out activity in a subsequent fiscal year, which could result in an abnormal balance. I wrote about some such cases back in 2018. However, recently OMB has made it clear that certain abnormal balances are not permitted and should be moved to other USSGL accounts.

Spending Adjustments - Disbursed

Back before 1990, one USSGL account was used for obligations (4800) and another for expenditures (4900), and that was that. Then Treasury wanted to track cash through the budgetary accounts, replacing the last zero with one for unpaid and two for paid; and OMB wanted to separate out deobligations and refunds from increases in spending from prior-year obligations, which changed the penultimate zero to seven for downward adjustments and eight for upward. So now this same activity is tracked through twelve USSGL accounts (plus an additional three for transfers, but I'm going to ignore those for this discussion).

Suppose an agency receives a refund of monies disbursed in a prior year, but the contract is still open. Is that a downward adjustment (also referred to as a recovery)? The USSGL Transaction List shows debits to 497200 Downward Adjustments of Prior-Year Paid Delivered Orders - Obligations, Refunds Collected in entries such as C132 and C136, but these always credit available or unavailable funding such as 445000 Unapportioned Authority or 465000 Allotments - Expired Authority. On the Statement of Budgetary Resources (SBR), disbursements posted to 490200 Delivered Orders - Obligations, Paid show up in Section 2 Status of Budgetary Resources as new activity on line 2190, but collections posted to 497200 show up in Section 1 Budgetary Resources as an adjustment on line 1071. The reason downward adjustments show up in Section 1 alongside new appropriations is that OMB wants to apportion the funds, and can prevent an agency from immediately spending them by withholding the apportionment.

However if the contract is still alive, then the agency may want to leave the authority on the contract. Perhaps it was a refund of an overpayment with no impact on the total contract amount. In that case, the budgetary posting would back out B107 with a debit to 490200 and a credit to either 480100 Undelivered Orders - Obligations, Unpaid or 490100 Delivered Orders - Obligations, Unpaid. Since all those accounts are mapped to SBR line 2190, this entry has no impact on the top section of the SBR. OMB can't apportion the funds because they are not available; they have already been obligated.

The problem with backing out B107 is that it posts an abnormal debit in 490200. If the refund is quickly disbursed against a new invoice, then this account will again show a zero or normal credit balance. But if there isn't much activity against that order, or if the refund is for a very large amount, or occurs at the beginning of the year, then the trial balance will show an abnormal debit balance and could also cause SBR line 4190 Outlays to go negative. While this used to only be a problem at the Treasury Agency Symbol (TAS) level, where there could be considerable offsetting disbursements to push the balance into a credit, the Governmentwide Treasury Account Symbol Adjusted Trial Balance System (GTAS) is now reporting at the TAS and Object Code level, so there may not be much offsetting activity by other orders.

OMB recently made it clear they require moving the debit entry or balance of 490200 to 497200 so it would show as normal, recording a downward adjustment to obligations in SBR section 1. OMB also says that the refund should not reopen the obligation automatically. A separate entry would be required (if it is justified) to post 488100 Upward Adjustments of Prior-Year Undelivered Orders - Obligations, Unpaid, which appears in Section 2 of the SBR alongside 480100.

Inside the Black Box Cont'd.

Red Flags

Abnormal balances should be treated as a red flag that calls for investigation. Moving the balance to another account may solve the symptom, but necessarily the problem. For debit balances of 490200, these should be caused by refunds against legitimate contracts that are still open as discussed above. However, if an agency creates a catchall order to prevent funding from expiring at year end and increases its open balance by assigning various collections against it, then that is a problem. However, the catchall obligation is a concern even if it doesn't result in abnormal balances. It could be considered an attempt to thwart the will of Congress or OMB. Similarly, if the debit balance in 490200 is caused by large accruals of disbursements that are reversed in the new year and not offset by reconciled disbursements soon, that is an indication that the agency is not reconciling their fund balance with Treasury in a timely manner.

Conclusion

OMB and Treasury tolerate some abnormal balances, but not in 490200 disbursements. Balances there must be quickly restored to a zero or normal balance through activity or moved to 497200 downward paid expenditure adjustments. However, fixing the symptom may not address the problem. Agencies should investigate any abnormal balances to determine the cause and see if changes are needed to procedures or the posting model.

Comments and critiques, as well as specific questions or suggestions for future topics, are always welcome. Please send them to Simcha.Kuritzky@CGI.com, and not to the AGA.
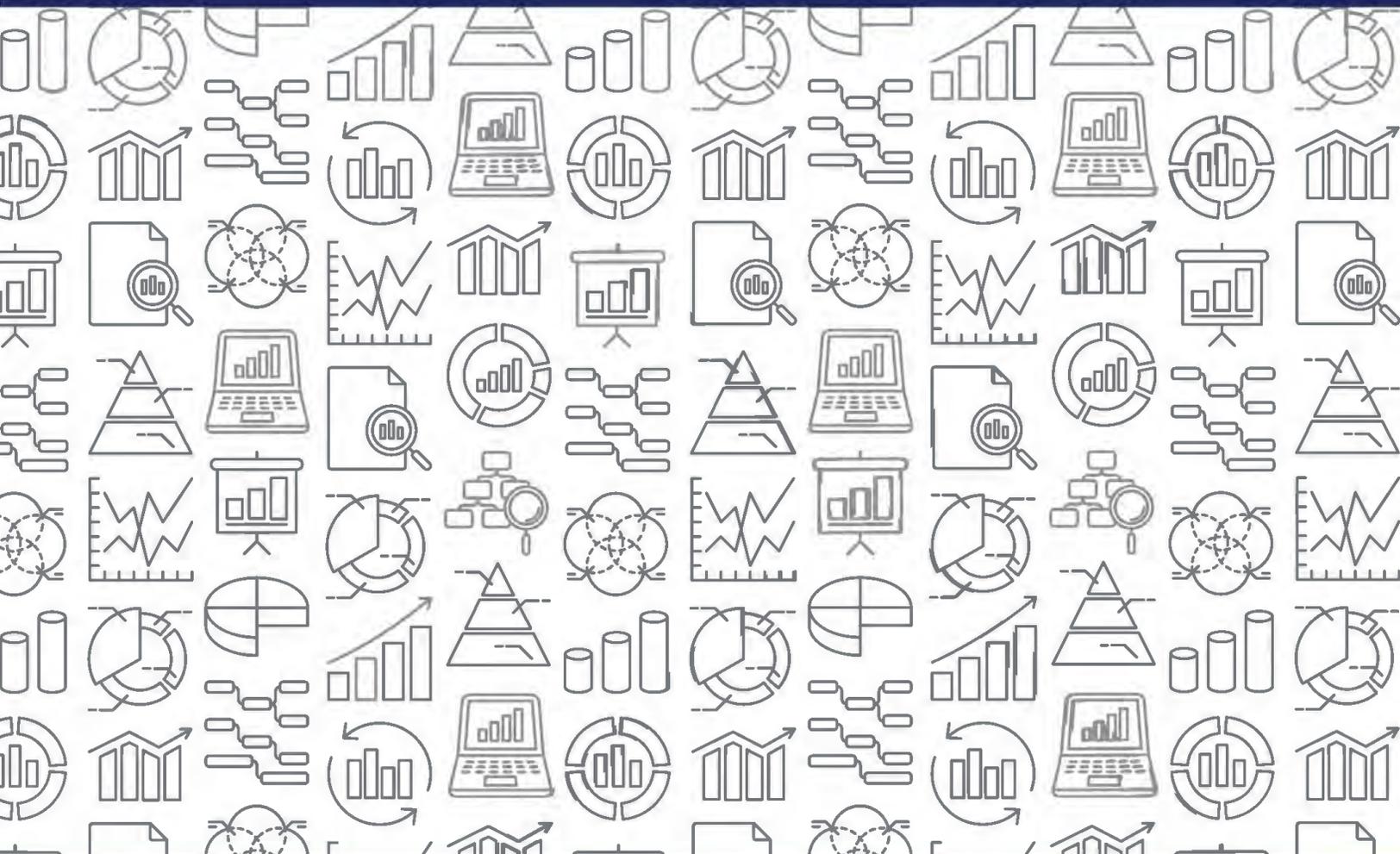
January 2024 Hybrid Luncheon
Complexity of User Fees

On January 10, 2024, the DC Chapter welcomed our January hybrid luncheon speaker **Mr. Benjamin Moncarz**, Chief Financial Officer of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). We are grateful for 106 in-person and virtual attendees who joined us at Clyde's of Gallery Place in downtown Washington, DC. **Ms. Caitlin Holmes McGurn**, our Chapter Past President and Partner from Guidehouse, a proud AGA-DC Chapter corporate sponsor, introduced our speaker at the luncheon.

Our luncheon speaker Mr. Moncarz discussed the complexity of user fees during the luncheon. Mr. Moncarz is responsible for the administration's comprehensive budget, acquisitions, financial management, planning and program evaluation, and enterprise risk management operations. As the FDA's CFO, Mr. Moncarz has purview over five executive-led offices, and a financial management and contracts portfolio that executes $7 billion annually. Prior to joining the FDA, Mr. Moncarz served as Deputy CFO at the Federal Emergency Management Agency. While there, Mr. Moncarz served as the Acting CFO, spearheading FEMA's financial leadership of COVID-19 pandemic response operations.

Mr. Benjamin Moncarz

Ms. Caitlin Holmes McGurn

Prior to becoming FEMA's Deputy CFO, he was the agency's Assistant Administrator for Budget. In this role he provided leadership and oversight for the agency's budget formulation, execution, analysis, and reporting. Mr. Moncarz holds a Bachelor of the Arts in Economics from Duke University and a Master's Certificate in Project Management from George Washington University.

Our January hybrid luncheon was made possible by our hard working volunteers from the **Monthly Luncheon Team** who took care of the programming, in-person, and virtual operations. THANK YOU to our Monthly Luncheon Team! Thank you to our volunteer Annalena Winer who took the pictures for the January luncheon!

January Luncheon cont'd.

Thank you to all our luncheon attendees and those who provided their luncheon survey feedback. **More than 90 percent of respondents rated "Excellent" or "Very Good" for overall satisfaction of the January luncheon!** Here're some of the feedback we received from our luncheon attendees:

- "Learned about something I knew absolutely nothing about. Surprisingly interesting."
- "Everything worked smoothly. The audio and video were great so thanks to all involved in making this happen."

- "Really enjoy these meetings and the positive energy in the room!"
- "Best food yet that I have had at Clyde's."

Thank you for providing suggestions from luncheon format, topics, registration, food choices, and logistics. The Monthly Luncheon Team will continue to listen and evaluate feedback and suggestions received to make our Monthly Luncheon program even better!

From left to right: Paul Marshall, Benjamin Moncarz, Lal Harter

January Speaker Benjamin Moncarz

February 2024 Hybrid Luncheon

Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board Updates

On February 14, 2024, the DC Chapter welcomed our February hybrid luncheon speaker **Mr. Domenic Savini**, Assistant Director of the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB). We are grateful for more than 120 in-person and virtual attendees who joined us at Clyde's of Gallery Place in downtown Washington, DC. **Mr. Bill Kubistal**, Partner from Kearney and Company, a proud AGA-DC Chapter corporate sponsor, introduced our speaker at the luncheon. We also thank **Ms. Ann Ebberts,** Chief Executive Officer from the AGA National, who joined us at the February luncheon.

Mr. Bill Kubistal

Mr. Domenic Savini

Mr. Savini began his career with the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) where he supervised both mobile and resident audit teams performing a host of compliance, operational and financial statement audits. While serving as a customer service liaison with both the Department of Transportation-Maritime Administration and Department of the Navy, Mr. Savini developed DCAA's first-ever Maritime Audit Plan. As a result of his accomplishments, in 1998 he was selected for the prestigious Director's Fellowship Program. Mr. Savini also worked for the Department of the Navy's Military Sealift Command as a financial analyst and contract negotiator. In that capacity he was primarily responsible for financial management of the Navy's multibillion dollar Maritime Prepositioning Ship program. Mr. Savini served in several prominent positions with the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC). Notably, as Director of REAC's Public Housing Authority (PHA) Finance Division, he directed the financial assessment and GAAP conversion of HUD's 3200 Public Housing Agencies and was also responsible for developing nation-wide financial analysis training for both HUD and PHA staff. Immediately prior to joining FASAB, Mr. Savini held the prestigious position of Director of Finance &

February Luncheon cont'd.

Administration with the Smithsonian Institution's Sackler/Freer Galleries of Art. As a result of his accomplishments toward improved Smithsonian financial management and reporting, Mr. Savini's financial reporting model was adopted by the Institution and served as the foundation for subsequent Board reporting.

Mr. Savini is a member of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Special Review Committee and frequently speaks at conferences around the country. Mr. Savini has a bachelor's degree in accounting from Kean University and a master's degree in general administration from Central Michigan University. He is licensed in New Jersey and Virginia. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Our February hybrid luncheon was made possible by our hard working volunteers from the **Monthly Luncheon Team** who took care of the programming, in-person, and virtual operations. THANK YOU to our Monthly Luncheon Team! Thank you to our volunteer Angela Rey who took the pictures for the February luncheon!

Thank you to all our luncheon attendees (especially our 95 in-person attendees - **our most in-person attendance since pandemic**) and those who provided their luncheon survey feedback. **More than 95 percent of respondents rated "Excellent" or "Very Good" for overall satisfaction of the February luncheon!** Here're some of the feedback we received from our luncheon attendees:

- "I really like the format and the virtual option."
- "Outstanding speaker and keep up diversity of speakers that enhances and expands membership experience."
- "The luncheon program is excellent! From the speaker to the topics offered during the Chapter year, to the option of attending in person or virtually. My membership experience (over the past 20+ years) has been excellent."

Thank you for providing suggestions from luncheon format, topics, registration, food choices, and logistics. The Monthly Luncheon Team will continue to listen and evaluate feedback and suggestions received to make our Monthly Luncheon program even better!

Domenic Savini (Luncheon Speaker)

Lal Harter (Chapter President)

February Luncheon cont'd.

Frank Petersen (National President-Elect and Chapter Luncheon Program - left) and Domenic Savini

From left to right: Paul Marshall (Chapter President-Elect), Lal Harter, Domenic Savini, Bill Kubistal (Corporate Sponsor)

Monthly Luncheon Live Operation volunteers - from left to right: Craig Freeman, Chad Willhite, Dan Lange

Monthly Luncheon Virtual Operation volunteers - from left to right: Alexis Alfaro-Trejo, Matt Gorman

Ann Ebberts, Chief Executive Officer from the AGA National

February Luncheon cont'd.

AGA DC Chapter Monthly Luncheon

March 2024 Hybrid Luncheon

Office of Management and Budget Updates

On March 20, the DC Chapter welcomed our March hybrid luncheon speaker **Ms. Deidre Harrison, Deputy Controller Performing the Delegated Duties of the Controller, Office of Management and Budget (OMB).** We are grateful for 128 in-person and virtual attendees (a record-breaking attendance since the pandemic) who joined us at Clyde's of Gallery Place in downtown Washington, DC. **Mr. Steve Koons**, Federal Government Service Line & DC Market Leader from **Sikich**, made an introduction to our luncheon speaker.

Mr. Steve Koons

Ms. Harrison is a senior member of the OMB management team responsible for overseeing the Office of Federal Financial Management's (OFFM) diverse portfolio which includes issuing government-wide policies through OMB circulars, bulletins, and memos; the Uniform Guidance; and other issuances. Prior to joining OFFM, Ms. Harrison was a senior budget examiner in the Treasury Branch at OMB where her portfolio included a number of the Department of the Treasury's bureaus and offices and branch-wide financial management policy areas including improper payments, shared services, and financial reporting and display. Prior to her Federal

Ms. Deidre Harrison

career, Ms. Harrison worked at an economic consulting firm where she was an Economist responsible for overseeing the design and implementation of large data analysis projects for clients to use in the courtroom and before regulatory agencies. Ms. Harrison received an undergraduate degree in International Politics and Economics from Middlebury College and a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

During the March luncheon, Ms. Harrison discussed various current financial management matters and initiatives, including Federal assistance (grants and

March Luncheon cont'd.

loans), inventory of Federal programs, real properties, and payment integrity, including the **Joint Financial Management Improvement Program (JFMIP) Three-Year Payment Integrity Plan**. Paul Lionikis from the Monthly Luncheon Program hosted the polling question session with questions surrounding Women's History Month. The luncheon ended with a robust Q&A session.

Our March hybrid luncheon was made possible by our hard working volunteers from the **Monthly Luncheon Team** who took care of the programming, in-person, and virtual operations. THANK YOU to our Monthly Luncheon Team!

Thank you to all our luncheon attendees and those who provided their luncheon survey feedback. **More than 94 percent of respondents rated "Excellent" or "Very Good" for overall satisfaction of the March luncheon!**

Here're some of the feedback we received from our luncheon attendees:

- "Deidre Harrison is a good speaker. Fantastic that she is a returning feature."
- "This in-person luncheon was great. It is the first one I have been to since the pandemic. The speaker was great, the topic was very relevant, it was great to interact with other attendees, and the buffet was awesome... What a deal for $15 (government employees!)... It was great to see people I had not seen in a while. So happy I went!"

Thank you for providing suggestions from luncheon format, topics, registration, food choices, and logistics. The Monthly Luncheon Team will continue to listen and evaluate feedback and suggestions received to make our Monthly Luncheon program even better!

From left to right: Peter Moore, Bo Shevchik, Paul Lionikis, Deidre Harrison, Steve Koons, Lal Harter, Paul Marshall

December Luncheon cont'd.

Lal Harter, Chapter President

Paul Marshall, Chapter President-Elect
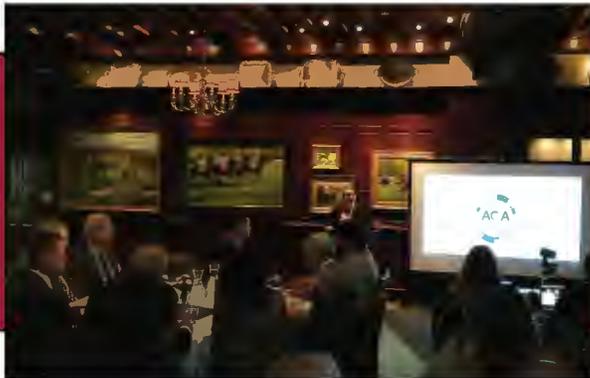
Deidre Harrison, March Luncheon Speaker

AGA-DC Monthly Luncheon Schedule (Program Year 2023-24)

Details regarding the following events will be released before the event, so please keep a lookout for DC Chapter emails!

- **May 15, 2024** - Speaker: Phyllis Fong, Inspector General, Department of Agriculture (USDA)

MAXIMIZE VALUE

CohnReznick brings commercial best practices
and value to federal agencies to address stringent
regulatory requirements, minimize risk,
and advance your mission.

Contact:

Bill Hughes, Partner
Federal Market Leader
Bill.Hughes@cohnreznick.com
703.744.6750

CohnReznick
ADVISORY • ASSURANCE • TAX

CGFM Updates

March was CGFM Month and the Washington DC Mayor Muriel Bowser has proclaimed March 2024 **"Certified Government Financial Manager Month."** Please see the CGFM Month Proclamation from the Mayor on the following page.

AGA-DC is proud to support our chapter members in obtaining the CGFM designation. We can pay up to $135 per chapter member per program year to help offset the costs of training modules, study guides, practice exams, and/or exam fees. This subsidy is not available if your costs were already reimbursed by your employer. Rebates are available on a first come, first served basis until funds for the program year are exhausted.

Please visit the **AGA DC Chapter website** for more information.

Congratulations to the following members who obtained their CGFM from October 2023 to December 2023!

Joshua L. Hart, CGFM
William A. Langford, CGFM
Nathan Alexander Tomasso, CGFM
Kia-Lavon T. Wayne, CGFM
Jasmine Wu, CGFM

Have questions? Check out our CGFM chapter **webpage** or contact **Debbi Thomas**

Already Have Your CGFM?

CPE Reminder – Make sure your continuing professional education (CPE) is current by completing at least 80 hours of CPE in government financial management topics or related technical subjects within each designated two-year cycle (including 4 hours in ethics per cycle).

Proclamation

## CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGER MONTH

MARCH 2024

WHEREAS, the Association of Government Accountant (AGA) represents state, federal, municipal, and private sector accountants, auditors, and financial managers worldwide; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with AGA's mission, AGA DC members promote government accountability through education, high standards of conduct, professional development and acquiring certifications; and

WHEREAS, to acquire Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) certification, candidates must meet stringent education and employment history requirements, pass three examinations, and abide by the strict AGA Code of Ethics; and

WHEREAS, to maintain CGFM status, certification holders must complete a minimum of 80 hours of approved continuing professional development education every two years:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF WASHINGTON, DC, do hereby proclaim March 2024 as **"CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGER MONTH"** in Washington, DC.
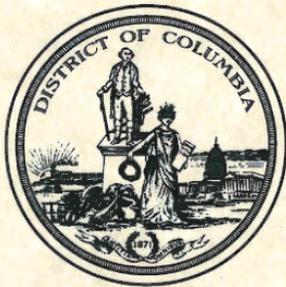
WE ARE
WASHINGTON
DC

Community Service

The Chapter offers members the opportunity to "pay it forward" by sharing their gifts and talents with the DC Community through volunteer opportunities in areas such as:

- **Social Safety** - Hunger, homelessness, and unemployment
- **Education** - Literacy and college prep
- **Health** - Awareness for mental, emotional, and physical illnesses
- **Veterans** - Support for service personnel and their families
- **Equal Opportunity** - Diversity and inclusion
- **Capital Causes -** Other local causes

Autism Speaks | Health

The Community Service Committee will be collecting donations for *Autism Speaks*. As with our previous sponsorships, we want to make the biggest impact possible and reach out to the AGA National to help match our donations.

Serving all communities in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC. Autism Speaks is dedicated to promoting solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the lifespan, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. Autism Speaks is able to do this through advocacy and support, increasing understanding and acceptance of people with autism, and advancing research into causes and better interventions for autism spectrum disorder and related conditions. *Your donation will help Autism Speaks - National Capital continue to promote solutions for individuals with autism and their families*.

You can participate in giving by going directly to the organization using this link (**Autism Speaks - National Capital**) and clicking the "Donate" button.

Once you give, please provide a screenshot evidencing your proof of donation to Maurice Preston (**mpreston@guidehousefederal.com**) and LaVerne Mason (**lmason@bdo.us**) so we are able track and take advantage of AGA's matching!

For questions about Autism Speaks, please contact the **Community Service Committee**: Maurice Preston (**mpreston@guidehousefederal.com**) or LaVerne Mason (**lmason@bdo.us**).

Potomac River Cleanup at Gravelly Point

The Community Service Committee will join 20 chapter members with Potomac Conservancy for a rewarding day of volunteering and environmental stewardship at Gravelly Point! The purpose of this community-driven effort is to clean up trash and make a positive difference for our hometown river! Thank you to those members who registered and will be participating in this volunteering event! We will share the event highlights in the next newsletter.

Date: April 20, 2024
Time: 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Location: Gravelly Point - George Washington Memorial Parkway, Arlington, VA, 22202

Special Events

Washington Capitals Hockey Game

On January 18, 2024, our Chapter's Member Services Committee sponsored the popular Capitals game to our members! We had more than 30 members and guests attending the event to cheer for the Capitals winning over the St. Louis Blues at the Capital One Arena! Everyone's having a great time enjoying food and unlimited beverages. Thank you to those who came for our first 2024 Chapter's social event!

Special Events cont'd.

Paint and Sip Event (First Ever!)

Our Chapter's Member Services Committee sponsored the first ever Paint and Sip event on February 21! We had a great turn out with nearly 30 members joined together at the Muse Paint Bar in Ballston Quarter, Arlington, VA! We commend everyone for trying something a little different and letting the artist out!

Special Events cont'd.

Washington Wizards Basketball Game

More than 40 AGA DC members and their guests attended the NBA basketball game on Friday, March 8 and had a wonderful time. The Washington Wizards defeated the Charlotte Hornets 112 to 100. Our members and guests enjoyed food and beverages at the Devil Back Lounge as we cheered for the home team Washington Wizards.

The Wizards were celebrating International Women's Day, and there was a Friday Night Concert with a Go-Go performance from Backyard and the Northeast Groovers local band. A few cool members and guests attended the concert after the basketball game. Thank you to those who came for our social event!

DC Chapter Remembers Laura Koschny

Our Chapter lifetime member, Ms. Laura L. Koschny (CGFM-Retired), passed away last year. Ms. Koschny was a devoted audit professional and active attendee of our Chapter's monthly luncheons. Laura Koschny's interment ceremony will be held at Columbia gardens cemetery in Arlington, VA on June 8 at 11:30am. Laura's twin sister, Terry (703-965-1381), would like to invite AGA-DC members to the interment ceremony.

Mentorship Program Updates

By The AGA DC Chapter Mentorship Committee

Dear Mentoring survey participants, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who took the time to respond to our recent survey. Your feedback is incredibly valuable to us, and we are grateful for your willingness to share your thoughts.

What's next? Please rest assured that we are diligently working through all the responses we have received. Your insights will help us enhance our upcoming mentorship event.

Stay tuned! Please keep an eye on your inbox in the coming months, as we will be sharing more information about the Mentorship Committee and our events. We are excited to involve you in our journey towards better professional connections and work lives.

Once again, thank you for being an essential part of our government community. Your voice matters, and we appreciate your continued support.

PS: Click the link to check out the **2024 Federal Executive Institute Alumni Association (FEIAA) Executive Forum.**

Check out
Accountability Talks, hosted by the DC Chapter's very own **Paul Marshall!**

The podcast focuses on the government accountability community and is available everywhere you get your podcasts.

ACCOUNTABILITY Talks

AGA Washington D.C. Chapter

New Member Contest

DO YOU LIKE MONEY? IF SO, PLEASE READ

During the 2023-2024 Program Year, the Membership Committee of the AGA DC Chapter is continuing to award a **CASH PRIZE** ($100 in the form of an Amazon gift card) at the end of each quarter (i.e., September, December, March, June) to the member who sponsors and/or recruits the most new members during the quarter. Quarterly new member referral contest winners include:

- **April-June 2023: MelaJo Kubacki**
- **July-September 2023: Eric Novick**
- **October-December 2023: N/A**

With your help and dedication, we can achieve our Chapter's 10% growth goal of new members this year! **Don't miss out on the great chance to win a CASH PRIZE, and help our Chapter! Make sure your name and AGA ID are included in the membership form of new recruited members!!**

Please note the membership referral/sponsoring application is a three-step process:

1. New members should create a "My AGA Account" on the AGA National website
2. New account login details will be sent to the email provided during registration (Step 1)
3. Within your "My AGA Account," new members must complete their AGA membership application and include the "Recruited by Member ID" and/or "Recruiter's Name" within the Demographics data page of the application.

Recruitment/Sponsoring winners will be contacted via email and announced in the following quarter's newsletter. The Membership Committee looks forward to continuing to grow our membership!

(NOTE: Previous quarters' winners are ineligible for future prizes in the same program year.)

Welcome New Members!

By: Emily Law and Giovanni Leon, Membership Committee

The AGA DC Chapter and the Membership Committee extends a warm welcome to our newest members! Thanks to you, the AGA continues to grow. Stay up-to-date on fantastic programs, membership benefits, and recruiting incentives starting now. Remember if you have not yet renewed, you may do so at the **AGA Washington DC Chapter** website to take advantage of member benefits throughout the next program year.

Velma M. Ambrose	Britney Burke	Tina Conners-James
Gnoemiwoe Ayao Amouzou	Neil T. Burke	Glenda Conroy
Olufunmilayo O. Ariyo	Idanishia Cairo	Matthew Costello
Gary Banks, Jr.	Brenda Campbell	Gabriella Csepe
Anneice Beaver	Kyla Carney	Dr. Charles Foster Dampare
Lindsay Berra	Stanford B. Carter, Jr.	Michelle Dang
Terry L. Bowie, Sr.	Sherita Chuang	Sherola Davis
Kevin B. Brathwaite	Nicholas Ciuffreda	Raphael DiGrado
Rachel Yvonne Bright	Susan Coble	Judy Eaton
Alvin A. Brown	Michael Cone	Colin Elgarten

New Members cont'd.

Thomas Eng
Joshua R. Eyre
Arlene Zoisa Farrier
John Patrick Gagnon
Nicholas Gennarino, III
Patrick Ghoto
Valerie D. Grant
Cherell D. Green
Nishant Grover
Patrick Hanley
Mariya Harris
Pinesha Harrison
Timothy J. Hennessey
René Lazaro Hernández
Michael Demond Hill, Jr.
LaTasha M. Hines
Andrew Joseph Donald Igo
Edward Laning Isabella
Brandon J. James
Shannon Johnson
Jennifer Jones
Ditas Villanueva Kaag

Ayisha King
Latoya Lemon
Jaslin Madrigal Castro
Daniel Marchinkoski
Nelly Martinez
Jennifer Meade
Marianne Meagher
Jason Perls Miller
Julie S. Minano
John-Andrew M. Minniti
Reginald W. Mitchell
Tahira Reyhana Mohamed
Godwin N. Nwosu
Wesley Padilla
Roberta Pemberton
Jeremy O. Pevner
Judy Phruksaraj
Senddy Ramirez
Thomas Reenberg
Tiana Robinson
Denise Romano
Gerry Ruiz

David Santiago
Margaux Shoff
Sean Slack
Lafayette Smith, Jr.
Nicholas Sojka
Manfred E. Soughe
John Spence
Andrew Susa
Richard Madison Taylor
David Thomas
Kenneth Thoms
Nathan Alexander Tomasso
Milton Troy, III
Lisa Kathryn Vaughan
Edison M. Vizuete
Andrew D. Williams
Ryan Willing
Allison Wynn
Salvatore Zerilli
Yvonne Zhou
David Zimmerman

Attention to all new members! Join us at the next monthly chapter luncheon and you will be entered in the raffle for a gift card!

BRONZE SPONSOR

A/C ALLMOND & COMPANY, CPAs

Allmond & Company is a certified public accounting firm which began operations in May 1985. For more than thirty years, our firm has been committed to assisting the federal government to improve financial management, ensure accountability, and strive for transparency.

BRONZE SPONSOR

Crowe

As one of the largest U.S. public accounting firms, Crowe has been serving the needs of the government for more than 40 years. Our national network of professionals includes former employees and elected and appointed officials, giving Crowe a firsthand perspective on the issue's government leaders face as well as proven solutions that deliver real and lasting impact. Our team members draw on cross-functional knowledge and skills -- accounting, audit, risk, finance, and performance. We have served the full spectrum of government organizations, including federal agencies and state agencies.

Final Words

Here's a burning question for our readers of *The Washington Connection*: Is this a chapter **newsletter** or chapter **magazine**?

This is a (kind of) hotly debated matter among the newsletter team (ok, two members actually) for some time. While *The Washington Connection* has always been referred to as a "newsletter," one of the newsletter team members once mentioned that the newsletter is supposed to be no more than five to ten pages. Our newsletter team sometimes also received comments from members suggesting the newsletter be shortened (yes, we do read your survey comments - thank you!). An AGA friend of a newsletter team member, who's a Past Chapter President from the Virginia Peninsula Chapter, even asked exactly the same question - is this a chapter magazine?

The Washington Connection has certainly come a long way - just like our DC Chapter which has grown from a humble beginning with a small exclusive group of government executives in the 50s to the current membership of more than two thousand professionals with diverse backgrounds, from all levels of government, private sector, and academia. **Our chapter newsletter web page** includes many archived newsletters dated as far as 1962 (many thanks to the efforts made by our Chapter Historian and Past Chapter President Eileen Parlow). These archived chapter newsletters reflect the evolving nature of our profession and chapter over time - from accounting and auditing standards, technology adoption, workforce management, to expanding our chapter member services and strengthening partnership between government and private sector. However, one thing has remained the same - our chapter volunteers. Echoing the Chapter President Lal Harter in his President's Message, our volunteers are the "heartbeat of our chapter" as they have been helping to provide a variety of services to our members, then and now… and in the future.

The newsletter team certainly would love you to enjoy the entire newsletter. The newsletter team, however, understands we are all busy professionals with many personal obligations everyday. That's why the newsletter team covers a wide range of diverse content, so that there's something for everyone. Just to name a few: training and member services event schedules, technical financial management and technology articles, recaps on our flagship monthly luncheon program and social events, chapter and national initiatives such as community services, mentorship, young professionals, awards program, and CGFM.

The DC chapter is proud and blessed with the strong support by our volunteers and corporate sponsors, so that we can bring you a variety of member services and add value to your AGA membership. *The Washington Connection* has been faithfully providing you news about the profession and chapter years after years. The contents reflected in *The Washington Connection* is a testament to the depth and strength we have through you as our AGA DC Chapter member. Your support and participation has enriched the contents of *The Washington Connection* and DC Chapter as a whole. So whether you call it a newsletter or magazine, our newsletter team appreciates your continued support of *The Washington Connection* and most importantly our AGA DC Chapter!

AGA DC Chapter Newsletter Team

Thomas Chin   *Guy Hadsall*   *Monique Llanos*   *Hao Nguyen*

PS: Our newsletter team invites you to provide quick feedback about this newsletter via a two-question survey. **Please click here to visit the survey site** today!

AGA DC Chapter Officers & Directors

Lal Harter
President

Paul Marshall
President-Elect

Caitlin Holmes McGurn
Immediate Past President

Shawn Syed
Treasurer

Mona Amatie
Treasurer-Elect

Wendy Morris
Secretary

Wendy Allen
Chapter Director (Appointed)

Thomas Chin
Chapter Director (Appointed)

Salim Mawani
Chapter Director (Appointed)

See a complete list of Chapter leadership at: AGA DC Chapter Leadership.

To contact any of the AGA DC Chapter Officers please send an email to:
agadc@agadc.org

AGA DC Chapter Volunteer Roster

Evelyn Brown
Senior Advisor

Salim Mawani
Senior Advisor

Paul Lionikis
Senior Advisor

Paterne Koukpesso
ACE Reporting

Melanie Geeseman
Admin and Communications

Lydia Tamblyn (Miller)
Admin and Communications

Alicia Pelikan
Admin and Communications

Veronica Baird
Admin and Communications

Nicole Bailin
Admin and Communications

Cherry Ung
Annual Gala Committee

Elizabeth (Izzie) Yi
Annual Gala Committee

Orinda Basha
Awards Committee

Evelyn Brown
Awards Committee

Virginia Robinson
Awards Committee

Jeff Steinhoff
Awards Committee

Pat Wensel
Awards Committee

Julia Duquette
Awards Committee
Scott Bell
Awards Committee

Tonya Baker
Annual Training Program

Annalena Weiner
Annual Training Program

Brittany Hopwood
Annual Training Program

Julia Duquette
Annual Training Program

Ellie Harris
Annual Training Program

Jennifer Torres
Annual Training Program

Christy Beck
Annual Training Live Ops

Aubrey Harris
Annual Training Virtual

Christy Beck
Bylaws/CPE Coordinator

Sara Specht
CGFM

Debbi Thomas
CGFM

Claire Chen
Citizen Centric Reporting

LaVerne Mason
Community Service

Maurice Preston
Community Service

Niko Lojanica
Community Service

John Hooley
Corporate Sponsors
Jae Lee
Corporate Sponsors

Cherry Ung
Corporate Sponsors

Elizabeth (Izzie) Yi
Corporate Sponsors

Alex Chen
Corporate Sponsors

Salim Mawani
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

Julia Duquette
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

Malena Brookshire
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

Carl Biggs
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

Mbalu Tunkara
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

Shepherd Brown
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

Mona Amatie
Finance Committee

Terri Dawson
Finance Committee

Rachel Bright
Finance Committee

Catherine Gao
Finance Committee

Eileen Parlow
Historian
Joseph Peter
Historian

Giovanni Leon
Membership

Emily Law
Membership

Crystal Wolf
Member Services

David Baskin
Member Services

Anthony Richards
Member Services

AGA DC Chapter Roster

Manoj Mirchandani
Member Services

Sharnell Montgomery
Mentorship

Paterne Koukpesso
Mentorship

Megan Curtis
Mentorship

Aubrey Harris
Mentorship

Sherri Legall Daly
Mentorship

Bo Shevchik
Monthly Luncheon
Program

Frank Petersen
Monthly Luncheon
Program

Peter Moore
Monthly Luncheon
Program

Paul Lionikis
Monthly Luncheon
Program

Shepherd Brown
Monthly Luncheon
Program

Daniel Lange
Monthly Luncheon Live Ops

Victoria Abril
Monthly Luncheon Live Ops

Emma Pollock
Monthly Luncheon Live Ops

Chad M. Willhite
Monthly Luncheon Live Ops

Craig Freeman
Monthly Luncheon Live Ops

Alexis Alfaro-Trejo
Monthly Luncheon Virtual

Matthew Gorman
Monthly Luncheon Virtual

Areeba Rizvi
Monthly Luncheon Virtual

Wendy Schiffman
Monthly Luncheon Virtual

Katherine Rexroad
Monthly Luncheon Virtual

Caitlin Holmes McGurn
NCC Representative

Thomas Chin
Newsletter

Monique Llanos
Newsletter

Hao P. Nguyen
Newsletter

Guy Hadsall
Newsletter

Simcha Kuritzky
Publication Columnist

Kevin Katindig
Social Media

Radhika Patel
Social Media

Wendy Allen
Strategy

Myriam Galvan-Zambrana
Strategy

Tyler Gall
Webinars

Danielle Burrell
Webinars

Mona Amatie
Webinars

Christina Low
Webmaster

Leigha Kiger
Webmaster

E. Marie Butler
Webmaster

Alyssa Smiley
Young Professionals

Angela Rey
Young Professionals

Steven Koch
Young Professionals

Habiba Aziz Jamal
Young Professionals

See a complete list of Chapter leadership at: AGA DC Chapter Leadership.

To contact any of the AGA DC Chapter Officers please send an email to:
agadc@agadc.org

Contact Us

Whether you're looking for more information, or you'd like to give us your suggestions or comments, you'll find easy ways to contact us right here.

The most direct way to get your question answered is to send an email to: **agadc@agadc.org**.

See a complete list of Chapter leadership at: **AGA DC Chapter Leadership**.

NEW ADDRESS

AGA DC Chapter
Attn: Mr. Shawn Syed
1640 Boro Place, 4th Floor
Mclean, VA 22102

Website: http://www.agadc.org

Follow Us:

Linked in