

The Washington Connection

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS
WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER

MAY 2005 ISSUE

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AGA
WASHINGTON DC, CHAPTER

Using Financial Information to “Get to Green”

The AGA DC Chapter will host its final installment of its monthly luncheon speaker series on Thursday, May 12, 2005. The Chapter is pleased to welcome Danny Werfel, Chief, Financial Integrity and Analysis Branch, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and Susan Grant, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Director, Office of Management, Budget and Evaluation for the Department of Energy (DOE) as our guest speakers. Mr. Werfel and Ms. Grant will convene a panel to discuss efforts and initiatives driving federal agencies to enhance the practical use of financial information to support program and management decisions, and “get to green” under the President's Management Agenda (PMA).

The real value of accelerated and interim financial reporting and unqualified audit opinions is to make quality financial information available to federal managers to support timely and informed decisions at both the program and agency levels. This PMA initiative of using financial information to support day-to-day management seeks to elevate the role of financial information from “compliance” to “practical” use. Mr. Werfel will provide OMB's insight into this initiative and the criteria by which agencies are assessed for the PMA Executive Branch Management Scorecard. Ms. Grant will discuss DOE's recent efforts to get to green through the integration of financial information into its program and operational management landscape.

continued on page 7

May Luncheon

Financial Management In Transition Luncheon Series

***Susan Grant, Chief Financial Officer and Director,
Office of Management, Budget and Evaluation for the
Department of Energy***

***Danny Werfel, Chief, Financial Integrity and Analysis
Branch, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of
Management and Budget***

Thursday, May 12 - Luncheon - 11:30am - 1:30pm

Members: \$22.00, Non-Members: \$27.00

Register online at <https://secure.serve.com/AGADC/lform2.php>

*George Washington University Marvin Center
800 21st Street, NW (corner of H Street)*

(one block from the Foggy Bottom blue/orange line Metro)

President's Message

by Karen Alderman, President



Ms. Karen Alderman, President

Dear Chapter Members,

May is a month chock-full of activities in support of our Chapter's efforts to provide quality professional development programs, reach out to the next generation of financial management professionals, and to give back to the community through community service.

Outreach. First I would like to underscore our efforts to reach out to the next generation. With AGA National's agreement, we are extending our membership recruitment drive to Monday, May 23, 2005. We are encouraging our members to reach out to

colleagues, particularly those in the beginning of their careers, to invite them to join AGA. Each new member (and his or her recruiting sponsor) will have the opportunity to attend one of our luncheon meetings for free. Please see the AGA DC website for details or contact Marguerite Nealon, our Membership Director.

Professional Development. Second, I would like to commend the spring conference sponsored by our Chapter and the Greater Washington Society of Certified Public Accounts (GWSCPA). This two-day conference, "Financial Management In Transition," will be held at George Washington University's Cafritz Conference Center on May 3 and 4, 2005. The conference offer 15 hours of continuing professional education (CPE) credit by featuring outstanding speakers and panels who will address critical issues related to federal financial management and systems. Featured speakers include Jeff Steinhoff and Kay Daly from the U.S. Government Accountability Office, Pat McGinnis from the Council on Excellence in Government, David Zavada from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and Jim Taylor from Department of Commerce. Hats off to Susan Johnson and Mike Allen and the whole planning team for putting together an outstanding educational event for our community.

And that's not all. On May 11, our Chapter is underwriting an opportunity for members to participate in an audio conference (2 hours of free CPE) hosted by AGA National entitled, "Yellow Book Update — What You Need to Know." Speakers will include Jeanette Franzel, Marcia Buchanan, and Sam McCall. The conference will be held at 600 E Street NW, Washington, DC, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 pm. Registration information is on our Chapter website.

Finally, we are wrapping up our year of luncheon meetings with an outstanding program. Please join us on May 12 for a session that will feature guest speakers Danny Werfel, Chief, Financial Integrity and Analysis Branch, Office of Federal Financial Management, OMB, and Susan Grant, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Director, Office of Management, Budget and Evaluation for the Department of Energy (DOE). Mr. Werfel and Ms. Grant will convene a panel to discuss efforts and initiatives driving federal agencies to enhance the practical use of financial information to support program and management decisions, and "get to green" under the President's Management Agenda (PMA). The real value of accelerated and interim financial reporting and unqualified audit opinions is to make quality financial information available to federal managers to support timely and informed decisions at both the program and agency levels. This PMA initiative of using financial information to support "day-to-day" management seeks to elevate the role of financial

information from "compliance" to "practical" use. Mr. Werfel will provide OMB's insight into this initiative and the criteria by which agencies are assessed for the PMA Executive Branch Management Scorecard. Ms. Grant will discuss DOE's recent efforts to get to green through the integration of financial information into its program and operational management landscape. Our thanks go to Scott Bell for orchestrating such a rich program of speakers throughout the year.

When you join us at the May luncheon, please remember to bring a baby gift. Our Chapter's community service effort for the month of May is a baby shower to benefit St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home. Donations of "new" baby items, baby essentials, gift cards, and money are appreciated.

Also, please look to our website for Chapter Service events. May includes some especially fun events including the opportunity to attend a Wolf Trap outing (fireworks and all) for free. Karl Boettcher has outdone himself for the month of May.

Recognition. In closing I would like to extend once more my congratulations to all the honorees at our April 20 Awards Dinner and my special thanks to Judy Ochs for chairing our awards process and to Wanda Carrington for serving as registrar. Our Chapter awards went to Wendy Comes, Einhorn/Gary Award; Jim Taylor, Distinguished Service; Mark Carney, Distinguished Leadership; Don Hammond, Achievement of the Year; Marcia Buchanan for Educator of the Year Award; and LMI for Outstanding Service to the Chapter. In addition we recognized national award nominees including Tonya Allen-Shaw and Lloyd Farmer for Community Service in recognition of their untiring, enthusiastic, and effective efforts in organizing our Chapter support of community service; Doris Chew, who is our Chapter's nominee for the Cornelius E. Tierney Award that goes to individuals who throughout their careers have made continuous contributions to governmental financial management by their direct participation in research activities and/or through their encouragement and support of others engaged in government financial management research; and finally Pat Wensel who is our Chapter's nominee for the Robert W. King Award. My personal appreciation goes to all the members of the board for their quality efforts in supporting the DC Chapter. President's awards are only a small token of appreciation for all the work that each one of you did in the course of the year to make this a Chapter great.

In talking about a great Chapter, AGA DC is now Number ONE!!!!. I am happy to report that, as of April, the DC Chapter of AGA had racked up 32,400 recognition points, the highest of all AGA Chapters. This reflects an active and committed professional organization. Congratulations to all!!!

Financial Management in Transition—Up Front and Personal.

With the elimination of the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program staff organization it was time for the next Chapter. I retired from federal service after 27 years, including 23 years in the Senior Executive Service, and will join Deloitte, LLP on May 16. It will be a new adventure. No matter where I am, I plan to stay active in AGA.

Sincerely,

Karen Cleary Alderman
Chapter President

IF YOU THINK OF US AS TRAINING

YOU'RE ONLY HALF RIGHT



MANAGEMENTCONCEPTS

The mind at work

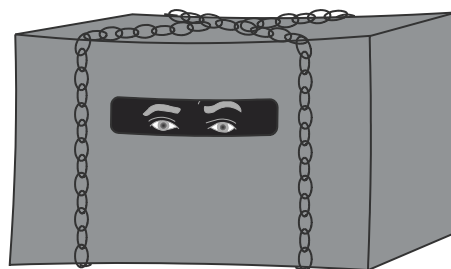
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Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA



Reporting Cash at Year End

The Department of the Treasury's Financial Management Service (FMS) tracks the trial balances for all Federal agencies, which is used to prepare the President's Budget and also the Financial Report of the United States Government. FMS is trying to make these balances consistent between what is reported by agencies on their Budget Execution Report (SF-133), Statement of Transactions (SF-224, SF-1220 or SF-1221), Year-End Closing Statement (FMS-2108), what is reported by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) from the Program and Financing Schedule, and what is reported as the cash balance by FMS on the Undisbursed Appropriation Accounts Trial Balance (TFS-6654) from the central accounting system (STAR). In order to do this, FMS implemented the Federal Agencies' Centralized Trial-Balance System (FACTS) II, which reports cash, bonds, and all budgetary account balances. There are edits in FACTS II that require the proprietary cash balance to match both the amount reported on the final TFS-6654 and in the budgetary cash account balances.

The financial statements balances come from the Governmentwide Financial Reporting System (GFRS), which are the post-audited FACTS I balances. These balances are the ones that will be audited by the Government Accountability Office (GAO). GAO insists that agencies report their cash balances based on their own general ledger, and not adjust these simply to match what FMS reports on the TFS-6654.

If agencies have a difference between their own general ledger and the final TFS-6654, they have two ways they can resolve them. If the error is in the agency system, and the agency can determine the corrective action before the FACTS II submission is due (early November), then the agency can post the correction in its system. If the error is in FMS' system, or if the agency cannot determine the corrective action before FACTS II is due, then the agency can accrue the difference for the FACTS II submission, and reverse that accrual (and possibly take corrective action) before preparing the FACTS I/GFRS submission (mid- to late November).

An accrual must post both proprietary and budgetary cash. A typical posting would be to throw the adjustment into Disbursements in Transit, so that an increase to the agency's cash balance would be reported as:

Debit 1010 Fund Balance with Treasury
Credit 2120 Disbursements in Transit

Debit 4902 Delivered Orders - Obligations, Paid
Credit 4901 Delivered Orders - Obligations, Unpaid

If the agency needs to decrease its cash balance, the opposite can be posted, but the agency must take care that the balance of accounts 2120 and 4901 not become debit balances, because that would cause an exception. Alternatively, the agency could accrue a receivable from Treasury, posting:

Debit 1310 Accounts Receivable
Credit 1010 Fund Balance with Treasury

Debit 4287 Other Federal Receivables
Credit 4277 Other Actual Collections - Federal

If an accrual is posted, there will be a difference between the FACTS II cash and either payables or receivables balances and those in FACTS I and GFRS. Any such difference should be explained in a footnote in FACTS I.

Comments, suggestions, and critiques are welcome. Send them to Simcha.Kuritzky@cgi-ams.com, and not to the AGA.

May 29, Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts



Join us for an evening at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts on Sunday, May 29 at 8:00 p.m. We will be entertained by the "President's Own" United States Marine Corps band, followed by fireworks at 9:00 p.m. Tickets are not required for this free event.

There is plenty of free parking. Gates will open at 7:00 p.m. for in-house and lawn seating. To ensure inside seating, we will meet at the entrance (box office area) at 6:30 p.m. Those wishing lawn seats should bring blankets and/or lawn chairs.

Directions to Wolf Trap: Wolf Trap is located just 4 miles west of Tysons Corner. From 495, take Route 7 (Leesburg Pike) to Towlston Road; turn left on Towlston Road and go 1 mile to the Wolf Trap parking area. For additional information, contact Wolf Trap at 703.255.1860 or www.wolftrap.org.

June 4, Baseball Game



Take us out to the ballgame! We're sponsoring a Potomac Nationals baseball game. Formerly known as the Potomac Cannons, the renamed Potomac Nationals are a Carolina league affiliate of the new Washington Nationals. This minor league

game will be played against the Myrtle Beach Pelicans on Saturday, June 4 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets for the Grand Stand are \$7, tickets for children ages 6-12 are \$6, and children under age 6 are admitted free. There is plenty of free parking. We will meet at approximately 6:45 p.m. past the ticket booth by the food court tables. There will be fireworks at the conclusion of the game (approximately 9:00 - 9:30 p.m.).

Directions to the G. Richard Pfitzner Stadium: Take I-95 south past Woodbridge to Exit 158B, Prince William Parkway, toward Manassas. Continue on the Parkway for about 5 miles; turn right into the County Complex Court.

If you are interested in attending either the Wolf Trap event or the baseball game, please contact karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov (202.874.6131).

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June 15, Golf Tournament

In partnership with the Association of Military Comptrollers (ASMC), we are sponsoring a golf tournament at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. The tournament will be at the Gunston Course on Wednesday, June 15. Format for the 18 holes will be Captain's Choice with a shotgun tee time start at 8:00 a.m. Entry fee is \$50 per person for government employees and \$75 per person for non-government employees. The fee includes a picnic style lunch, golf cart, green fee, and prizes. Foursomes are created as needed. If you have a group of two, three, or four, please ensure that all pay with the same registration. Early arrival is suggested to clear base security and to warm-up on the driving range.

To register, please contact (ASMC/PS) Brian Boshart 703.813.1900, brian.boshart@ps.net. Make checks payable to ASMC and send to ASMC Washington Chapter, P.O. Box 70776, Washington D.C. 20593, attn: Brian Boshart. If you would like more information about the golf tournament, you can also contact AGA DC Chapter representative Karl Boettcher at karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov or 202.874.6131.

<http://www.belvoirgolf.com>



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Using Financial Information to “Get to Green”

continued from the front page

Mr. Werfel is responsible for coordinating OMB's efforts to initiate government-wide financial management improvements in the following areas--improper payments, asset management, and debt collection. He plays a leadership role in coordinating OMB review of agency efforts under the Improved Financial Performance initiative of the PMA.

Ms. Grant was sworn in as CFO and Director, Office of Management, Budget and Evaluation, on December 14, 2004. She has overall responsibility for assuring the effective management and financial integrity of the DOE's programs, activities, and resources by developing and implementing Department-wide policies and systems in the areas of budget administration, program analysis and evaluation, financial and accounting policy, acquisition management, human resources management, and administrative services. As the CFO, Ms. Grant has financial management responsibility for the Department's \$24 billion budget and the integration of appropriate program and financial controls for effective stewardship.

The luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Marvin Center at 21st and H Streets, NW, on the George Washington University campus. Please register early for this exciting event.

Baby Shower to Benefit St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home



When: Thursday, May 12, 2005

Where: GW University Marvin Center

Time: During the Luncheon Meeting

Donations: “NEW” baby Items, baby essentials, gift cards, and money are appreciated

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Free Certified Government Financial Manager Review Course



Virginia Robinson taught the free Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) review course at Treasury Agency Services in March. As part of the DC Chapter's Early Career Outreach Effort, 40 early career members received a free CGFM review course, which would have cost each member between \$1,200 and \$1,500. Thanks to Virginia Robinson for her outstanding instruction, Ken Bresnahan for organizing the training, and Karl Boettcher for coordinating the use of the classrooms.

4th Annual Conference Financial Management In Transition

May 3-4, 2005 – George Washington University's Cafritz Conference Center
(Inside the Marvin Center, 800 21st Street, NW)

Tuesday May 3

8:00 - 8:10	Welcome
8:10 - 9:00	Keynote - Kay Daly and Steve Lowrey, GAO
9:00-9:10	Break
9:10 - 10:25	Strengthening Internal Controls
10:25 - 10:45	Break with Exhibitors
10:45-11:35	Breakout Sessions: - GWA Modernization Project Update - Dealing with Change
11:35 - 11:50	Break
11:50 - 1:30	Luncheon/Keynote - Pat McGinnis, Council for Excellence in Government
1:30 - 1:50	Break with Exhibitors
1:50 - 3:05	Personal Property
3:05 - 3:15	Break
3:15 - 4:30	A New Era in Real Property Management
4:30	Adjournment/Social Gathering

Wednesday May 4

8:00 - 8:10	Welcome
8:10 - 9:00	Keynote - Wayne Leiss, OMB
9:00-9:10	Break
9:10 - 10:25	Integration Between Human Capital and Financial Management
10:25 - 10:45	Break with Exhibitors
10:45-11:35	Breakout Sessions: - How to Get What You Need from Treasury - FMS' Franchise Fund Arm: Treasury Agency Services
11:35 - 11:50	Break
11:50 - 1:30	Luncheon/Keynote - Jeffrey Steinhoff, GAO
1:30 - 1:50	Break with Exhibitors
1:50 - 3:05	Performance/Budget Integration
3:05 - 3:15	Break
3:15 - 4:30	Governance Issues for Integrated Business Systems
4:30	Adjournment/Social Gathering



Northern Virginia Chapter – Institute of Internal Auditors

Control Self Assessment - May 5th

Reprinted with permission from NOVAGA Newsletter
<http://www.theiia.org/chapters/index.cfm?act=home.page&cid=209>

"Control Self Assessment - Leveraging the Technology"
 Presented By Mark Benedict, Jefferson Wells

Thursday, May 5, 2004 5:45PM
 Sheraton Premier at Tysons Corner
 8661 Leesburg Pike
 Vienna, Virginia 22182

Includes limited bar (starts at ~ 5:30 PM), meeting fees, buffet dinner, and free parking

Reservations: E-mail mbuonocore@beersandcutler.com or phone Matt Buonocore at 703-637-7660, by **May 2, 2005**. Please provide your name, organization, IIA membership status and contact number. **Note:** Registration obligates payment, contact Matt if you must cancel.

Members: Advance Reservation \$35, Without Reservation \$40
Non-members: Advance Reservation \$40, Without Reservation \$45.



NOVA IIA Sponsors CIA Exam Review Course

May 6-8

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<http://www.theiia.org/chapters/index.cfm?act=home.page&cid=209>

Need some extra help studying for the upcoming CIA exam? The NOVA IIA is proud to sponsor a CIA review course for the May Exam. Based on membership feedback we are offering a review of parts I, II and III of the Certified Internal Auditor Exam.

Part I - Friday, May 6, 2005
Part II - Saturday, May 7, 2005
Part III - Sunday, May 8, 2005

Cost: \$150 for one part (any section), \$275 for any two parts (any two sections), \$375 for all three parts. Costs include all study materials.

Location: Sheraton Premiere Tysons Corner, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, Virginia

Time: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day, with registration beginning at 7:30 AM.

RSVP by APRIL 29, 2005 to NOVAIIA@YAHOO.COM with your name, contact information and the CIA review parts that you are registering for.

For certification information only NOT RSVPs, contact ariel.ramirez@RKAWorldwide.com.

AGA Sponsors A-123 Expo May 9

Reprinted with permission from NOVAGA Newsletter
 From AGA Topics Volume 44: Issue 8, April 25, 2005

The Chief Financial Officers Council has asked AGA to bring together federal financial managers and private sector professionals to exchange ideas about A-123, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) new guidance on attesting to the effectiveness of agencies' internal controls.

The expo, set for **May 9**, will feature a panel presentation and an exhibit of consulting and software tools to assist with implementation.

If you are a federal financial manager, the event is FREE. See <http://www.agacgfm.org/conferences/downloads/A123ParticipantReg.pdf> for more information

May Audio Conferences

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From AGA National Information

Yellow Book Update - What You Need to Know

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

2 – 3:50 p.m. EST

2 CPE – Accounting & Auditing

The Montgomery/PG County AGA Chapter has partnered with KPMG to present this conference locally.

AGA, NASACT and NALGA invite you to attend this audio conference. Speakers will be **Jeanette M. Franzel**, CGFM, director, Auditing Standards and Corporate Issues, US Government Accountability Office (GAO) and **Marcia B. Buchanan**, CGFM, assistant director for Auditing Standards, GAO; and **Sam McCall**, CGFM, City Auditor, City of Tallahassee, FL, and AGA National President-Elect.

Location and Cost: KPMG has graciously sponsored this event. The address is 2001 M. Street NW, Washington, DC, on the 6th floor. If you are interested in attending, please contact Susan Eakins at seakins@psc.gov or Doreen Shute at dshute@psc.gov to see if there are still seats left.

Next Audio Conference Slated for May 25:

Payment Card Industry Security—New Requirements, New Responsibilities

NASACT, in conjunction with the AGA and the National Association of Local Government Auditors, is pleased to announce an audio conference about the new Payment Card Industry security requirements, from 2– 3:50 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Speakers include representative from Visa (invited), **Nick Carter**, vice president, Information Technology, Link2Gov Corporation; **Mike Irwin**, director of sales, Link2Gov Corporation; **Jeff Gardner**, EVP operations, Link2Gov Corporation; **Pam Callier**, program manager, Dynamics Research Corporation; and **Cynthia Most**, senior security analyst, Dynamics Research Corporation.

The session offers two CPE hours for \$249 per site (UNLIMITED ATTENDANCE) if you register on or before **Friday, May 20**; \$299 thereafter. http://www.agacgfm.org/education/audioconferences/conference_listings.aspx for listings & registration.

If you have any questions, please call NASACT at 859.276.1147 or e-mail support@nasact.org.

PDI 2005



SALT LAKE CITY
MAY 31 - JUNE 3

ASMC PDI - Salt Lake City

May 31 – June 3

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From www.asmconline.org

The national Professional Development Institute (PDI) is a premier training event for resource managers in the Department of Defense and US Coast Guard. Each year, more than 3500 attendees converge for a four day event, which includes a full day of service activities, seven general sessions, more than seventy workshops, and many special events. **Earn up to 25 CPEs.**

Registration may be made at <http://www.asmconline.org/development/pdi.shtml>

Professional Development Conference 2005

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from AGA's Web site at <http://www.agacgfm.org> and other sources

Join us in sunny Orlando for the government financial management education event of the year! AGA invites you to attend its 54th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition, to be held **July 10 – 13, 2005**, at the Orlando World Center Marriott in **Orlando, FL**.

With the theme “**Leadership > Preparing Tomorrow's Accountability Professionals**” the PDC will bring together more than 1,800 professionals from federal, state and local government, as well as private sector leaders, to discuss critical government financial management issues.

Education sessions will provide technical training, useful information on emerging trends, tools to help you become more effective and lessons from the best in the business.

In addition to an outstanding technical program, we have arranged a number of social events to ensure an exceptional conference experience. You can register online or print the registration form to register by fax or mail. Advance registration discounts apply to all forms received before **June 10, 2005**.

Register at <https://members.agacgfm.org/source/security/memberlogon.cfm?origin=meetings> or go to www.agacgfm.org and follow the prompts for more information and to register.

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Take the CGFM Exam for FREE at the PDC – Details Below!

Take the CGFM Examinations at the PDC

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from AGA's Web site at <http://www.agacgfm.org>

New this year - AGA is offering a unique opportunity to take the CGFM Examinations and earn your CGFM right at the PDC in July. To help you reach that goal, we are offering a special two-day Intensive Review Course on **Thursday, July 7** and **Friday, July 8** and an opportunity to take CGFM Examinations on **July 9 - 10**.

More good news: the Intensive Review Course is only \$175 for qualified participants and the CGFM Examinations are offered at no cost. You cannot afford to miss this opportunity!

Pre-registration is required. This is a special limited enrollment offer for those individuals who have already been studying for the CGFM Exams and need extra reinforcement of the material. Participants must attend the Intensive Review Course to take the CGFM Exams at no cost. Participants must have satisfied the education and experience requirements for the CGFM prior to registering for this event.

For more information please contact Katya Silver at 800.AGA.7211, ext. 305, or ksilver@agacgfm.org.



16th Annual ACFE Fraud Conference & Exhibition July 10-15

Reprinted with permission from NOVAGA Newsletter
From the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners
www.fraudconference.com

Great educational opportunity locally! Speakers include: James B. Comey, Chair, Corporate Fraud Task Force, US Deputy Attorney General; Brian Lamkin, Chief of the Financial Crime Section, FBI; Tim Noonan, Former President, Rite Aid Corporation.

Held at Hilton Washington. See last month's Newsletter for more information or visit www.FraudConference.com.

Excellence in Government 2005 July 25-27

Reprinted with permission from NOVAGA Newsletter
From Government Executive magazine

Government Executive magazine invites you to attend Excellence in Government 2005, the premier conference for key executives and managers who run the federal government. The conference will be held **July 25-27, 2005**, at the Washington Hilton, Connecticut Avenue, ¼ mile from the Dupont Circle Metro station.

For details, see last month's newsletter or visit the Web site at http://amemedia.com/lrd2_AAJCYQAAqvkB

Richmond & Roanoke AGA Chapters' 8th Annual Blue Ridge Professional Development Conference July 28-29

Reprinted with permission from NOVAGA Newsletter
See www.agarichmond.org for more information

The Premier Conference for Human Service Finance and Audit Professionals. Make Plans to Attend the "8th Annual Blue Ridge PDC" at the Doubletree Hotel-Charlottesville for 12 CPE hours.

Keynote speakers include Ed Mazur, GASB; Woody Jackson; and Virginia's Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Jane Woods. The multi-track conference will focus on human service finance and audit issues. Ethics for CPAs (annual requirement in Virginia) will also be offered.

Registration fees range from \$110-\$160. Conference hotel rates are \$60 per night. Early registration discounts are offered prior to **June 14**.

Contact Nauri Ahmed for further information at 804-371-4613, or at nauri.ahmed@co.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov.

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Federal Accounting and Financial Management

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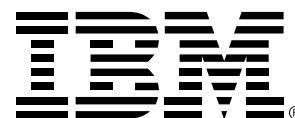
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General Services Administration Office of Inspector General

The General Services Administration, Office of Inspector General (OIG) is looking for motivated candidates to join the Office of Audits as an Audit Manager/Team leader at the GS 14 level (\$88,369 - \$114,882) in its Finance and Administrative Audit Office located at 18th and F Streets, NW in Washington DC.

The incumbent's primary responsibility will be to provide oversight over the Agency's annual financial statement audit and financial-related reviews, including the formulation of audit plans and objectives, performance goals, and priorities. For more information on duties and responsibilities or to apply for this position, please visit www.usajobs.opm.gov.

In addition to existing Federal benefits, the OIG provides flexible work schedules, transit commuter supplements, and exercise opportunities. If you have any questions, please contact the OIG Human Resources Office at 202.501.0360, or the Finance and Administrative Audit Office at 202.501.0006.

Treasury/FMS

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Contract Specialist, GS-1102-11, 12, 13 (Multiple Positions). Vacancy Announcement No. M-05-022, Department of the Treasury/Financial Management Service, Location: Washington, DC. Closing Date: August 12, 2005.

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FASAB Recruitment Notice

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The Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) is seeking a qualified individual to join its professional staff as an Assistant Director. The position is a Band III (equivalent to GS-15) within a banded performance-based compensation system. FASAB receives administrative support from the US Government Accountability Office (GAO). Therefore, all recruitment activities are managed through GAO's website and compensation is determined under GAO's performance-based compensation system. To apply for the position, visit <https://jobs.quickhire.com/scripts/gao.exe> The announcement numbers are FASAB-N-2005-0510-59 for Non-status candidates (those without current or former federal service) and FASAB-S-2005-0510-59 (those with current or former federal service).

Each assistant director assumes responsibility for a major technical project under consideration by FASAB. This requires research on concepts and standards adopted in the federal sector and by other standards setters; oral presentations before the FASAB and responses to member queries; and strong writing skills. In addition, assistant directors often consult with fellow staff members on other major projects, work with the community on implementation guidance for existing standards, and make presentations at conferences.

Detailed information about FASAB is available at www.fasab.gov. To see a sample of staff work, click on "Meetings" on the left and you will have access to briefing material from our most recent meeting as well as minutes from past meetings.

Applicants are required to submit a resume and unofficial transcript as well as respond to questions specific to the position. Detailed instructions are included in the vacancy announcement. Please follow the instructions carefully to ensure your application receives our full consideration. If you have any questions about the application process, please call the Employment and Recruitment office at 202.512.4900.

U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)

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Financial Auditors/Standards Experts

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) seeks experienced financial auditors and standards experts to manage significant segments of GAO's annual audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements of the U.S. Government and GAO's standards-related efforts. To apply, visit www.gao.gov, register in GAO Careers and submit your online application.

Recruiting Contract Cost & Price Analyst - Senior & Journey-level – GS-13/14

The Internal Revenue Service Procurement Office in Oxon Hill, Maryland has super employment opportunities in the cost and pricing field – both current and non-government employees can apply! We are especially interested in current or former *Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) employees* or individuals with strong proposal analysis and preparation skills from private industry, that have a strong understanding of direct and indirect cost and rates. Unlike Department of Defense contracting positions, DCAA experience will meet the contracting experience required for these positions. It is a great opportunity to advance your career and to learn more about contracting. We have our own professional Training Institute in the building, along with free, garage parking, and a deli! We are located just across the Wilson Bridge, off exit 4, overlooking the Beltway. Please call Steve Larson, Senior Cost and Pricing Analyst, if you have questions, at 202.283.1362. You can apply for these GS-1102 positions and see the full qualifications at www.usajobs.opm.gov. (Vacancy Numbers are STA-AT5RF105E & DEU-AT5RF106E for GS-13; and STA-AT5RF108E & DEU-AT5RF107E for GS-14 – announcements close on May 16, so apply soon!)

AGA Washington Chapter Membership Services Events 2005

To provide our membership with a variety of social activities, Member Services is scheduling the following events for the coming membership year. We will again attempt to partner our activities with local AGA Chapters and other professional organizations. Also, watch for our participation in additional partnership activities being planned by other regional AGA Chapters and by our own Community Service and Early Careers.

2005	Event	Partnership
May 29	Wolf Trap Event	NOVAGA/Montgomery/PG Chapters
June 4	Attend Potomac Nationals Baseball Game	Baltimore Chapter NOVAGA/Montgomery/PG Chapters
June 15	Play in Golf Tournament	ASMC/KPMG NOVAGA/Montgomery/PG Chapters

Additional event information will be provided as the activity draws near and more information becomes available. Some of the activities may be subject to change due to our partnership with the GWSCPA, ASMC, and the AGA NOVAGA, Montgomery/PG, and Baltimore Chapters. Please check our newsletter, website, or agency liaison for the latest event update. Due to advance notification requirements and space limitations, most activities will have a response cut off date. If you are interested in an activity, please let us know as soon as possible. Send your responses or direct any questions to our Chapter Member Services Director - Karl Boettcher - karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov - 202.874.6131.

Community Service Plan 2005 Washington DC Chapter

May 12	Baby Shower for St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home in Hyattsville, Maryland Used Eyeglass Collection for Lions Club ***
Through June	Used Cell Phone collection for HopeLine sponsored by Verizon Wireless

2005 Luncheon Speaker Series

The theme of this year's series is "Federal Financial Management in Transition," appropriate given the election and inevitable change in key leadership positions throughout the Federal government. Throughout the year, distinguished speakers from the public and private sectors, as well as Capitol Hill, will provide their insight on a variety of financial management issues.

The luncheons will be held between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at the Marvin Center at George Washington University, 21st St. and H Street (one block from the Foggy Bottom blue/orange line Metro).

Thursday, May 12, 2005	<i>Enjoy the summer!</i>
------------------------	--------------------------

2005 Meeting Schedule of the DC Chapter's Directors and Officers

All members are invited to participate. Meetings are held at noon at JFMIP, 1990 K St., 4th floor, on the following Tuesdays:

Tuesday, May 10, 2005	<i>Enjoy the summer!</i>
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Northern Virginia Chapter Events

Awards Banquet
Thursday May 19th 2005

Embassy Suites Hotel, 1900 Diagonal Road
Alexandria-Old Town

Virginia Ballroom (Main Level)

*(Directly across from the King Street Metro –Yellow & Blue Lines
or park at the hotel for \$3 after 5PM.)*

5 pm Sign-in and Pay-as-you-go Reception
5:30 pm Seating, 6 pm Dinner Served

Menu:

**Field Greens with Walnuts, Dried
Cranberries and Champagne Vinaigrette**

**Sesame Crusted Salmon and
Filet Mignon with Pinot Noir Demi Glaze**

Dual Entree:

Risotto with Wild Mushroom Sauce

Seasonal Sautéed Vegetables

Chef's Dessert Selection

Wine, Iced Tea and Coffee

*Vegetarian plates can be substituted if
requested when you RSVP.*

Cost: \$10 AGA Members/\$15 Non-Members
FREE if you've attended at least one meeting
(No shows will be billed the \$70 cost of the dinner)

You MUST make reservations for the Banquet
by noon May 16th, Patricia.Remington@aaa.army.mil
or call Pat at 703.428.6512

Montgomery/Prince George's County Chapter Events

Awards Dinner
Wednesday May 18th 2005

**Presentation: Award Ceremony with the
AGA National President Bobby Derrick**

Dinner Selection: Grilled NY Strip Steak

Reception: 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

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

Location: Double Tree Inn (1750 Rockville Pike)

Cost: \$30 per person

Checks made payable to "AGA"

Parking: Self-Parking is \$1.75 in the hotel garage.
**Metered parking is available behind and on either side
of the hotel.**

RSVP: James Clark at meetings@marylandaga.com
or Lance Shawver at 202.273.5922,
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Sarbanes Oxley Section 404 Update

By Bernard Bethke, CPA, CISA

Most large public companies are drawing a sigh of relief as they have recently completed their Section 404 control assessment. Smaller public companies and foreign issuers are also breathing easier with the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC's) extension of the deadline for their initial filing. This article provides an update on notable Sarbanes Section 404 activities over the last few months.

Filing Deadlines

At the request of companies and their auditors, the SEC revised the initial filing deadlines for several types of companies. The following summarizes current filing deadlines for the first year control reports:

Most Accelerated Filers - Accelerated filers are larger public companies (generally with over \$75 million in public float, which is the value of outstanding shares held by the public). The initial Section 404 report is due with the first 10K filing for years ending November 15, 2004 and later. Therefore, for calendar yearend accelerated filers, except as noted in the next paragraph, the due date for the initial filing was March 15, 2005.

Smaller Accelerated Filers – In November 2004, the SEC provided a 45-day extension for accelerated filers with greater than \$75 million and less than \$700 million in public float. For calendar yearend companies in this category, this extended the due date to April 30, 2005.

Non-Accelerated Filers and Foreign Issuers – Non-accelerated filers are smaller public companies, generally defined as those with under \$75 million in public float. In March 2005, the SEC pushed back the initial filing deadline for non-accelerated filers and foreign issuers by one year. Under the revised deadline, the initial Section 404 report is due with the first 10K filing for years ending July 15, 2006 and later. For companies with a calendar yearend, the new due date is March 15, 2007.

Roundtables and Committees

The SEC and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) have established several forums to disseminate information and obtain feedback regarding the implementation of the Section 404 control assessments. These forums and the matters discussed highlight areas where more work is needed to effectively implement the provisions of Section 404.

SEC Small Business Advisory Committee – The SEC established an SEC Advisory Committee on Smaller Public Companies to assist in evaluating the current regulatory system, including internal control requirements, relating to smaller public companies.

COSO Task Force – At the request of the SEC, the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations (COSO) has established a task force to expand the existing COSO Framework to provide more guidance on how the framework can be applied to small companies. COSO intends to publish the new guidance in the summer of 2005.

SEC Roundtable – The SEC hosted a series of roundtable panel discussions on April 13, 2005 to obtain feedback regarding companies' and accounting firms' experiences implementing the new internal control reporting requirements. See below for more information on matters discussed at the roundtable.

PCAOB Rulemaking – The PCAOB establishes the standards and rules that CPAs must follow in reviewing internal controls and management assessments under Section 404. The primary rule is Auditing Standard No. 2 – An Audit of Internal Control Over Financial Reporting Performed in Conjunction with An Audit of Financial Statements, which was established March 9, 2004. The PCAOB also issued three information statements with questions and answers to assist in the implementation of Auditing Standard No. 2. The PCAOB is currently considering standards related to reporting on the resolution of material weaknesses.

PCAOB Standing Advisory Group – The PCAOB periodically convenes meetings of its Standing Advisory Group to obtain input on auditing standards. The group was established in April 2004 and is made up of approximately 45 individuals with expertise in accounting, auditing, corporate finance, corporate governance, and investing in public companies.

PCAOB Small Business Forums – The PCAOB continues its series of meetings with registered accounting firms and public companies in the small business community in nine cities. The PCAOB provides information regarding the PCAOB inspections process and the impact of new auditing standards. The forums also provide opportunity for discussion of PCAOB issues facing small business communities.

SEC Roundtable Highlights

The roundtable was organized as a series of six panels, each with a particular topic to discuss. Topics included (1) first year efforts; (2) reporting to the public; (3) planning and design of control assessments; (4) documentation and testing; (5) the use of judgment in communications and conclusions; and (6) next steps.

The meeting was chaired by SEC Chairman William H. Donaldson. PCAOB Chairman William McDonough and his fellow PCAOB board members participated in the meeting. Panelists comprised an impressive group of chief executive officers, chief financial officers, audit committee members, internal auditors, senior partners from the larger CPA firms, investor advocates, U.S. regulators, and other participants in the 404 process.

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Sarbanes Oxley Section 404 Update

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The business community was very interested in providing feedback on the process. Prior to the roundtable, the commission invited comments and received over 200 letters from investor advocates, management of public companies, audit committee members, auditors, and attorneys.

Typical feedback at the meeting included the following:

- Widespread acknowledgement from most panelists that significant benefits were obtained in performing the control assessments.
- Company representatives expressed concerns that the process was very costly (universally much more costly than estimated) that the value of the benefits may not exceed the costs.
- Panelists generally look forward to greater efficiencies in performing the control assessments in subsequent years, but still have concerns that costs will exceed the value of benefits and look for more guidance from regulators to ensure that the process is better focused and efficient.
- Company representatives expressed concerns that the external auditors have excessive influence over management's assessment process in areas such as determining the type and extent of procedures performed.
- Some panelists attributed cost problems to a conservative implementation of the audit standards. However, it was also noted that the CPA firms have little alternative other than to apply the standards strictly. Panelists suggested that additional PCAOB guidance is needed to achieve an appropriate implementation of the standards. - Some panelists suggested that the materiality levels established for material weaknesses are too low and will not be easily understood by investors. Material weaknesses must be disclosed and result in an adverse control opinion. The standards do not specify the extent of information that must be provided in a disclosure statement.

Suggestions to improve the process included:

- Greater consideration of risks with the allocation of more resources to higher risk areas and fewer resources to lower risk areas.
- Increased use of judgment and less reliance on standardized procedures that may not be cost beneficial. - More reliance by external auditors on management work, including the work of internal auditors.
- Additional guidance from the SEC and the PCAOB to achieve a more effective and efficient process.

An archive of the webcast and further information is available at www.sec.gov/spotlight/soxcomp.htm.

Mr. Bethke is a principal with Risk Management Advisory Services LLC www.rmadvisory.com. RMAS provides assurance and consulting services to help organizations maintain cost-effective operational procedures and controls. Mr. Bethke can be reached at 301.871.7601 or by email at bbethke@rmadvisory.com.

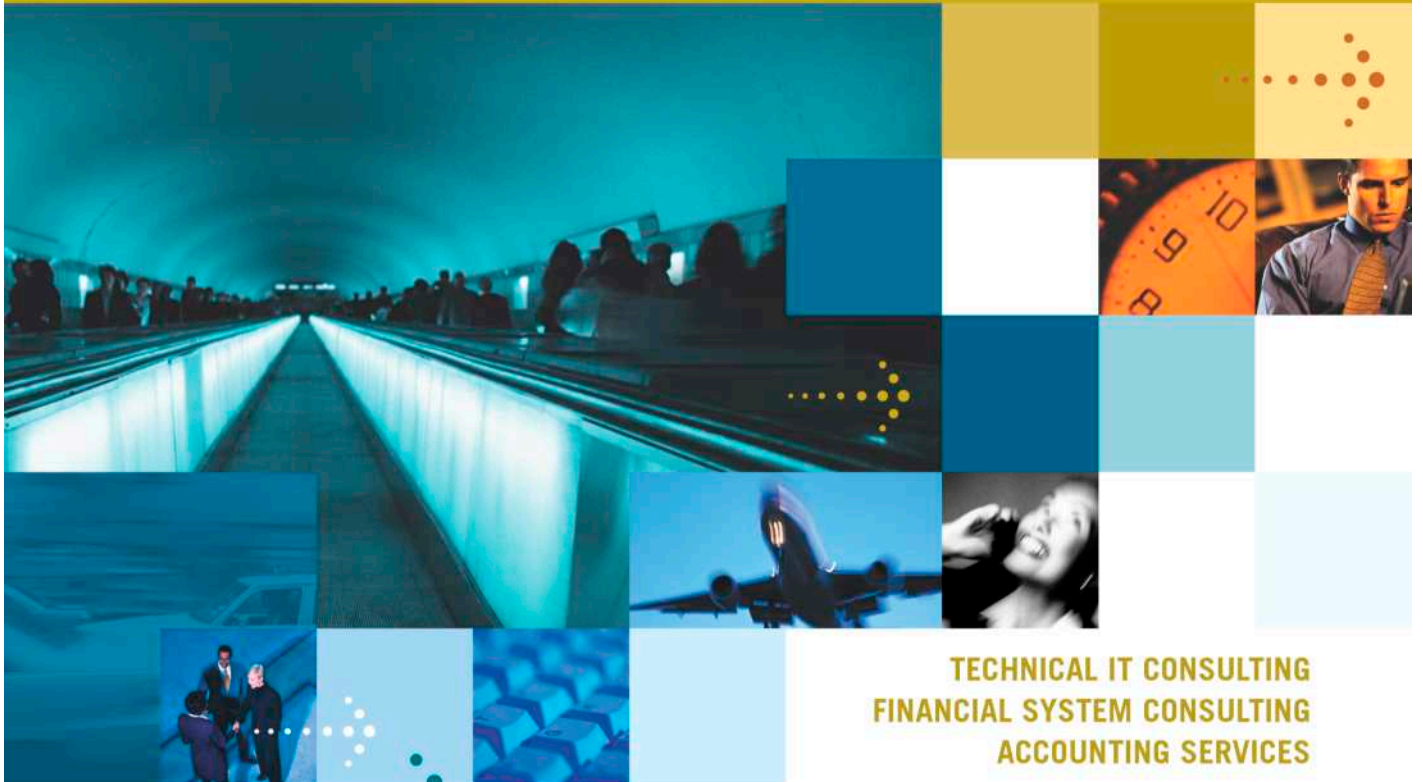
Email Reminders?

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

Newsletter Comments or Suggestions?

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter? Do you have an article you'd like to see in print? The deadline for submitting articles to appear in the June 2005 issue is May 20, 2005. Please send your comments and contributions to the newsletter editor, Karen Shaffer, at kshaffer@lmi.org.

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