

The Washington Connection

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS
WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER

OCTOBER 2004 ISSUE

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



October Guest Luncheon Speaker, Morgan Kinghorn - President, National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA)

Morgan Kinghorn, President of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), will be the featured speaker at the DC Chapter's monthly luncheon. The October luncheon will be held on October 7 at the Marvin Center at George Washington University. Mr. Kinghorn will provide a retrospective on how far the Federal financial management community has come since the passage of the CFO Act, and will provide his unique insights on the challenges that lie ahead.

As President of the National Academy of Public Administration, Mr. Kinghorn manages the day-to-day operations of NAPA, a Congressionally- chartered nonprofit organization created to improve governance at all levels of government. Mr. Kinghorn leads a Fellowship composed of over 550 leaders in the Federal, State, and local government and academic sectors.

Our speaker has had a long and distinguished career in both the public and private sectors. Mr. Kinghorn is a former partner with IBM Business Consulting Services. He served as the CFO and Assistant Commissioner and Controller at the Internal Revenue Service, and as Assistant Director for Financial Management and Acting Deputy CFO at the Office of Management and Budget. At the Environmental Protection Agency, Mr. Kinghorn served as Deputy Assistant Administrator for Administration and Resources Management and as Acting Assistant Administrator.

October Luncheon

Financial Management In Transition Luncheon Series
Morgan Kinghorn,
President of the National Academy of
Public Administration (NAPA)

Thursday, October 9 - 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,

Our September 9 kick-off meeting was a great success and starts us toward meeting our goals of providing strong education and development opportunities to our members both through our chapter's events and through sharing opportunities with regional chapters. Our thanks to Andrew Maner, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Department of Homeland Security, for presenting at the September 9 meeting. The

second in our series on "Transition in Financial Management" will be October 7 at George Washington University's Marvin Center, located at 800 21st Street NW, Washington, DC. Morgan Kinghorn, President of the National Academy of Public Administration and former CFO of the Internal Revenue Service, will provide his perspective on the changes in Federal financial management and the role of agency CFOs. Sign up on the Washington, DC Chapter's website (www.agadc.org) in advance of the meeting. We can expand accommodations to meet the demand—as long as we know about it in advance.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our 2004-2005 corporate sponsors of the meeting series, including Savantage Solutions, Kearney & Company, and Grant Thornton, for their generous support. Support from our corporate sponsors is enabling our chapter to present a robust program for our current members, to build for the future, and support our community. Savantage Solutions sponsored the September 9 "meet and greet" the Directors' reception, which was attended by most of the board members.

Early Careers. As of December 2003, over one in five of the Federal professional and administrative financial management workforce is over 55 years of age. Only one in five is under 40 years old. In the not too distant future, there will be a significant turnover as the older cohort retires. Moreover, the future workforce will need broader conceptual and analytic competencies. Our Chapter is committed to making a significant contribution to prepare the next generation of financial management leaders to take advantage of the opportunities resulting from the demographics of the current workforce. We are going to do our part to help potential leaders acquire the competencies and the network of contacts to be successful.

To that end, our chapter is pursuing two strategies. First we are sponsoring a series of "brown bag" lunches targeted to early career members, which will be held at JFMIP, 1990 K Street, NW, suite 430. ("Brown bag" means that you bring your own lunch.) Laura Glass, Chair of the Chapter's Early Career Program, is spearheading these plans. On September 21, Evelyn Brown, Deputy CFO of the Office of Personnel Management and Ken Bresnahan, former CFO of the Department of Labor and Chair of the DC Chapter's CGFM initiative, led our first "brown bag" lunch discussion with all the early career folks who signed up. A second chapter "brown bag" will be held on November 16 and feature Leslie Casson Stevens, Solutions Director of SAP Public Services, Inc., and the former CFO of the Smithsonian. The DC Chapter initiatives are in addition to the National AGA's Career Foundations Conference and Exhibition that will be held free of charge on October 6 at the Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel, 999 Ninth Street, NW, Washington, DC. The October 6 event offers 2 CPEs.

The second strategy is support for early career members to achieve CGFM certification. Our chapter plans to organize and underwrite CGFM preparation to help committed early career members achieve this certification, which is a career asset. More information about the CGFM initiative was shared at the September 21 "brown bag" and on the DC Chapter website.

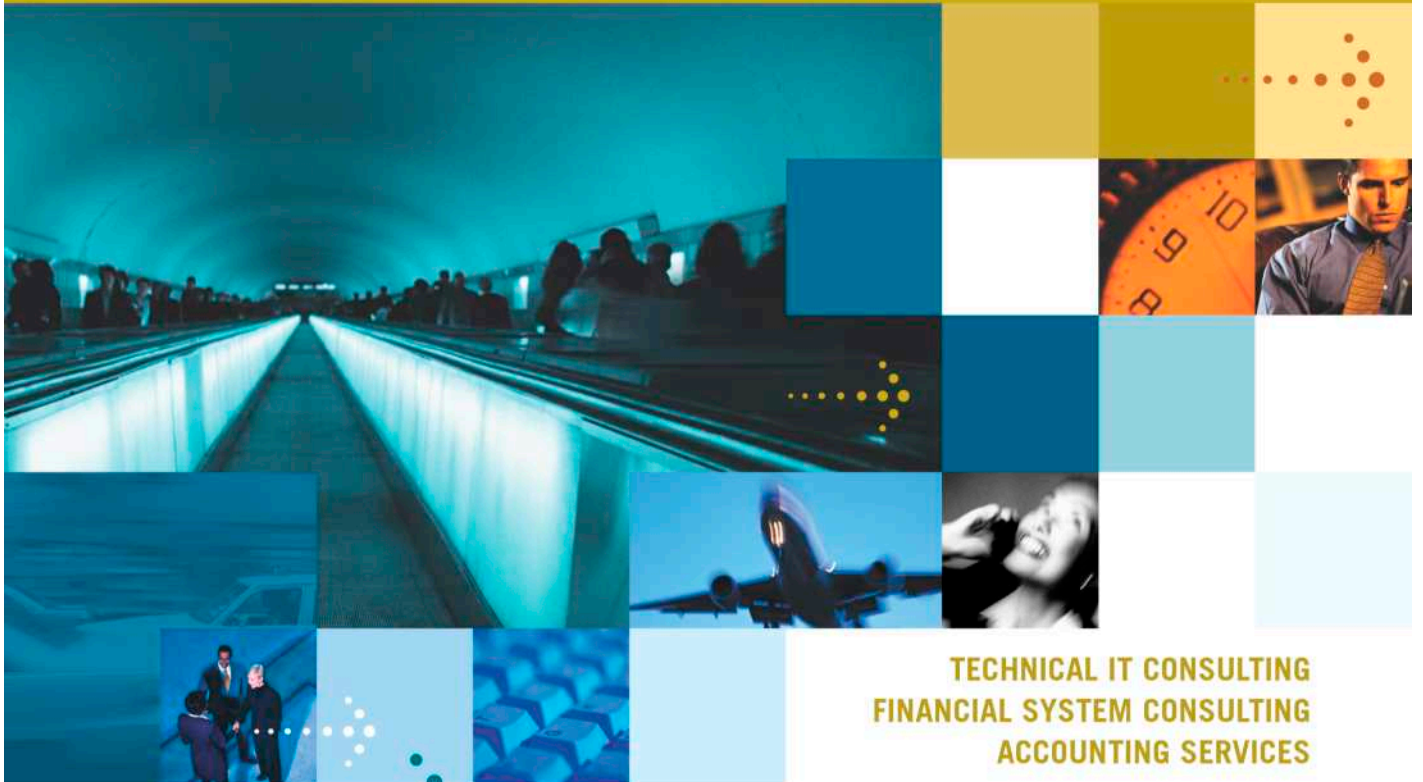
Community Service. I would like to congratulate Tonya Allan Shaw and Lloyd Farmer for spearheading our chapter's community service initiatives and for raising over \$150 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation in September. Our next community service effort is the Walk to D'feet ALS, which will be held on October 10 at the Constitution Gardens, Washington, DC. Keep your eyes on the DC Chapter website for more information.

Milestone. On a sad note, the DC Chapter mourns the passing of Sky Leshner, Director of the Department of the Interior's Office of Financial Management and long-time governmentwide leader in our community. To honor him, the DC Chapter has elected to give contributions to the American Cancer Society in lieu of speaker gifts in memory of Sky Leshner, whose contributions to Federal financial management will not be forgotten.

Yours sincerely,
Karen Cleary Alderman



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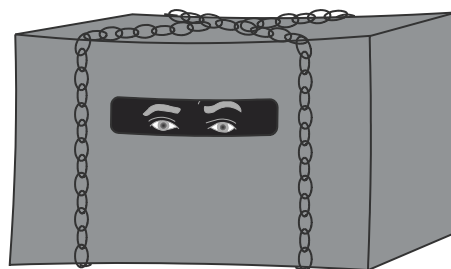


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Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA



Budgets and Vendors

Databases capture different information about different transactions. For example, an appropriation should not have an object code (that gets assigned at a lower level), and a purchase order should not have a deposit number. One would think that, since appropriations come from Congress, they would not need vendor information either. However, when appropriations are transferred between funds within an agency, or between agencies, one has to report the associated trading partner in FACTS II. That requires capturing vendor information when the appropriation is recorded.

What do you do if your budget system does not capture vendor or trading partner? If all or most of your appropriation transfers are within your agency, you can default all values to your own agency/bureau code. If there are too many interagency transfers, then you can use another data element to capture the transfer agency, such as general ledger account 4170.15 for Appropriation Transfers to or from the Department of Justice. Which elements to use and how will depend on the flexibility of your system's FACTS II interface or willingness to manually adjust the values uploaded.

Another solution might be to record the SF-1151 with a cash receipt. The cash receipt would certainly capture vendor, and could post to the proper general ledger accounts. It also would have to increase budget authority. You would not want to increase available funding by reducing expenditures, since that gets reported very differently from an appropriation on the Statement of Budgetary Resources and is certain to cause confusion. You might be able to record it as earned reimbursements, unless that appropriation has reimbursement authority and you do not want to intermingle the two.

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

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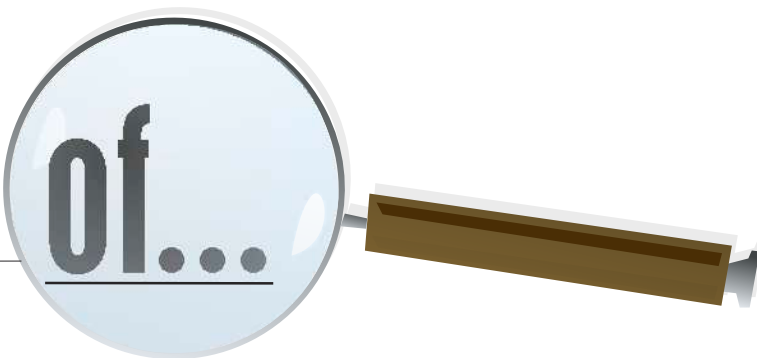
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Of...



To better inform our members and foster closer ties among our colleagues within the Federal financial community, we would like to add a few new columns to the *Washington Connection* newsletter.

Spotlight will focus on noteworthy accomplishments by our members. Such accomplishments might include recognition from agencies, firms, or community organizations, honor awards, promotions into management positions, retirements, publications, or major speaking engagements—anything our members might do that would warrant praise from their peers. Digital photos are welcome. Please send us your accomplishments, and let us know if someone else in the Chapter deserves recognition for something he or she has done—but please make sure that individual doesn't mind us including the item in the newsletter!!!

Workplace Wire will highlight what's new, exciting, and different at the Federal, State, and local agencies and private sector firms where our members work. *Wire* items could include rollouts of new systems or programs, establishment of new offices or reorganizations, appointments of new senior leaders, such as CFOs, new contract awards, or employment opportunities. All we ask is that you obtain any necessary internal clearances before you send us information.

Endnotes will include interesting and perhaps even offbeat items that involve our members. This column could be used to share unique travel experiences or assignments. For example, years ago, when I edited *Frontline*, the Inspector General community newsletter, we featured a story about an auditor who participated in an expedition to climb Mount McKinley. Hopefully none of our members were caught up in the recent spate of hurricanes, but how to work under disaster conditions might be useful information. If we have members who are serving (or who have served) in Iraq or Afghanistan, perhaps they would be willing to share their experiences with us. Reviews of recently published books related to financial management would be interesting.

Obviously, we will need your help to gather this information—we can't print what we don't know! Please send your items to kshaffer@lmi.org. Feel free to call me on 301.802.2912 or 703.917.7174 if you have any questions or you would like to discuss a possible item or article. Thank you in advance for your participation!!!

Oktoberfest



Our Chapter's Member Services, in partnership with the Baltimore AGA Chapter, is sponsoring an "Oktoberfest" at Blobs Park on Saturday, October 23, from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. Come and enjoy the "Gemutlichkeit" with German food, drink, and dancing along with the entertainment provided by the original Bavarian dance club (Schuhplattler Verein) starting at 7 p.m. and the Rheinlanders Polka band starting at 8 p.m. The Blobs Park Pavilion is located in Jessup, Maryland just off the Baltimore/Washington Parkway and RT 175 East on Blobs Park Road. Admission at the door is \$7.00 per person and \$10.00 for the all-you-can-eat traditional German buffet, including bratwurst, sauerbraten, dumplings, sauerkraut, and red cabbage along with roast beef or ham. Traditional American menu selections are also available. Drinks are extra. The charge for children ages 5 to 12 is half the price and there is no charge for children under 5 years of age.

AGA DC members can also enjoy a complimentary dessert provided by our sponsor, Savantage Solutions.

Plenty of free parking is available next to the pavilion. Dress is casual. If you are interested in attending this activity, contact karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov (202.874.6131) by Thursday, October 14. For more information, you also can contact Blobs Park at 410.799.0155.

Bring in Members - Win a Raffle Prize!

Building membership is an important way to keep AGA's DC Chapter strong. Why not bring colleagues, who are not AGA DC Chapter members, to an AGA luncheon and encourage them to join our Chapter! Show them our website. Tell those who have been working five years or less about our Early Career Brown Bag lunches scheduled for November 16, 2004, and February 15, 2005. Invite them to the FREE Career Foundations Conference and Exposition on October 6, 2004 at the Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel (for more details on Early Careers, visit our website at www.agadc.org).

Those colleagues bringing in new members will have a chance to win a raffle prize!

— Marguerite Nealon, AGA-D.C. Membership Director



In partnership with the Northern Virginia and Montgomery/Prince Georges Chapters, Member Services is sponsoring a "Tour of the Smithsonian's Zoological Park" on Sunday, November 7. We will meet at the visitor's center (Connecticut Avenue entrance) at 1:30 p.m. Animal buildings are open until 4:30 p.m. This will give us three hours to visit with the animals, and browse the gift and bookshop. AGA members can also enjoy a complimentary soft drink provided by our sponsor, Savantage Solutions.

There should be ample parking in parking lot "A" for a \$5.00 fee. There is no charge for entrance to the Zoo. Wear comfortable clothes and walking shoes. If you are interested in this activity, please let us know. Send your electronic response or direct any questions to karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov (202.874.6131). For more information, you also can contact the Zoo at 202.673.4800.

AGA Washington Chapter Membership Services Events 2004-2005

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.

2004	Event	Partnership
October 23	Oktoberfest at Blob's Park	NOVAGA/Montgomery/PG Chapters Baltimore Chapter
November 7	Visit National Zoo	NOVAGA/Montgomery/PG Chapters
December	U.S. Naval Observatory Tour	NOVAGA/Montgomery/PG Chapters
2005	Event	Partnership
January	Chinese New Year Dinner	Dept of Labor CFO - Sam Mok NOVAGAMontgomery/PG Chapters
February	Skiing at Liberty in PA.	NOVAGA/Montgomery/PG Chapters Baltimore Chapter
March	Tour of National Cathedral	NOVAGA/Montgomery/PG Chapters
April	Mt. Vernon Tour	NOVAGA/Montgomery/PG Chapters
May	Wolf Trap Event	NOVAGA/Montgomery/PG Chapters
May/June	Attend Baltimore Orioles or Northern Virginia Cannons Baseball Game	Baltimore Chapter NOVAGA/Montgomery/PG Chapters
June	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.

EARLY CAREERS

Career Foundations Conference & Exposition

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Renaissance Washington D.C. Hotel

999 Ninth Street, NW

Washington, D.C.

Cost: FREE

Join AGA for a brand new conference geared to help upcoming/recent college graduates, post-graduate students and young professionals build a successful and lasting career as a government financial manager.

www.agacqfm.org/career/default.aspx

2004-2005 Luncheon Speaker Series

The theme of this year's series is "Federal Financial Management in Transition," appropriate given the pending election and inevitable change in key leadership positions throughout the Federal government, regardless of the election's outcome. The series kicked off on September 9, when Andrew Maner, Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, will discuss lessons learned and best practices used by the Department during its first full year of operation. 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, October 7, 2004	Thursday, February 10, 2005
Thursday, November 18, 2004	Thursday, March 17, 2005
Thursday, January 13, 2005	Thursday, May 12, 2005

Special events are planned for December, when we will have our informal holiday get-together, and April, when we will hold our awards dinner.

In addition, the chapter will hold education events and conferences.

Watch the Washington Connection for more details! We hope that you all plan to join us.

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Community Service Plan 2004-2005 Washington DC Chapter

October	Sunday, October 10 – Washington, DC **Constitution Gardens** Walk to D'feet ALS Team Name: "Joan's Wayward Walker's" Andy Killgore, Captain Website: http://www.alsinfo.org
November	Project Harvest — Collect nonperishable food items at luncheon meeting (November 18, 2004)
December	Toys-for-Tots
January	Baby Shower at Luncheon to benefit St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home. Website: http://www.saint-anns.com
February	Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
March	Dress for Success Suit Drive
April	Christmas In April
May	Used Eyeglass Collection for Lions Club ***
June	Used Cell Phone collection for HopeLine sponsored by Verizon Wireless ***
	*** Ongoing Community Service Projects to conclude in May and June.

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2004-2005 Meeting Schedule of the DC Chapter's Directors and Officers

Meetings will be held at noon at JFMIP, 1990 K St., 4th floor, on the following Tuesdays:

Tuesday, October 5, 2004	Tuesday, February 8, 2005
Tuesday, November 2, 2004	Tuesday, March 8, 2005
Tuesday, December 7, 2004	Tuesday, April 5, 2005
Tuesday, January 11, 2005	Tuesday, May 10, 2005

All members are invited to participate. For September Meeting Minutes see this issue, page 11.

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 November 2004 issue is October 13, 2004. Please send your comments and contributions to the newsletter editor, Karen Shaffer, at kshaffer@lmi.org.

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AGA - Washington Chapter, Executive Board Minutes - September 7, 2004

Nineteen members of the board participated. The following topics of general interest to the membership were discussed:

- **Programs (Scott Bell)**
 - a. Bill Campbell will be unavailable to speak at the October luncheon. Substitution proposals included Dennis Fisher and several different members of Congress.
 - b. Bill Broadus was also suggested as a possible speaker. Karl Boettcher will send information to Scott Bell.
 - c. Don Hammond is scheduled to speak at the January 2005 luncheon.
- **Early Careers – (Laura Glass)**
 - a. The AGA National's Career Foundation Conference will be Wednesday, October 6, 2004. Posters were made available for Board members to take back to their offices for distribution.
 - b. At least 2 volunteers from Washington, DC Chapter are being asked to assist. Anyone interested should contact Laura Glass.
 - c. Early Career Brown Bag lunches will be held at JFMIP Conference room on November 16, 2004 and February 15, 2005.
- **Member Services Social Events (Karl Boettcher)**
 - a. October event will be the Oktoberfest at Blob's Park.
 - b. The planned November event is a tour of the National Zoo.
- **Community Service (Tonya Allen-Shaw)**
 - a. The September community service effort will be dedicated to the "Make a Wish" Foundation. A collection and raffle will be held at the luncheon.
 - b. The October project is the ALS Walk on October 10. We are part of the Joan's Wayward Walkers group and members can register at ALSInfo.org.
 - c. Future events include Project Harvest in November, Toys For Tots in December, Baby Shower for Saint Ann's in January, VITA in February, Dress For Success Clothing Drive in March, and continuing the glasses and cell phone collection throughout the year.

The next Director's Meeting will be held at JFMIP on October 5, 2004.

If you would like more information concerning items discussed at the Board meeting, please contact Dan Christovich at dchristovich@comdt.uscg.mil or 202.267.0443.



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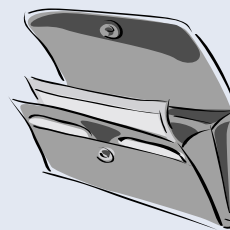
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Call for National Awards Nominations Due October 29, 2004

Compiled from Information provided by AGA National

Who do you know that deserves special recognition for contributions to our field?

Please help us acknowledge financial professionals at the federal, state and local level and private sector who are leading the way! (You might even consider nominating yourself.)

* Nominees do not have to be members of AGA.

These awards will be presented at
AGA's Third Annual National Leadership Conference
February 7-8, 2005 in Washington, DC

Submit your nomination today!

Federal Leadership Awards

Distinguished Federal Leadership Award - Formally recognizes individuals in either the legislative or executive branch who have made outstanding contributions to enhancing government financial management.

Elmer Staats Award - Recognizes the cumulative achievements of federal professionals who throughout their career have served as a role model for others and who have consistently exhibited the highest personal and professional standards.

Andy Barr Award - Formally recognizes the cumulative achievements of private sector individuals who throughout their career have served as a role model for others and who have consistently exhibited the highest personal and professional standards.

State and Local Leadership Awards

Excellence in Government Leadership Award - Recognizes the cumulative achievements of a state or local government professional who throughout his/her public career has served as a role model for others and has consistently exhibited the highest personal and professional standards.

William R. Snodgrass Distinguished Leadership Award - Recognizes the outstanding leadership of individuals in state government that led to improved financial management practices, policies, systems or operations and consistently exhibited the highest personal and professional standards.

Distinguished Local Government Leadership Award - Formally recognizes the outstanding leadership of individuals in local government that led to improved financial management practices, policies, systems or operations and consistently exhibited the highest personal and professional standards.

Private Sector Financial Excellence Award - Recognizes the cumulative achievements of private sector professionals who throughout their careers have served as a role model for others and have consistently exhibited personal and professional standards.

* Photos of nominees must accompany nomination packages! For details and forms visit www.agacqfm.org/membership/awards.

National Leadership Conference

Improving Government Performance: Financial Managers Take Center Stage

Make plans now to join AGA for the Third Annual National Leadership Conference to be held February 7 - 8, 2005, in Washington, DC

Sound financial management is more important than ever. Governments are grappling with a growing list of homeland security issues - how to keep our cities and our nation safe, and how to pay for it. In this environment, financial managers will take center stage, confronting these challenges and the difficulties of balancing the many competing demands on taxpayers' money. At the same time, governments are focusing more intently on performance to ensure that every dollar is spent wisely, and can be accounted for later. These developments are bringing financial managers into the spotlight.

The National Leadership Conference will bring together the top leaders in federal, state and local government financial management, all of whom are struggling to make ends meet while providing an unprecedented level of services to the citizens they serve. This conference is a must for top government leaders-chief financial officers, inspectors general, state auditors, state comptrollers, state treasurers, city auditors, city finance directors and those who work with these top leaders to keep our governments fiscally sound.

Don't miss this chance to network with your peers and share solutions to common challenges. We look forward to seeing you.

Conference Registration Fees

Your conference registration includes entrance to all education sessions and the Exhibit Hall, 2 continental breakfasts, 4 refreshment breaks, 2 luncheons, a registration tote bag and the ability to earn up to 14 CPE hours.

AGA Member	Fax/Mail	Online
Early Rate (By 01/14/05)	\$500	\$475
Standard Rate (After 01/14/05)	\$600	\$575

Register online with a credit card, (<https://members.agacgfm.org/source/security/member-logon.cfm?origin=meetings>) or download a printable registration form (http://www.agacgfm.org/conferences/downloads/nlc05_reg.pdf) and send a fax to 703.548.9367, or mail to: AGA Conference Registration, 2208 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301.

Non-Member	Fax/Mail	Online
Early Rate (By 01/14/05)	\$675	\$650
Standard Rate (After 01/14/05)	\$775	\$750

EARLY CAREERS

AGA Washington Chapter, Early Careers "Brown Bag" Lunch Series
JFMIP Board Room, 1990 K Street (20th and K)
Washington, DC

Cost: Free, bring your own lunch.

Time: 11:30-1:00

Dates: November 16, 2004/ February 15, 2005

The AGA Washington Chapter will host brown bag lunch sessions for Early Career Members to learn about career growth opportunities in government. Early Career Members are those chapter members with less than five years of experience in the government accounting/accountability field. Each session will feature a speaker that will present perspectives on careers in governmental accounting and accountability, as well as a time for questions and answers.

Please contact Donna Tebeau at donna.tebeau@gsa.gov or 202.219.0526 to register for these sessions.

OMB Controller Testifies Before Congress

On September 15, the Honorable Linda M. Springer, Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget, testified before the Subcommittee on Government Efficiency and Financial Management, House Committee on Government Reform, on "The Role of the Chief Financial Officer in the Federal Government." You may read her full remarks by clicking on the following link:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/legislative/testimony/springer/040915_springer.html

CFO Council Issues "Alternative for Estimating Improper Payment Amounts"

In September, the Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Council Working Group on Improper Payments issued its "Alternative for Estimating Improper Payment Amounts." The Improper Payment Information Act of 2002 (IPIA) requires heads of Federal agencies to:

- annually review, in accordance with the guidance prescribed by the Director of OMB, all programs and activities that may be susceptible to significant improper payments (risk assessment); and
- estimate the annual amount of improper payments for programs and activities that may be susceptible to significant improper payments.

Although IPIA requires an annual review of all programs and activities and an estimate of improper payments for programs and activities that may be susceptible to significant improper payments, it does not specify the methodology for estimating such payments. In May 2003, OMB issued guidance in Memorandum 03-13, "Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (Public Law No: 107-300)" (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/memoranda/m03-13.html>) that prescribes minimum requirements for developing a statistically valid improper payment estimate on an annual basis. Working with relevant agency and program staff, the CFO Council Working Group on Improper Payments has determined that for a small number of large and complex high-risk programs, the M-03-13 requirements may not be achievable, given program realities and resource constraints.

The Working Group developed a document that identifies an alternative approach agencies should consider in cases where obtaining an annual improper payment rate consistent with the requirements of OMB M-03-13 is not practical or feasible. Agencies should obtain OMB approval of this conclusion before deciding to utilize the alternative. Use of this alternative should not preclude agencies from performing their annual risk assessments as required by M-03-13.

You may read the full text of this document by clicking on the following link:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/financial/improper/cfo_council.html

FASAB News Online

The Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) promulgates Federal accounting standards after considering the financial and budgetary information needs of citizens, congressional oversight groups, executive agencies, and the needs of other users of Federal financial information. Accounting and financial reporting standards are essential for public accountability and for an efficient and effective functioning of our democratic system of government. FASAB's newsletter, *FASAB News*, describes current projects and includes other useful information. The newsletter is posted on the FASAB website. Click on the link below to read the August/September 2004 issue.

<http://www.fasab.gov/fasabnews/fasabn87.pdf>

On The Horizon...Training Opportunity

Opportunity for GASB training for reporting service efforts and accomplishments on December 14 at KPMG's office at 2001 M Street, NW, Washington, DC. The Northern Virginia and Montgomery/Prince Georges Chapters are sponsoring this event. Training will last for 4 hours; the time will be announced later. [Watch the website for more details...](#)

JFMIP Exposure Draft Available for Comment

In September, the Joint Financial Improvement Program (JFMIP) issued its Draft "Property Management System Requirements" for review and comment. The document is provided in electronic Word format with numbered lines and is available at:

http://www.JFMIP.gov/download/Exposuredrafts/040914-property_requirements_exposure_draft.doc

Also included on the website is a matrix for easily submitting comments to JFMIP. Comments are due November 12, 2004.

The Joint Financial Management Improvement Program (JFMIP) is a joint undertaking of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, General Accounting Office (GAO), Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and Office of Personnel Management (OPM), working in cooperation with one another, other agencies, and the private sector, to improve financial management in the federal government. The program was given statutory authorization in the Budget and Accounting Procedures Act of 1950 (31 U.S.C. 65).

JFMIP leadership and program guidance are provided by four principals: the Comptroller General of the United States, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Director of OMB, and the Director of OPM. Each principal designates a representative to serve on the JFMIP Steering Committee, which is responsible for the general direction of the program. The Executive Director is a permanent member of the Steering Committee and is responsible for the day-to-day operation of JFMIP. In addition, a representative from the federal community serves on the Steering Committee for a 2-year term.

JFMIP promotes strategies and sponsors projects to improve financial management across the federal government; participates in the financial management activities of central policy organizations; and facilitates the sharing of information about good financial management practices. Information sharing is accomplished through conferences and other educational events, newsletters, meetings with interagency groups and agency personnel, and the Internet.

JFMIP Seeking Scantlebury Award Nominations

Nominations are open for the Donald L. Scantlebury Memorial Award. The JFMIP sponsors the annual program directed to excellence in financial management. Nominations must be received by January 5, 2005 to be eligible for consideration. Since 1971, the JFMIP has sponsored an annual award program directed to excellence in financial management. The award was established to recognize senior financial management executives who, through outstanding and continuous leadership in financial management, have been principally responsible for significant economies, efficiencies and improvements in federal, state or local government. In 1981, the award was designated as the Donald L. Scantlebury Memorial Award in honor of the Chief Accountant of the General Accounting Office and the chairman of the JFMIP Steering Committee.

Click on the following link for information about the award:

http://www.jfmip.gov/jfmip/scantlebury_awards.shtml

For further information, you also may contact Doris Chew, 202.219.0528, or email doris.chew@gsa.gov.

Annual Report to the President Issued by Inspector General Community

The President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency and the Executive Council on Integrity and Efficiency issued their *Annual Report to the President* for FY 2003. The report highlights the accomplishments and contributions of the Offices of Inspector General.

Click on the following link to read the report:

<http://www.ignet.gov/randp/fy03apr.pdf>

Updated GAO/PCIE Financial Audit Manual Online

The updated *GAO/PCIE Financial Audit Manual*, which includes the July 2004 updates, is available on GAO's website at:

<http://www.gao.gov/special.pubs/gaopcie>

At your service....

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