



The Washington Connection



What's Inside

Up Next!.....	1
President's Message.....	2
Develop Your Leadership Skills.....	4
Highlights on AGA DC Chapter Member Survey.....	6
July 4 th Holiday.....	11
AGA-DC's Historian & 75th Anniversary Essay Volunteers Needed.....	14
Inside the Black Box.....	16
AGA DC 22 nd Annual Training.....	19
AGA DC Training and Events.....	23
Thought Leadership (BDO).....	25
Special Events.....	27
Community Service.....	32
April 2024 VIP Luncheon.....	34
AGA DC Chapter Monthly Luncheons.....	35
CGFM Updates.....	40
Membership Committee.....	41
Welcome New Members.....	41
AGA DC Chapter Officers & Directors.....	46
AGA DC Chapter Volunteer Roster.....	47
Contact Us.....	49

Up Next!

June 20, 11:30am-1:00pm, AGA-DC VIP Luncheon; Guest Speaker, Stephen Kunze, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Department of Commerce (*Diamond Sponsors only*)

June 22, 6:00-10:00 PM, DC Chapter Annual Gala at the JW Marriott, DC. [Get Tickets Here!](#)

July 14-17, AGA Professional Development Training (PDT), Denver, CO. AGA PDT brings together a broad audience of federal, state and local government financial professionals. PDT offers educational sessions over 4 days of training. [Register here!](#)

July 26, AGA & SDFM (ASMC) Annual Golf Tournament at Ft. Belvoir Golf Club. [Register here!](#)

THANK YOU!

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

- April 17, Monthly Hybrid Luncheon
- April 20, Potomac River Cleanup at Gravelly Point.
- April 24, Webinar on the CARES Act and ARPA.
- May 7-8, 22nd Annual DC Chapter Hybrid Training Event sponsored by the DC & Northern Virginia AGA chapters.
- May 8, Webinar on Fraud and Data Analytics.
- May 11, Annual Wine Tour.
- May 15, Monthly Hybrid Luncheon.
- June 7, AGA-DC Nationals Game.
- June 11, Year-end Celebration Happy Hour

NEW ADDRESS

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

President's Message

Dear AGA DC Chapter Volunteers, Sponsors, and Members,

As we close out another successful program year, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you who have contributed to our accomplishments.

First, I would like to extend **my heartfelt appreciation to our 26 committees and 96 volunteers who worked tirelessly throughout the year.** Your dedication and hard work have allowed us to provide the exceptional services our chapter members have come to expect, while also achieving the strategic objectives outlined in our annual plan. From Achievements in Chapter Excellence (ACE) Awards to Web-Master and Young Professionals, and everything in-between, you have done amazing work. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed and are deeply appreciated.

Second, I want to **thank our sponsors for their unwavering support.** Your contributions have played a significant role in our success this year and have enabled us to continue to deliver on our mission. We would not be as successful as we are without your contributions.

Third, I want to **acknowledge our members.** Your active engagement and participation in our many events have made this program year a resounding success! Your commitment to our chapter is what drives us forward and ensures we continually improve. Never stop telling us how we can serve you better.

I would like to give a special mention to our Treasurer, Shawn Syed, and members of the Finance Committee (Terri Dawson, Catherine Gao, and Mona Amatie, Treasurer-Elect). Your work in improving operations and modernizing and automating our chapter finances have been instrumental in enhancing our efficiency and effectiveness and setting a new standard of excellence.

I also want to highlight the work of the DEIA Committee. Your commitment to fostering broad inclusion within our chapter has created a welcoming and inclusive environment for all our members. Our



DC Chapter is large and diverse, which contributes to its excellence; let it be known that all are welcome and appreciated here.

Lastly, I wish I could highlight all the great things we do; our reestablished awards program, our newsletter, social media, webinars, luncheons; but it's too much to cover (I could write a book!). I want to commend our volunteers for transitioning to the shared drive and for **achieving platinum status in ACE reporting, again!** This is a significant accomplishment that reflects our commitment to transparency, accountability, and service excellence for our members.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for your continued support. Your commitment and dedication have been the driving force behind our success. What a remarkable year, you should all be as proud as I am of your accomplishments. As I transition into the role of Immediate Past-President and National Council of Chapters (NCC) Representative, I look forward to continuing to serve you and the government financial management community. Together, we will continue to make a difference. As we move toward the next program year, I am confident that with your continued support and dedication, we will achieve even greater results. Thank you again for making this year a success and I wish you fair winds and following seas.

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.

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.

Exciting News!! *Gotcha Covered* will be the featured entertainment at this year's annual awards gala! Join us for a great night of honoring your colleagues, enjoying great friends, and dancing the night away to The Tunes You Know! Scott Bell, Paul Marshall, and the band will have you dancing the night away at this great event!

Look out for our Chapter's LinkedIn social media post and email in coming weeks, as well as the Fall 2024 edition of the newsletter for highlights, and pictures from this year's **Annual Gala!**



Develop Your Leadership Skills

Get Involved in AGA DC Chapter Today!



Becoming a volunteer of AGA DC Chapter is a great way to develop your leadership skills, expand your professional network, and give back to your chapter! Our past and present AGA leaders are inviting you to be one of our volunteers in the new program year and would like to share the following messages:

"Working with fellow chapter members provides access and exposure to a vast repository of knowledge and experience that will enhance your navigation in planning and expanding career paths. Mentoring at grassroots level available with colleagues you would not readily interact or access." - **Evelyn Brown, Retired Deputy CFO at Office of Personnel Management, Past National President, Past National Treasurer, and Past DC Chapter President**

"I started my AGA leadership journey as the Early Careers/Young Professionals Director back in 2008. Since that time I've supported roles including Corporate Sponsorship, Training, NCC and National support positions. I can't wait to start my role as DC Chapter President and I invite you to join me on the Board!" - **Paul Marshall, Vice President at The MIL Corporation, DC Chapter President-Elect**

"AGA is the premier professional association for government financial and accountability professionals. Volunteering with the chapter gives you preferred access to member-only events, the opportunity to network with thought leaders throughout government, and is a force multiplier for career and personal growth and development." - **Lal Harter, Lead Auditor at Department of Homeland Security, DC Chapter President**

Whether you're working for the government, tribal organizations, private sector, academia, or being a student, we welcome you to join the team and be one of our enthusiastic volunteers!

Check out a variety of Committees listed below where you can volunteer and serve your fellow chapter members. **Email us at agadc@agadc.org to become our chapter volunteer today!**

- **Annual Gala:** Organizes our annual awards gala in the spring.
- **CGFM:** Promotes the Certified Government Financial Manager program and processes member subsidies for exams and study materials.
- **Citizen Centric Reporting:** Creates our annual Citizen Centric Report.
- **Community Service:** Implements strategies to provide financial and volunteer support for local community service organizations.
- **Corporate Sponsors:** Recruits sponsors to support our operations and manages corresponding activities to achieve common goals and objectives.
- **Historian:** Maintains and updates the historical record of chapter operations.
- **Mentorship:** Promotes the mentorship program and organizes mentorship activities for members.
- **Monthly Luncheon Virtual:** Manages registrations for virtual attendees and runs the virtual software program for our monthly training luncheons.
- **Webinars:** Operates the program through which members can earn CPE by participating in training webinars at a subsidized cost.
- **Webmaster:** Manages our website and prepares and distributes announcements about chapter events.
- **Young Professionals:** Promotes the young professionals program and organizes network events for young professionals.

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Highlights on AGA DC Chapter Member Survey

Thank you to our members who took the time to respond to our AGA DC Chapter annual member survey! We had 164 of you respond and this feedback is crucial to our being able to improve and expand our member services and initiatives each year.

To express our appreciation of your feedback, we randomly selected the following two survey respondents who received a gift card! *Congratulations to both **Michelle Bowers** and **Susanna Eisenrauch**!*

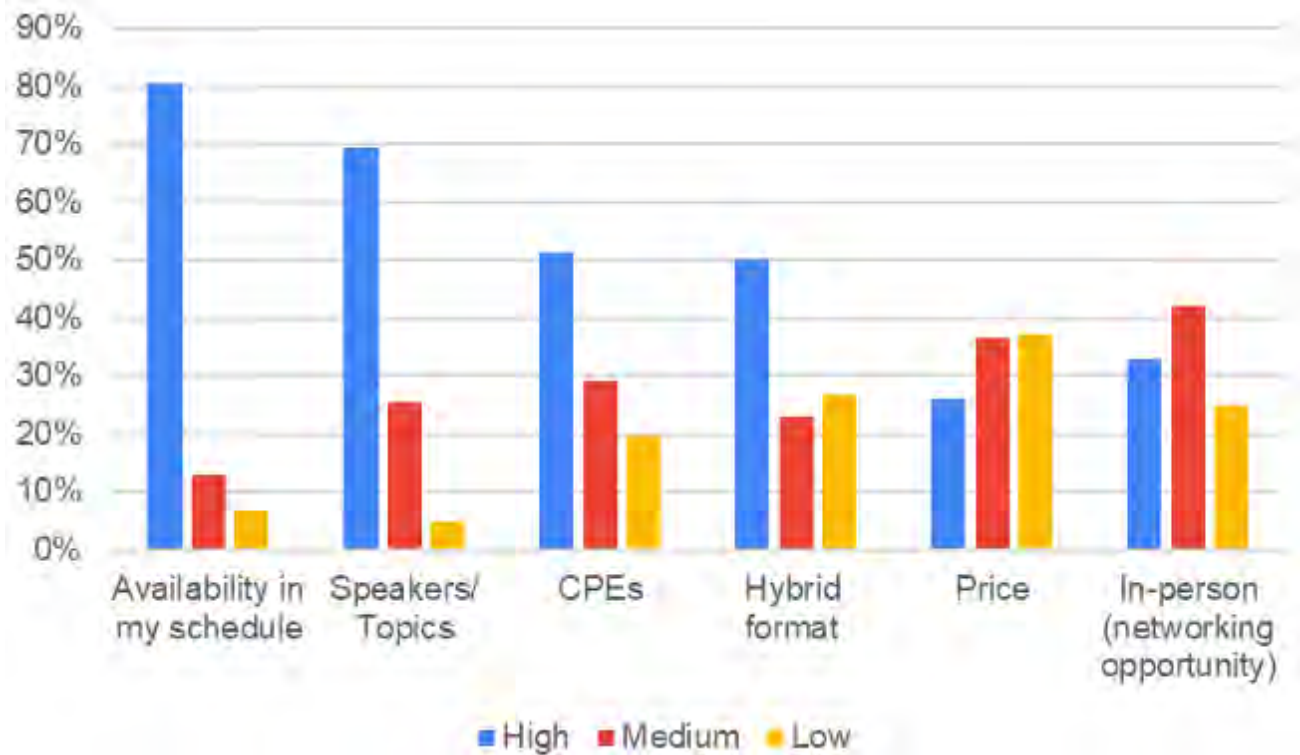
We wanted to share some highlights from the survey that we plan to incorporate in our AGA DC Chapter Operating Plan for the next program year:

- **Our overall member satisfaction rate was 95%, an increase of 4% from 91% in the previous year.**
- Our members are getting more comfortable with in-person events, and prioritizing networking opportunities and seeing the value they bring. This includes suggestions for more events outside of the luncheons and coordinating with other AGA chapters.
- Although there is increased interest in having in-person events, many members still value hybrid options due to schedule conflicts or location.
- Training/CPE continues to be a high priority for our members. Therefore, we will continue to provide these opportunities. We also received some great ideas for topics and suggested speakers, and so will continue to look for new and innovative topics and speakers, while still bringing back speakers from FASAB, GAO, OMB where possible.
- More member engagement is needed in all areas, including transparency on ways people can become involved. This also includes ensuring that people feel part of the organization and are engaged at our events.
- We also received some good insights into what people are looking for when viewing our social media, as well as satisfaction related to the website content.
- **When asked about our chapter qualities, we rated “Strongly Agree” in all five categories! Inclusive, Engaging, Affordable, Transparent, Relevance. This is an improvement from prior year where we were rated as “Agree” in all categories.** We will continue to focus our attention on these qualities and strive to weave them in all of our chapter events, initiatives, and communications.

Thank you again to all of those that responded. If you have any questions or additional feedback, please reach out to either Wendy Allen wjallen@kpmg.com or Jennifer Meade jmeade@kpmg.com.

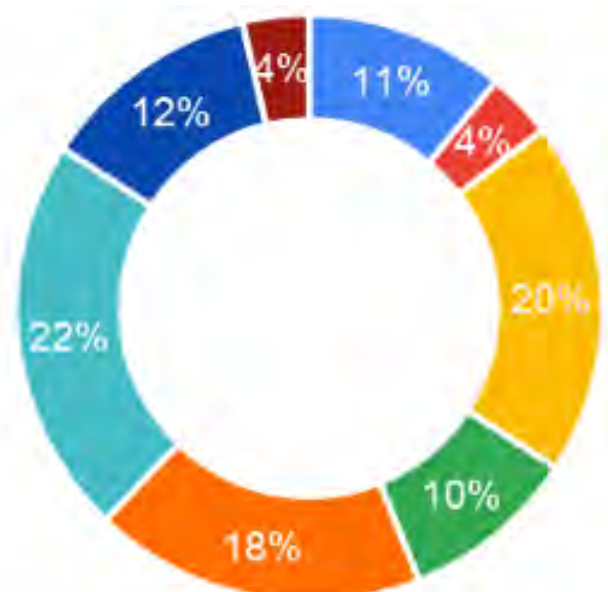
AGA DC Chapter Member Survey cont'd.

Monthly Luncheons



Annual Training

- Location/Accessibility
- Networking opportunities
- Speakers/Topics
- Opportunity to earn CPEs
- Price
- Availability in my schedule
- Flexibility of attendance options (Hybrid)



AGA DC Chapter Member Survey cont'd.

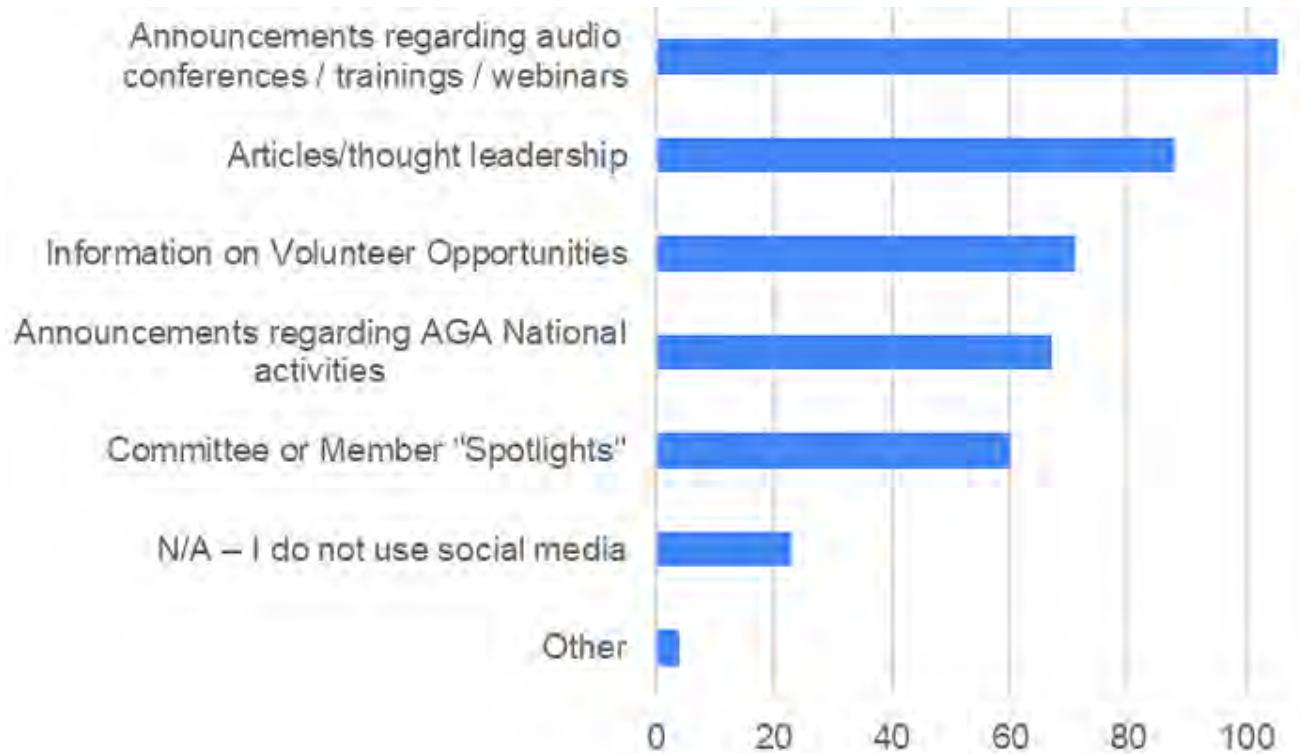
Preferred Events



CGFM

Study Assistance	Percentage
• Self-study options (loaner on-line materials/practice exams)	27%
• Instructor led Intensive Review Course (attendees to purchase materials ahead of time and prepare for a three-day course covering all three modules)	43%
• Partial instructor led course (select module(s) only)	9%
• Study groups (materials not included)	21%

AGA DC Chapter Member Survey cont'd.

Social Media/Communications

We would like to give a special shout out to Wendy Allen, our chapter's volunteer on survey design and analysis, who did an outstanding job again in creating this year's member survey and assisting the chapter leadership in analyzing the results. Thank you, Wendy!

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July 4th Holiday

Happy Fourth of July from the AGA's DC Chapter and DEIA Committee!

On this day of national pride and reflection, we celebrate the indispensable role of accountants and financial professionals in our society. From the far reaches of space exploration to the meticulous oversight of our government's finances, your expertise and dedication echo across all realms - state and local governments, federal agencies, the private sector, academia, and nonprofits.

Your commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in government accounting strengthens our nation. It ensures that our financial systems are robust, transparent, and reflective of the rich diversity that defines us.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and for being the pillars of integrity and progress. May this Fourth of July remind us of the strength we find in our unity and the bright future we build together.

Wishing you a celebration filled with joy, pride, and the spirit of inclusivity!



Heritage and Awareness Month

Diversity Awareness Calendar

Below is an updated calendar for the Diversity Awareness Calendar. We are aware that there are other diversity awareness days and months that are not listed here and we welcome your input via agadc@agadc.org.


Month	Heritage/Awareness
January	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February	Black History Month
March	Women's History Month
April	Arab American Heritage Month
May	Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Military Appreciation Month Jewish American Heritage Month
June	LGBTQ+ Pride Month Caribbean American Heritage Month Juneteenth
July	None to Date
August	National Civility Month
September	Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15 – 10/15)
October	LGBTQ+ History Month National Disability Employment Awareness Breast Cancer Awareness
November	Native American Heritage Veterans Day
December	None to Date

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AGA-DC's Historian Needed

75th Anniversary Essay Volunteers Also Needed

AGA DC Historian and Past Chapter President **Eileen Parlow** is stepping down from her position as DC Chapter Historian after many years of service. The DC Chapter would like to express great appreciation for Eileen's dedication and services to the DC Chapter and all members throughout the years!

Seeking New Leaders to be Chapter Historian

DC Chapter is now seeking volunteers to be our Chapter Historian, who will help our Chapter to retain important history records, such as:

- List of Chapter Presidents, at [AGA DC Chapter Presidents.pdf](#) (agacgfm.org)
- List of Chapter Awards, at History of [AGA DC Chapter Awards\(2\).pdf](#) (agacgfm.org)

Calling All Volunteers for the Chapter's 75th Anniversary Essay

Would you like to help put together a 75th Anniversary Essay of the highlights of AGA-DC from 1990 through 2025?

- The existing essay, covering 1950 through 1990, is posted on the DC Chapter website at: [AGA DC Chapter History 1950-1990](#)
- There's a wealth of information and photos in various PowerPoint slides on the main Chapter History page at: [The First Chapter](#), as well as lots of DC Chapter Newsletters at [AGA DC Chapter Newsletter](#).

Our Chapter would love to hear your ideas and work together with you. Hopefully, our 75th Anniversary beginning in July 2025 will be awesome! We'll want to hear your thoughts on drafting a 75th Anniversary Essay, featuring the highlights of AGA DC from 1990 through 2025.

If you would like to volunteer to be the next DC Chapter Historian, or to help draft a 75th Anniversary Essay, please send an email to incoming Chapter President Paul Marshall or outgoing Chapter President Lal Harter via agadc@agadc.org.

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Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM, CPA

Cost of Goods Sold

Background

There are two different accounting models for the sales of assets: inventory sales and asset disposal. Most private-sector companies use the first model extensively, while most public-sector agencies use the second model exclusively. Some of Treasury's guidance in the transaction definitions mixes the two together (entries C630, C646, and C648), so I wanted to focus on them.

Budgetary Entries

When the cash collected affects the budget, a budgetary source is debited (such as 426600

Other Actual Business Collections from Non-Federal Sources) and a status (e.g., 445000 Unapportioned Authority) or an anticipation account (e.g., 406000 Anticipated Collections from Non-Federal Sources) is credited. If a sale is made to another federal agency on credit, a receivable budgetary source (such as 428700 Other Federal Receivables used in C648) is debited instead. If a sale is made to the public on credit (as in C644), no budgetary accounts are posted. Since the budgetary entry is the same for both disposals and sales of inventory, I am not going to discuss them further.

Disposal Transactions

When assets are sold in a transaction that is not part of an entity's line of business, the gain or loss is explicitly recognized at the time of the sale. On the proprietary side, cash is debited, the asset is credited, any associated allowance account is closed out with a debit, and any remaining amount goes to a gain or loss account.

Here is an example of the proprietary entries for facilities that had been originally purchased for \$900, incurred \$750 in depreciation, and was sold for \$300 (based on entry C646):

Debit	101000	Fund Balance with Treasury	\$300
	174900	Accumulated Depreciation on Other Structures and Facilities	\$750
Credit	174000	Other Structures and Facilities	\$900
	711000	Gains on Disposition of Assets - Other	\$150

Here is an example of the proprietary entries for excess inventory that was valued at \$200 but sold for \$75 (based on entry C626):

Debit	101000	Fund Balance with Treasury	\$75
	721000	Losses on Disposition of Assets - Other	\$125
Credit	152400	Inventory - Excess, Obsolete, and Unserviceable	\$200

Inventory Transactions

When an entity's business is to sell assets and these are sold, the gain or loss is implicit. The asset is moved to an expense account (Cost of Goods Sold), the revenue is recognized, and the profit or loss is calculated along with other activity on the Income Statement (for the federal government, the Statement of Net Costs). Often agencies are not allowed to earn a profit on their sales, but this doesn't change the posting logic. So if inventory that cost \$265 is sold for \$300, the entry would be (based on entry C646):

Debit	101000	Fund Balance with Treasury	\$300
Credit	510000	Revenue from Goods Sold	\$300



Inside the Black Box Cont'd.

Debit 650000	Cost of Goods Sold	\$265
Credit 152100	Inventory Purchased for Resale	\$265

Entry C644 shows the gain and loss accounts being posted, but has a note that entry E408 should also be used for Cost of Goods Sold. It would be more precise to say that only certain accounts should use E408 and these should not use the gain or loss accounts. Entry E408 lists four accounts that use the inventory model being converted to 650000 Cost of Goods Sold: 152100 Inventory Purchased for Resale, 152700 Inventory - Finished Goods, 156100 Commodities Held Under Price Support and Stabilization Support Programs, and 157200 Stockpile Materials Held for Sale. The account 156100 is also included in entry C642, although that entry also includes 156900 Commodities – Allowance, so E408 becomes superfluous for that account.

Entry C630 shows that, on sale, account 157200 Stockpile Materials Held for Sale can be converted to 650000 Cost of Goods Sold or to 721000 Losses on Disposition of Assets - Other. Entry D538 shows 152700 moving to 650000, though it also includes 152900 Inventory – Allowance. Entry D566 shows that even inventory losses can be charged off to 650000 if they are immaterial. Entries E110, E112, E114, and E116 show adjustments to 660000 Applied Overhead can be charged off to 650000 if they are immaterial.

Expenditures

Entries D102, D106 and D107 show downward and upward adjustments to prior-year expenditures. For the downward adjustment (D102), the proprietary entry shown has a debit to payables and a credit to either a fixed asset, expenses, or Cost of Goods Sold. Entries D106 and D107 show the debits and credits reversed (but the same accounts used) for the upward adjustment. This is strange because these entries are adjustments to the original B402 entry, which does not include a posting to Cost of Goods Sold. Similarly, entries C132, C134 and C414 show 650000 being refunded as if it were a funded expense, and E102 for accrued payroll shows 650000 can be posted as if it were a funded expense.

I am unsure how this would work, since one does not buy Cost of Goods Sold, one buys inventory which becomes Cost of Goods Sold when recognizing the sale. For the refunds, one can return inventory, but not if it has already been sold. Transactions entries C132, C134 and C414 also state they are applicable to credit card rebates, and that is the only circumstance I can see that would make sense to directly credit 650000. One is retroactively adjusting the original inventory cost and hence Cost of Goods Sold. For the other entries, I would prefer the expenditure post inventory and the inventory get charged to Cost of Goods Sold in a separate entry, because normally Cost of Goods Sold is not a funded expense.

However, whether the entity posts to an asset account or to Cost of Goods Sold, they also need to post G122 to record the purchase in the memo accounts 880300 Purchases of Inventory and Related Property and 880100 Offset for Purchases of Assets because otherwise, the entry would violate tie point 4, and neither the asset account nor Cost of Goods Sold are used for eliminations. A note to this effect accompanies entries B402 and C132-C134 but not C414, D102 through D107, or E102.

Conclusion

The account 650000 Cost of Goods Sold is mutually exclusive with 711000 and 721000 Gains/Losses on Disposition of Assets. Only items held with the intent to sell them should use the Cost of Goods Sold account, though a loss could be recognized due to non-sale activities such as revaluation, damage, or inventory losses. Other asset disposals recognize a gain or loss at the time of the sale. I realize that SFFAS 3 paragraph 55 states that "The cost of stockpile materials shall be removed from stockpile materials and reported as Cost of Goods Sold when sold. Any gain (or loss) upon disposal shall be recognized as a gain (or loss) at that time," but I believe the gain or loss is recognized by reporting it on the Statement of Net Cost, not by posting directly to a gain or loss account; otherwise, the asset couldn't be moved to Cost of Goods Sold because there would be no offsetting revenue recognized.

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.

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AGA DC 22nd Annual Training



On May 7 and 8, 2024, Washington DC Chapter successfully held our 22nd Annual Training at Marymount University (Ballston Campus) in Arlington, VA. In partnership with the AGA Northern Virginia Chapter, this event provided training by key leaders in the Federal financial management sphere delivering insight into the current financial environment. We are grateful for more than 180 attendees both in person and virtual attendees. See our [training agenda here](#) and [training slide decks and video here](#).

We would like to thank all of our speakers, moderators, sponsors, and volunteers for making this year's annual training a successful event!

Conference Planning Committee Members:

- Annalena Winer, CGI Federal (Co-Program Director, Co-Director – Technical Committee, Private Sector)
- Brittany Hopwood, KPMG (Advisor, Technical Committee)
- Jennifer Torres, Department of Labor (Co-Director, Technical Committee, Government)
- Tonya Baker, Guidehouse (Co-Program Director, Technical Committee)
- Ellie Harris, BDO (Director – Logistics)
- Julia Duquette, Sikich
- Tyler Hampton, Guidehouse (Director – Registration)
- Christy Beck (Director – CPE)

On-Site/Additional Volunteers:

- Katherine Rexroad, KPMG
- Cody Wolfe, KPMG
- Drew Ungerleider, CGI Federal

Technical Committee Members:

- Nicole Ballin, The MIL Corporation
- Lloyd Farmer, 2nd Wave
- Caitlin Holmes, Guidehouse
- Chris Horton, RMA
- Paul Lionikis, Sikich
- Paul Marshall, The MIL Corporation
- Salim Mawani, HUD
- William Neves, JP Morgan
- Megan Prout, Kearney & Company
- Marsha Repp, JP Morgan
- Yehuda Schmidt, Sikich
- Tamika Sloan, JP Morgan
- Cherry Ung, RMA
- David Zavada, Kearney & Company



AGA DC Annual Training Cont'd.



AGA DC Annual Training Cont'd.



2024 AGA DC Chapter Spring Training Cont'd.



AGA DC Training and Events

AGA DC Upcoming Events

June 20, 11:30am-1:00pm – AGA-DC VIP Luncheon; Guest Speaker, Stephen Kunze, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Department of Commerce (*Diamond Sponsors only*)

June 22, 6:00-10:00pm – DC Chapter Annual Gala at the JW Marriott, DC. [Get your tickets here!](#)

July 14-17 – AGA Professional Development Training (PDT), Denver, CO. AGA PDT brings together a broad audience of federal, state and local government financial professionals. PDT offers educational sessions over four days of training. [Register here!](#)

July 26 – AGA & SDFM (ASMC) Annual Golf Tournament at Ft. Belvoir Golf Club. [Register 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 are held in the afternoon hours ET. Check [AGA National website](#) for specific times.

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:

September 25, 2024 — Communications

October 9, 2024 — Free Members-Only Webinar

October 16, 2024 — Uniform Guidance & GA

For more information on these webinars and the full schedule please visit the AGA National website at: [AGA National Webinars](#)

**** SAVE THE DATE ****

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Thought Leadership

Five Leadership Lessons that I Learned in Kindergarten

By Wendy Morris, Principal, BDO Public Sector, LLC

In 1991 at the University of Maryland in the Easton Dorm hung a poster entitled “All I really need to know I learned in Kindergarten” by Robert Fulgum¹. These were reminders to my college self to remember the basics like “wash your hands before you eat” or “take a nap every afternoon” – two things I definitely aimed for. I was thinking of this poster recently and realized, 30 years into my career, that there are a lot of these lessons that apply to leadership as well.

Here are five leadership lessons that I learned in Kindergarten:

Lesson #1: “Share Everything”

As leaders, it is our responsibility to share our knowledge and lessons learned with others and develop the next generation of leaders. Look for opportunities to let someone shadow you – let them see a “day in the life” or attend a business meeting and see how you handle tough questions. Identify developmental needs of your team and develop and deliver formal training to your team. Identify individual challenges within your team and find ways to give them hands on support and guidance through tasks that they find challenging – allowing them to learn from you. Be the person that people aren’t afraid to ask questions. Be a formal mentor and ensure that you have mentors as well – so that you can continue to learn. I attribute a tremendous amount of my leadership style and skills to my mentors throughout my career and what they shared with me.

Lesson #2: “Play Fair”

I know that everyone says, “life isn’t fair” and it is true. However, as a leader, I try to ensure fairness wherever possible as fairness is high on my list of personal values. Being fair involves demonstrating honesty, integrity, and transparency. Feedback is a gift and when giving feedback to your employees, it is important to be honest and clear, so that they clearly understand what they are doing well and where they



need to improve. It is important that people are evaluated against a consistent set of criteria and expectations – so that rewards, compensation, and incentive decisions are made fairly. I also expect to be treated fairly and I have faced times where that was not the case. I have learned – the hard way – that it is important that you calmly bring the facts, check your emotions, and stand up for what is right and fair. Regardless of the outcome, you can feel good that you did the right thing and you fought for what was fair and you will be respected for that. Fairness also means playing by the rules – even (and especially) when it is hard. Everyone faces temptations to take shortcuts or to find the easy button – but it is important to have integrity, play by the rules and set a good example to your employees who are watching – and they are watching.

Lesson #3: “Live a Balanced Life – learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some”

Define your personal priorities and live by them. This is so important, to find happiness in life. Life is short and your job is just one part of life. For me, as much as I love what I do, it is not the most important thing. For me, my first priority is my family. I have made decisions throughout my career that allowed me to keep that priority in balance with my career – such as going on a formal flexible work arrangement for twelve years while raising my four beautiful children. There are tradeoffs – it took longer for me to advance in my career because I worked less hours – but instead I got to be a “stay at home mom” for a couple of days a week for many years, which was a gift. It is important to surround yourself with people whose priorities and values align with yours. This makes it so much easier to stay true to your priorities and feel supported. If

¹ “Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten”

Thought Leadership cont'd.

your values don't align – stand strong and be confident in asking for what you need. You are valuable and if your current job doesn't allow you to prioritize life the way that you want to – find something else. Remember that work life balance means different things to different people. For example, for some it means working long days when needed and taking off early two days a week to coach their child's soccer team. For others it means a formal flexible work arrangement, like I did. For others they may want to ease up during times of difficulty in life – like caring for an ill family member – and then returning to a normal full-time schedule. Do the best you can. Perfection is not the goal. Be flexible, in order to expect flexibility.

Lesson 4: “Clean up your own mess”

Everyone makes mistakes – it is how we respond and what we do next that is important. Be accountable and own your mistakes. Learn from them and think about how you will do better to avoid that mistake next time. Also, own the mistakes of your team – don't blame others. You are responsible for everyone that works for you, and it is important to model accountability for your team as everyone below you on the organization chart should do the same for their teams. Take those as opportunities to give feedback, coach and develop others. And of course, hold them accountable as well. Just like in kindergarten, learn from your mistakes.

Lesson 5: “Stick Together”

Build a team. Your team should complement your strengths and mitigate your weaknesses. Be loyal to your team and expect loyalty. Support your team's career development and growth and take care of them as people and employees. When someone on your team has something going on in their life that needs them to dial back on work for a minute – be there to back them up. Have an open-door policy for your team so that they will come to you when they need help, no matter their level in the organization. Roll up your sleeves and help where needed. This is a strong leadership attribute that builds respect and credibility with your team. They say that people don't quit jobs, they quit bosses. Be the kind of boss that your people love, and they will stay with you for a very long time.

I would not have imagined that the poster I chose to hang on my wall in college would inspire me to write a leadership article 30+ years later. However, the messages still hold true, and I hope that they will inspire you to share everything, play fair, live a balanced life, clean up your own mess and stick together.

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Special Events

The 18th Annual Winery Tour 2024

Our Chapter's popular annual winery tour was held on Saturday, May 11. We had 44 members and guests come together at three Northern Virginia wineries: The Barns at Hamilton Station, Two Twisted Posts, and 8Chains.

As part of our chapter's great tradition, the 18th winery tour sold out within a few hours and once again provided a wonderful opportunity for our members and guests to enjoy good wine, good food, and great company! We were happy to see a lot of new faces, along with those we look forward to seeing every year!

Here's a special personal note from **Crystal Wolf, Chair of the Member Services Committee**:

I would love to say thank you to the chapter for participating in so many events over my 16 years on the Member Services Committee. I am looking forward to staying connected with the Chapter in my new role as President-Elect and appreciate **David Baskin**, **Anthony Richards**, and **Manoj Mirchandani** for remaining on the Committee next year. Also, welcome **Jamison Howell** to the Committee, who did a great job planning the Wine Tour this year!



Special Events cont'd.



Washington Nationals Baseball Game

Our DC chapter members and their guests joined the Member Services Committee on June 7, 2024, to cheer the Washington Nationals against the Atlanta Braves! Our members and guests enjoyed the food, drink, and company throughout the game at Nationals Park. The Nationals also featured a post-game concert by Flo Rida!

Thank you to those who participated in the event and your great feedback! And BIG thank you to the Member Services Committee organizing this event!



Special Events cont'd.

Program Year-End Happy Hour

More than 75 DC Chapter members and guests joined together on June 11, 2024 at Salt Line in Navy Yard to celebrate another fantastic program year for the DC Chapter. Everyone enjoyed this networking happy hour on the outdoor patio along the Potomac River. Thank you to our chapter members and friends who participated and supported our network events throughout the program year! HUGE thank you to all Member Services Committee volunteers who planned and organized all social events for this program year!



Special Events cont'd.



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Community Service

Potomac River Cleanup at Gravelly Point

Organized by the Community Service Committee, DC Chapter members joined the Potomac Conservancy for a rewarding day of volunteering and environmental stewardship at Gravelly Point on April 20 morning!

This event is a part of the community-driven effort to clean up our community and make a positive difference for our hometown river. Our Community Service Committee volunteers and DC Chapter members joined force with other volunteers and collected a total of 880 lbs. of trash! A cleaner environment directly translates to healthier waterways and a thriving community. Thanks for making a meaningful difference for the Potomac River by removing litter that endangers local wildlife and pollutes the water we drink!

Thank you to our members who participated in this meaningful event and kudos to our Community Service Committee volunteers Maurice Preston and LaVerne Mason who planned the event and Niko Lojanica who led this event!



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April 2024



Washington D.C.
Chapter

VIP Luncheon

With Guest Speaker Ms. Stacy Marcott

Our Chapter hosted the VIP Luncheon at The Hamilton in downtown DC on April 18. Ms. Stacy Marcott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer (DCFO) of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), was our guest speaker. John Hooley, Director of the DC Chapter Sponsorship Committee, made the speaker introduction.

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



Ms. Stacy Marcott: April VIP Luncheon Speaker



Speaker Introduction by John Hooley, MIL



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AGA DC Chapter Monthly Luncheon

April 2024 Hybrid Luncheon

Leading and Maintaining a High-performing Organization

On April 17, 2024, the DC Chapter welcomed our April hybrid luncheon speaker **Ms. Nimisha Agarwal**, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). We are grateful for 124 virtual and in-person attendees who joined us at Clyde's of Gallery Place in downtown Washington, DC. **Mr. Bruce Corfield**, The MIL Corporation, a proud AGA-DC Chapter corporate sponsor, introduced our speaker at the luncheon.

In her role, Ms. Agarwal is responsible for the management of the more than \$30 billion in funding that flows through the agency and more than 800 financial personnel at GSA's central office and its 11 regions nationwide. Ms. Agarwal oversees all financial functions and activities, including strategic planning, performance management, budgeting, accounting, analytics and reporting, financial operations, and audits.



**Ms. Nimisha Agarwal, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA)**

(FIMA), part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). She brought a strategic enterprise perspective by connecting decision making across various aspects of FIMA. Prior to joining FEMA in August 2019, Ms. Agarwal served as Comptroller for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, overseeing financial management operations for the agency.

Our April 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 89 percent of respondents rated "Excellent" or "Very Good" for overall satisfaction of the**



**Bruce Corfield, The MIL
Corporation**

Ms. Agarwal held various leadership positions within the Department of Homeland Security from 2009 through 2022. Ms. Agarwal's previous leadership role was as the Acting Deputy Associate Administrator at the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration

April Luncheon cont'd.

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

"The AGA DC Chapter luncheon program has always been excellent!"

"Thank you for all the hard work from all volunteers!"

"The event was very well organized."

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!



Ms. Nimisha Agarwal, April Luncheon Speaker



Dylan Rexroth (left - student member) and Salim Mawani (past chapter president)



Lal Harter (left), Bruce Corfield (left next to Nimisha Agarwal), Nimisha Agarwal, Bo Shevchik (right next to Nimisha Agarwal), and Paul Marshall (right)



AGA DC Chapter Monthly Luncheon

May 2024 Hybrid Luncheon

ERM at Department of State, INL Bureau, CFO and OIG perspectives

On May 15, 2024, the DC Chapter welcomed our May hybrid luncheon speaker **Dr. Temika Edwards**, Chief Financial Officer, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) Bureau, Department of State. We are grateful for more than 119 virtual and in-person attendees who joined us at Clyde's of Gallery Place in downtown Washington, DC. **Mr. Marc Hebert**, Principal from the RMA Associates, a proud AGA-DC Chapter corporate sponsor, introduced our speaker at the luncheon.

Dr. Temika Edwards is the Chief Financial Officer at the U.S. Department of State (DOS) Intelligence and Research Bureau (INR). At DOS INR, Dr. Edwards is responsible for financial management, strategic planning, and enterprise risk management (ERM). She also serves as the chief financial advisor to INR's senior leaders, leads the budget, strategic planning and risk management team, responsible for managing the budget and introducing improvements

in the bureau's financial, risk and strategic planning components to improve processes, internal controls, and data-driven decision-making to steward taxpayer funds more effectively and efficiently. This included establishing a bureau-wide ERM



**Marc Hebert, Principal from
the RMA Associates**



**Dr. Temika Edwards, Chief Financial Officer,
International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL)
Bureau, Department of State**

program, developing a risk governance structure at the senior leadership level to ensure appropriate focus and emphasis on the long-term identification and mitigation of strategic risks to the bureau's effectiveness.

She also served as Chief Risk Officer at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Inspector General (OIG), where she spearheaded the IG's vision of the first organization-wide plan to integrate ERM, change leadership, strategic planning, and performance. Previously, Dr. Edwards supported risk management at multiple organizations including various U.S. banks, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), where she led a series of domestic and

May Luncheon cont'd.

international initiatives that ultimately resulted in the establishment of TSA's ERM program and the Department of Homeland Security, OIG, where she established the first community-wide ERM working group and served as co-chair of the interagency group.

Our May 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!



May luncheon speaker Dr. Temika Edwards



Speaker Introduction by Marc Herbert, RMA Associates



May luncheon speaker Dr. Temika Edwards



Paul Marshall, Chapter President-Elect



From left to right: Paul Marshall, Bo Shevchik (Luncheon Program), Dr. Temika Edwards, Lal Harter (Chapter President)

May Luncheon cont'd.



DC Chapter board members at luncheon

CGFM Updates



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 January 2024 to March 2024!

Sia L. Kiawu, CGFM
Aurelio Huntington Miller, CGFM
Markell D. Smallwood, 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).



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-Sept 2023: Eric Novick**
- ▶ **Sept-Dec 2023: None**
- ▶ **Jan-March 2024: Gwendolyn Sykes**

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.

Lauren Adler
John S. Anastasis
Alexis Diamond Anyang-Kusi
Elizabeth Ashford
Aderinsola Bademosi
Giovanni Bernal
Feyera G. Birru
Brandi Carter
Viral Chawda

Donna Chestnut
Sofia DeBlanc
Jason Denny
Jon Desenberg
Caylin Dudley
Jared Dunlap
Paul A. Ehrhardt
Bethany Estes
Alexander Foos

Edward Marshall Gentry, Jr.
Pamela Gilliard
Nicole Pauline Gleicher-Bye
Monique D. Gregory
Corey Lynn Hamilton, II
Perry A. Hill
Carrie Horn
Zain A. Janjua
Ashley Jenkins

New Members cont'd.

Serena Chiquita Jett-Williams
Coleman Johnson
Caroline Jones
Michelle Joyce
Gabriel Kapfhammer
Christopher Kennedy Lambert
Madelaine Robbie Leclercq
Lillie M. Lee
Nicholas B. Lee
Jason T. Leecost
Tristan Alexander McCauley

Kiera McGinn
Kristian Mckenzie
Jesse Mackin Millard
Aurelio Huntington Miller
Salvatore John Misuraca
Sonya L. Morehead
Jacqueline Napier
Stephen Alexander Smith
Melissa Squire
Patrick K. Surret
Ylang Ylang Taitt-Thompson

Benevan J. Taylor
Kodjo Tchegnon
Kathy Turner
Brian Anthony Vargas
Victoria B. Wassmer
Todd Alan West
David F. White, Jr.
Ryan Wilhelm
DeAnn Williams
Donna Wultich
Maritza Zeiberg

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!

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

**The podcast focuses on the
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Final Words

How time flies! In a few weeks, we will come to the end of this program year of 2023-24. This is also the last issue of *The Washington Connection* before we wrap up this program year.

Our Chapter President Lal Harter said it best in his President's Message as he shared his deepest gratitude to our volunteers, corporate sponsors, and of course you - our DC Chapter members. Our newsletter team shared the same sentiment and appreciation - to everyone who contributed content to our newsletter throughout the year, as well as to our readers who shared our chapter's success stories and provided feedback on the newsletter.

As Lal has been busy saying thanks to our AGA community, our newsletter team would like to express our appreciation to Lal for his leadership, thoughtfulness, and support provided to all committees, including the newsletter team! Besides leading our chapter to provide many of the educational training and member service events, Lal has been working tirelessly and behind the scenes to establish many new foundations, and infrastructure to help set us up for the future success of the DC Chapter. **Thank you, Lal!**

Our [chapter newsletter webpage](#) is like a living time capsule, where you can find out how our profession, and chapter evolved over time. As you can easily notice from our newsletter archives, our DC Chapter certainly has been supported by many long-time members, and great financial management professionals from across various areas. If you look closely at some of the previous newsletters, you will also recognize names of those who were then young professionals, that later became the next generation of leaders within AGA, and the financial management community.

Will you be one of the future AGA leaders? Becoming a volunteer of AGA DC Chapter is a great way to develop your leadership skills, expand your professional network, and give back to your chapter. To learn more about volunteering opportunities, reach out to us today at agadc@agadc.org!

If we don't see you at this July's Professional Development Training (PDT) in Denver, we will see you in late August/early September when DC Chapter activities resume. The newsletter team wishes you a fun and enjoyable summer!

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
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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

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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

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Member Services

Sharnell Montgomery

Mentorship

Paterne Koukpresso

Mentorship

Megan Curtis

Mentorship

Aubrey Harris

Mentorship

Sherri Legall Daly

Mentorship

Bo ShevchikMonthly 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

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Monique Llanos

Newsletter

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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>

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