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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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.



Thank you September Luncheon Speaker!
Gerard Badorrek - CFO, General Services Administration



Look Ahead: October 2nd Luncheon Speaker!
Jeff DeWit, Chief Financial Officer, NASA



President's Message



Welcome to the Washington DC Chapter 2018/2019 Program Year!

The AGA DC Chapter is entering its 68th year of improving governmental financial and performance management. As such, we have developed a program grounded in the interests of our members and supporters who have expressed the desire to lead the financial management, audit and performance professionals through the age of “accountability and transparency”.

As in previous years, our Chapter will offer numerous prospects for professional growth and development; networking; certification; and other benefits to our members. For example, in our effort to find ways to provide educational opportunities to our members, we will continue to offer the following education programs:

- **Spring Training Event** – This is our premier training event, which will be held at the Ronald Reagan Building on March 20 – 21st, 2019. Through this program we offer 16 Continue Professional Education (CPE) hours. We have already started planning activities for this event and we are looking for volunteers to assist in this effort.
- **Monthly Luncheon Program** – As in the past, monthly luncheon meetings will be held with prominent speakers addressing a variety of financial management topics and each luncheon offers 1 CPE hour.
- **Audio Conferences** – This program year, we have increased the number of audio conferences to a total of 9 sessions. These sessions are hosted by AGA National and each session offers 2 CPE hours. The full audio conference schedule is available on Page 9 of this newsletter.
- **Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Program** – The CGFM is a professional certification awarded by AGA National. As in the past, our Chapter is responsible for supporting the CGFM program, as well as supporting and developing our members as they pursue or maintain their CGFM certification. Chapter activities supporting the CGFM program will include: Hosting an informal CGFM recognition event; hosting a CGFM training course; promoting the benefits of the certification throughout all our events and communication outlets; and establishing a cost rebate program to help cover the cost of CGFM materials and examination.
- **Federal Accounting Research Workshop** – New this year! We are coordinating with FASAB to offer 2 workshops on federal accounting research. This is an interactive and activity-based course for federal accountants and auditors designed to help participant increase their understanding of federal accounting standards. Each workshop offers 4 CPE hrs. So, stay tune.

In addition, this year's program includes numerous opportunities for our members to network and give back to the community in a variety of ways. Our Early Careers, Mentorship, Member Services, and Community Services Committees will be coordinating a number of activities throughout the program year designed with our members in mind. We encourage all of our members to visit our website to learn more about this year's activities and see where you can make a difference.

I am sincerely honored to serve as the DC Chapter President for this program year, and I am quite confident that with everyone's support of the Chapter we will have another exciting year.

Jorge Asef-Sargent, 2018/2019 AGA
Washington DC Chapter President

September 2018 Luncheon Highlights



Thank you to Gerard Badorrek, CFO GSA for his insights and thoughts! Also of note, the AGA Community Service Committee raised \$220 for Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) during the September luncheon! Great Job!

Look Ahead: Get to Know October Luncheon Speaker



Jeff DeWit, Chief Financial Officer, NASA

Jeff DeWit was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate on March 14, 2018, to serve as NASA's Chief Financial Officer. As NASA CFO, DeWit ensures the financial health of the agency, which includes effectively employing agency resources toward the achievement of NASA's strategic plan. He manages the organization's budget and fiscal operations, directs the preparation and submission of annual financial and budgetary reports, and coordinates agency financial management activities with other federal agencies.

DeWit comes to NASA from Arizona state government, where he was elected in 2014 and served as State Treasurer, a role in which he was responsible for the oversight of more than \$15 billion in state investments and more than \$32 billion of annual inflows and outflows. DeWit also served as the chairman of Arizona's State Board of Investment and State Loan Commission, and as Surveyor General. DeWit's career in finance began in 1992 at one of the largest brokerage firms in the country, moving up quickly to become one of Smith Barney's youngest fully-licensed investment professionals.

In 1999, DeWit started a company called ECHOtrade, and during his 14 years as Chief Executive Officer at their Phoenix headquarters, he grew the company to more than 500 licensed professional traders worldwide. He also developed and pioneered one of the first software platforms that enabled market makers to trade off the exchange floor reducing costs and creating efficiency, while producing some of the best real-time financial risk management software and algorithms. DeWit has a Master of Business Administration from the University of Arizona, a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from the University of Southern California, and also has an accounting degree. He also has two certificates in Public Treasury Management from the National Institute of Public Finance, and is a National Association of Corporate Directors Board Leadership Fellow.

AGA DC Vintage Newsletter Scavenger Hunt - Win Cash Prizes!

As you can see on the “Newsletters” section of the AGA DC Website, we have a very impressive historical collection of AGA DC Newsletters. But our newsletter collection is still incomplete! So, our Chapter has authorized me to run a contest to see if our members can come up with some of the missing newsletters.

At the March 2019 luncheon, we plan to present two cash prizes

- **A \$100 gift card for providing the oldest missing vintage newsletter, and**
- **A \$50 gift card for providing the largest number of missing vintage newsletters.**

Here are the Newsletters that we’re missing, in reverse chronological order:*

- 2012-2013 Program Year: Missing December 2012, January 2013, February 2013, and March 2013
- 2007-2008 Program Year: Missing January 2008 and February 2008
- 2006-2007 Program Year: Missing November 2006, March 2007, April 2007, May 2007, and June 2007
- 2003-2004 Program Year: Missing September 2003, November 2003, and December 2003
- 1995-1996 Program Year: Missing December 1995, January 1996, March 1996, April 1996, May 1996 and June 1996
- September 1950- June 1990: Missing all newsletters, except for three: October 1986, May 1984 and July 1962.

* For Program Years 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2015-2016, there appear to have been gaps in newsletter publication; we’re not aware of missing newsletters – but please let us know if we’re mistaken!

To enter the contest, please e-mail a scanned copy of the newsletter(s) to Eileen at:

parlowe@sec.gov. Vintage DC Chapter newsletters are a priceless resource for current and future chapter members and historians. Thank you in advance for taking the time to look through your old files and participate in this contest.

- Eileen Parlow, Past Chapter President and Historian





2019 AGA Tri-Chapter Program Year Kickoff Picnic!

The Washington DC, Northern Virginia, and Montgomery/Prince George’s County chapters of the Association of Government Accountants welcome you to join us for food, family, games, music and fun! Famous Dave’s catering and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.

Cost: FREE!

Where: Hains Point (East Potomac Park) Picnic Area C National Mall & Memorial Parks 900 Ohio Dr SW Washington DC 20024-2000

When:

Saturday, September 29th

11:00am – 2:00pm

Register Now!

<https://www.agadc.org/upcoming-events> If you have questions about the event, please contact Margaret Sullivan (Margaret.Sullivan@us.gt.com) or Susanne Selk (sselk@FDIC.gov):



Awards Committee Announcement

AGA Seeks Nominations for National Leadership Training Awards!

Recognize and nominate well-deserving professionals in all three levels of government and the private sector who have made outstanding contributions to the financial management, auditing, or budget fields! These awards will be presented at AGA's 2019 National Leadership Training on February 27-29, 2019 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC. We are now taking nominations for the 2019 National Leadership Training awards. Nominees do not have to be AGA members. Take a moment and review the below award categories.

Federal Leadership Awards

- **Distinguished Federal Leadership Award** recognizes elected or presidentially-appointed federal officials who exemplify and promote excellence in government management and have demonstrated outstanding leadership in enhancing sound financial management legislation, regulations, practices, policies and systems.
- **Elmer Staats Award** recognizes federal professionals who exemplify and promote excellence in government financial management, outstanding leadership, high ethical standards, and innovative management procedures.

State and Local Leadership Awards

- **Distinguished Local Government Leadership Award** recognizes local government professionals who exemplify and promote excellence in government financial management and who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in enhancing sound financial management legislation, regulations, practices, policies and systems.
- **Excellence in Government Leadership Award** recognizes a state or local government professional who exemplifies and promotes excellence in government financial management, outstanding leadership, high ethical standards and innovative management procedures.
- **William R. Snodgrass Distinguished Leadership Award** recognizes state government professionals who exemplify and promote excellence in government financial management and who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in enhancing sound financial management legislation, regulations, practices, policies and systems.

Awards Committee Announcement (Cont).

Public Sector Leadership Awards

- **Andy Barr Award** recognizes financial executives in the private sector who exemplify and promote excellence in the federal government, outstanding leadership, high ethical standards, and innovative management techniques.
- **Private Sector Financial Excellence Award** recognizes financial executive in the private sector who exemplifies and promotes excellence in state or local government financial management, outstanding leadership, high ethical standards and innovative management techniques.

For detailed award eligibility and evaluation criteria, visit our National Leadership Training Awards page here: [https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/WashingtonDC/Our-Chapter/Chapter-News/National-Leadership-Training-\(NLT\)-Awards.aspx](https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/WashingtonDC/Our-Chapter/Chapter-News/National-Leadership-Training-(NLT)-Awards.aspx)

Nomination submission or questions can be directed to Thomas Chin at t.chin@cncsoig.gov or Julia Duquette at Julia.duquette@us.gt.com.



Save the Date!



2019 Annual Awards Gala save-the-date for Saturday, May 18, 2019 at Clyde's!

2019 Year Luncheon Speaker Schedule

2018-2019 AGA DC Audio Training Schedule

The AGA DC Chapter will host the following National audio trainings throughout this program year at the Ford House Office Building, 441 2nd Street SW, 3rd Floor, Room #H2-396, Washington, DC 20515, across from the Federal Center, SW Metro Station. Registration links will be distributed to members the week before each training.

Cost:

There is no charge for AGA members in good standing for these events and attendees will earn two (2) CPE credit hours.

When:

- 11/28/18 - Ethics
- 12/5/18 - Communications
- 1/9/19 - Grants Management
- 2/6/19 - GASB Update
- 3/6/19 - Finance
- 3/27/19 - Cybersecurity
- 4/24/19 - DATA Act
- 5/15/19 - Fraud/ Data Analytics
- 6/12/19 - Leadership

Date	Location	Speaker	Topic
9/12/18	The Hamilton	Gerard Badorrek	Going Public: Leveraging Private Sector Best Practices to Transform Government
10/2/18	Clyde's	Jeff DeWit	It's Not Rocket Science, It's Rocket Accounting!
12/12/18	The Hamilton	TBD	TBD
1/16/19	The Hamilton	TBD	TBD
2/20/19	The Hamilton	TBD	TBD
3/27/19	The Hamilton	TBD	TBD
4/25/19	The Hamilton	TBD	TBD
5/22/19	Clyde's	TBD	TBD

Please note - we will be posting previous luncheon presentation slides on the AGA DC Chapter website! Click [here](#) to access them.

CGFM Committee Update - by Wendy Allen



New Year! New Goal!

A new fiscal year sounds like the *perfect* time to ramp up efforts to obtain the CGFM certification! Want to learn more about the CGFM? Click [here](#).

Make it your winter goal and let the AGA DC CGFM committee help you achieve it! Below are a few ways that your AGA membership can benefit you:

- **Loaner Study Guides/Practice Exams** – AGA DC has purchased electronic versions of the study guides and practice exams which are available to AGA DC members on a short-term loaner basis. Contact Shawn Syed at shawn.syed@syedandassociates.com if you are interested (available on a first come first served basis).
- **Exam Rebate Initiative** - Take the exam and pass it from now through **December 2018** and we will reimburse you the cost of your exam! The cost of each exam is \$125. We only have a limited amount of rebates available so first come, first served. You must submit the following to qualify:
 - Copy of passing certification
 - Proof of payment
 - Mailing address
 - AGA member number
- AGA National continues to offer the **CGFM Intensive Review Course**, the cost of which **INCLUDES** the exams! The next course will be held in Alexandria, VA on October 8-9, 2018. Cost is \$375 for AGA members. Just in case you missed it, yes, the CGFM examinations are offered at no additional cost to course attendees—a \$375 savings! For additional information click [here](#).

Congratulations To Our New CGFM's!

**Congratulations To The Following Members Who Obtained Their
CGFM April through July 2018! Your Hard Work Paid Off!!**

Mihai V. Psederski, CGFM

Clarence B. Herry, Jr., CGFM

Ms. Miranda P. Mudd, CGFM

Mr. Peter Sealy, CGFM

Mr. Gary Wong, CGFM

Mr. Ricky A. Perry, Jr., CGFM

William J. Blot, Jr., CGFM

Rudy Kamadinata, CGFM

Questions? Contact Wendy Allen at wjallen@kpmg.com



Inside The Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM, CPA

Unnecessary Verbiage

Background

Agencies need to demonstrate they are compliant with the USSGL, so most agencies place the names of the GL accounts and transaction descriptions directly into their financial systems. The unnecessarily long names of accounts (23 out of 580 accounts have names of 100 characters or more) and transactions make it more difficult to use them on reports and for review. Some systems have a limit on the number of characters that can be used for names, so extra-long names forces staff to spend time shortening them.

General Ledger Account Names

The phraseology of account names vary. Many names include unnecessary words such as *of* or *for*. As an example, 133500 has the parsimonious name *Expenditure Transfers Receivable* (length of 32 letters and spaces) but 133000 is named *Receivable for Transfers of Currently Invested Balances* (length 55). By placing the primary noun at the end (which is the English standard), the name of 133000 can be shortened to *Currently Invested Balance Transfers Receivable* (length 47). Accounts 404700 and 404800 begin with *Anticipated Transfers to the General Fund of the Treasury* (length 57). Why not *Anticipated Transfers to Treasury's General Fund* (length 48)?

Sometimes a dash is used instead of the word *of*, and that can also be eliminated by placing the noun after the adjective. For example, 417000 *Transfers - Current-Year Authority* could be *Current-Year Authority Transfers*. In other cases, the USSGL uses dashes in GL account names that are unnecessary. Account 417100 *Non-Allocation Transfers of Invested Balances - Receivable* would read just as well if it were *Non-Allocation Invested Balance Transfers Receivable*. Also, hyphens should only be used when the hyphenated phrase immediately precedes the noun. So 310200 *Unexpended Appropriations - Transfers-In* should be *Unexpended Appropriations Transferred In*.

The second-longest GL account name (132 characters) is 198100 *Receivable from Custodian or Non-Entity Assets Receivable From a Federal Agency - Other Than the General Fund of the U.S. Government*. We could lop off a third of those letters by renaming it *Custodial/Non-Entity Assets Receivable from a Federal Agency not Treasury's General Fund*.

The 136000 series of accounts include the name *Penalties and Fines Receivable*. Is there a legal distinction between a penalty and a fine? There isn't an accounting distinction. Why not use *Fines* in the name and, if it's needed, include penalties in the definition. That will save 14 characters on eight receivable and revenue accounts.

Some of the accounts with long names are exclusive to certain agencies, and don't need to be included in most agency's SGL. It would be nice if the SGL Account list and definitions included some symbol, such as an asterisk after the number, to indicate that these are to be used only by specified agencies. By my count (and I could easily have missed some), this would eliminate fifty GL accounts from most agencies' lists.

Inside The Black Box (Cont.)

Transaction Descriptions

The current standard is to start every description with *To record*. This is self evident. It also forces the rest of the sentence to use a weak form. By moving the secondary verb or adjective to active tense, it strengthens the sentence. So A102 *To record an anticipated appropriation* could be A102 *Anticipate an appropriation*, and A104 *To record the enactment of appropriations* could be A104 *Enact an appropriation* or even *Appropriate funds*. Many descriptions include unnecessary verbiage such as *that is*. For example, part of A173 *contract authority that is not yet supported* could just as easily read *contract authority not yet supported* without changing the meaning. Some transactions describe symbols as if they were the fund. The symbol is just one name of the fund. Entry A175 uses the phrase *from a Treasury-Managed Trust Fund Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbol (TAFS)* when it really means *from a Treasury-Managed Trust Fund*. Now, if the description said something useful about the TAFS, such as *(TAFS whose Main Account start with 5)*, then it would be worth including in the description. It would also be nice if those transactions that are exclusive to specific agencies were highlighted in some way so everyone else can easily see they should ignore them.

Conclusion

While accountants tend to focus on the numbers, we should spend some attention to verbiage as well. Long, awkward, and even ungrammatical account names, descriptions, and transaction descriptions do not reflect well on the accounting community and may also confuse readers.



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 the AGA DC Board Member via agadc.org. Check out the Officers and Directors for their contact information. The Officers and Directors page is available [here](#).

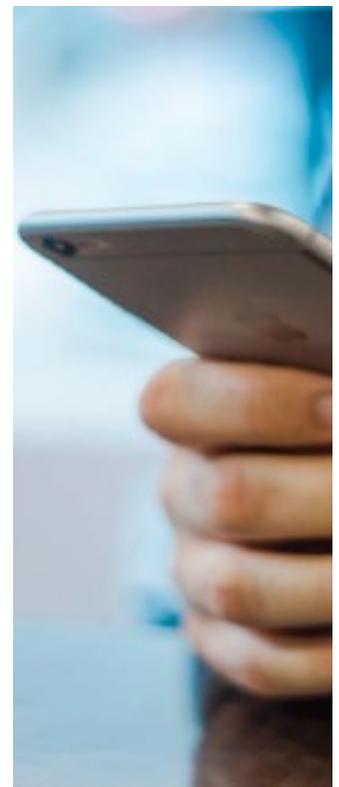
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Thank you for your Sponsorship!

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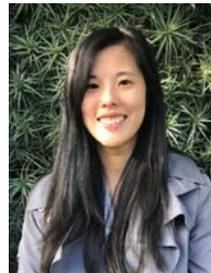
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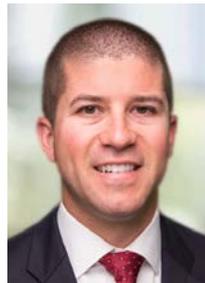
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