

The Washington Connection

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS
WASHINGTON D.C. CHAPTER



Issue 9 • May 2010

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New members and sponsors who attend the May luncheon will receive the new DC Chapter lapel pin.



MAY

LUNCHEON SERIES

*\$10 Early Sign-up Special
for Federal Employees
for May Luncheon*

Major General Arnold Fields



Read Bio

Inspector General, United States Marine Corps. (Retired)
Office of the Special Inspector General For Afghanistan Reconstruction

May 18, 2010

Location: University Club of D.C.

Major General Fields will provide an "Overview of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR)" with a focus on anti-corruption.

The luncheon will be held on May 18, 2010, from 11:45 - 1:45

Annual Awards Gala Dinner



More Info

Saturday, June 12th, 2010

**At The Grand Hyatt Washington
6:00 PM to Midnight**

\$25 per person before May 10

\$35 per person after May 10

Black Tie Optional

1000 H Street, NW, Washington, DC
Metro Center (Red/Blue/Yellow/Green Lines) 11th Street Exit
Hotel Main Phone: (202) 582-1234

Cover photos by Christian and Barbara Escobar

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Note From the Editor

by Jorge Asef-Sargent Newsletter Editor, Co-Editor

Welcome to the May edition of the Washington Connection! We started this month with a successful 9th Annual Spring Conference. A vast array of speakers provided their thoughts on the achievements of the CFO Act, as it comes to its 20th anniversary, opportunities, and challenges still ahead. So we extend our congratulations to all the board members, volunteers, and corporate sponsors that were involved in making the conference a successful event.



In this month's edition of the newsletter, we have information on up-coming events, including:

- The Annual Award Gala Dinner on June 12th at the Grant Hyatt Washington Hotel; and
- The AGA's Professional Development Conference and Exposition in July 11-14 in Orlando.

In the Inside the Black Box, Simcha Kuritzky brings us a technical article on integrating the budget and general ledger. Also, look for information on our mentoring program in the Mentor Program section of this letter and an article on how Indian Affairs makes it simple for finance employees to earn the CGFM certification.

This newsletter is only made possible because of the contribution of articles from the chapter's members. Thank you for all who submitted articles-these articles reflected the depth of knowledge and experience in this group, and the newsletter team is fortunate enough to review and publish these articles. We hope that you enjoy the newsletter and find it helpful for keeping up to date on events in the chapter and in AGA. Our team strives to produce a high quality newsletter notifying AGA D.C. members of Chapter and National events and services. And, if you are not already a member, we encourage you to join the AGA D.C. Chapter and enjoy the many benefits it offers, in particular the high quality luncheon series, learning opportunities, and conferences. Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter? Do you have an article you would like to see printed? Have you developed a time-saving process or procedure on the job? Have you traveled to any interesting locations? The Washington Connection requests that you submit any and all items of interest to our federal, state, and local members

including: reviews of recently published books related to financial management; unique travel experiences or assignments; lessons learned on roll-outs of new systems; appointments or promotions; employment opportunities; and noteworthy accomplishments by our members. We also welcome digital photos that accompany your submission. Your articles, comments, and ideas are what make this newsletter go and we welcome all input!

The deadline for submitting articles to appear in the June 2010 issue is May 21, 2010. Please send your comments and contributions to Leon Fleischer and Jorge Asef-Sargent, the newsletter co-editors for the 2009-2010 program year, at leon.fleischer@sba.gov and jasef-sargent@kpmg.com.

Sincerely,

Newsletter Editor

**Newsletter Editor,
AGA D.C. Chapter Newsletter Co-Editor**



Newsletter Team

Leon Fleisher, Co-Editor

Jorge Asef-Sargent, Co-Editor

Erwin Solbach, Graphics

President's Message



by **Kim Farington**



Can you believe it is already May? As was the case during the entire program year to date, we have an exciting month ahead of us. Last week we held our 9th annual May conference, where attendees earned up to 15 continuing professional education (CPE) credits. We had a number of insightful speakers participating in our conference. I want to give special thanks to Mari-Ellen Testa, the Washington DC Chapter Educational Committee Director, and all the amazing volunteers who helped plan this exciting conference.

May also marks the month of our last Educational luncheon for this program year. We were honored to have Shelley Metzenbaum, Associate Director for Performance and Personnel Management at the Office of Management and Budget, share his thoughts on Financial Management during our April luncheon. This month, we will end our educational luncheon series with our last speaker of this program year, Major General Arnold Fields, Inspector General, Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction. Please join us at the University Club on Washington, DC at 1135 Sixteenth Street NW on

May 18th where attendees will receive one CPE in addition to a wonderful lunch.

Thank you to all who contributed during last month's community service event. Thanks to our members, we supported Autism Awareness Month, which has been celebrated every April since the 1970s. The United States recognizes April as a special opportunity to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community. During our May luncheon, we will be collecting cell phones and eye glasses for donation to the local area women's shelter.

Our Member Services Committee has had another busy month! Caitlin Holmes and Crystal Heitman did a wonderful job planning the Virginia Wine tour held April 10th for both the Washington DC and Northern Virginia Chapters. Nearly 50 people enjoyed the wonderful day where participants were driven to three different Virginia wineries for wine tastings and also lunch. As we end the program year, we will schedule one more White House tour, tentatively planned for the first week in June.

Looking forward to even more member service events, we are also planning another networking reception on May 18th, at the W hotel in Washington, DC. We will send an email to members with the details once the planning for this event is finalized. We are also finalizing the details for our Charity Fashion Show Brunch. Please watch for an email and also check our website for further details.

President's Message

Cont'd.



Last but not least, save the date! Please join us at our DC Chapter Member Recognition and Gala to be held on June 12, 2010. This event will again be black tie optional and held at the Grand Hyatt Washington.

In anticipation of our gala on June 12th, dust off those dancing shoes! The Washington, DC Chapter is pleased to announce the first ever ballroom dancing lessons. We will be offering the free lessons on May 23rd. Be sure to check the Washington DC Chapter website at www.agadc.org or watch for an email with more details. Maybe this will be your first step to being a celebrity on Dancing with the Stars!

I look forward to seeing each of you at one of our exciting May events! Thanks again to all the Executive Committee members, volunteers, and corporate sponsors who make all these exciting events possible!

Sincerely,

Kim Farington

Kim Farington, CPA

President

Washington DC Chapter

Welcome, New Members!

MEMBERS NEW TO AGA DC

<i>Mr. Christopher Appel</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>IBM</i>
<i>Ms. Inga R. Baptiste</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>Federal Aviation Administration</i>
<i>Mr. Carl Bedell</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>AOC Solutions</i>
<i>Mr. Kyle D. Brown</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>KPMG LLP</i>
<i>Ms. Neftal Ann Burnell</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</i>
<i>Ms. Linda Carpenter</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>Defense Finance and Accounting Service</i>
<i>Mr. W Johnathan Castro</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP</i>
<i>Mr. David Cho</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>IBM</i>
<i>Ms. Deanna DeMott</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>Office of Management and Budget</i>
<i>Mr. Alvaro Diaz</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>Deloitte & Touche</i>
<i>Ms. Mary Duah</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>Grant Thornton LLP</i>
<i>Ms. Ruba Elbasha</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Ms. Donna Harris</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>Library of Congress</i>
<i>Mr. Mark A. Kandra</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>KPMG LLP</i>
<i>Ms. Tamara M. Keller</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>Deloitte & Touche</i>
<i>Ms. Melinda Jones</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>U.S. Coast Guard</i>
<i>Ms. Caitlin Lloyd</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>Student</i>

Welcome, New Members!

MEMBERS NEW TO AGA DC (cont'd)

<i>Ms. Ruby Manuel</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>Deloitte & Touche</i>
<i>Mr. Donald McGraw</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>Grant Thornton LLP</i>
<i>Mr. Brant W.R. Moeller</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>KPMG LLP</i>
<i>Ms. Olushola F. Ogunsanya</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>Watkins Meegan Govt Services</i>
<i>Mr. Afolabi Ojumu</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>Kearney and Company</i>
<i>Ms. Carol Patterson</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board</i>
<i>Mr. William Sanders</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>U.S. Coast Guard</i>
<i>Mr. Colin J. Shackelford</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>NASA</i>
<i>Mrs. Prencis Shaw</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>U.S. Department of Justice</i>
<i>Ms. Mellina Soheili</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>VICCS Inc</i>
<i>Mr. Christopher R. Stewart</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>Deloitte & Touche</i>

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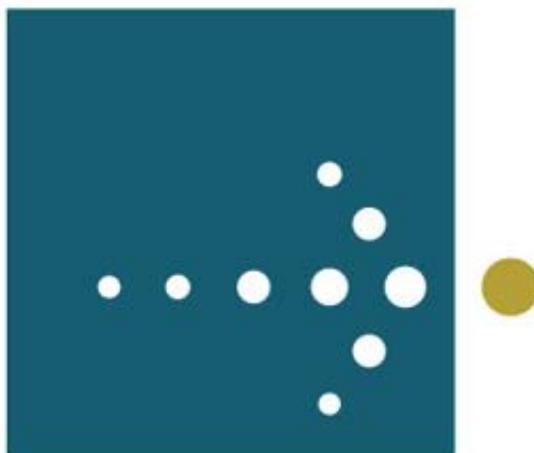


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Request for Newsletter Submissions, Comments, or Suggestions

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter? Do you have an article you would like to see in print? Have you developed a time-saving process or procedure on the job? Have you traveled to any interesting locations? The Washington Connection requests that you submit any and all items of interest to our federal, state, and local members including: reviews of recently published books related to financial management; unique travel experiences or assignments; lessons learned on rollouts of new systems; appointments or promotions; employment opportunities; and noteworthy accomplishments by our members. We also welcome digital photos that accompany your submission.

The deadline for submitting articles to appear in the **June 2010** issue is **May 21, 2010**. Please send your comments and contributions to **Leon Fleischer** and **Jorge Asef-Sargent**, the newsletter co-editors for the 2009-2010 program year, at leon.fleischer@sba.gov, and jasef-sargent@kpmg.com.



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WANT TO HELP?

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Luncheon Speaker: Major General Arnold Fields, USMC (Ret.)



Major General Fields (ret) is the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), a position to which appointed by The President of the United States on 12 June 2008. He was sworn in to the office on 22 July 2008 by the Deputy Secretary of Defense and in general, reports directly to the

Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense. His mandate requires that he report directly to Congress on audits investigations and other matters relating to amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. He had previously served as Deputy Director of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, Department of Defense, a position to which appointed on 29 January 2007. Prior to this position, he served as a member of the U.S. Department of State assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Iraq where he performed duties as Chief of Staff of the Iraq Reconstruction and Management Office (IRMO). He assisted the U.S. Ambassador and Director of IRMO in coordinating the execution of over \$18 billion dollars of U.S. appropriated funds for the reconstruction of Iraq. General Fields served in this capacity from August 2004 until October 2005.

He retired from the United States Marine Corps in January, 2004 after over 34 years of active military service. At the time of his retirement, General Fields was serving as the Deputy Commander of Marine Corps Forces in Europe headquartered at Stuttgart Germany, in support of the Commander, U.S. European Command and U.S. strategic interests in Europe and Africa. Previous assignments included Director of the Marine Corps Staff at Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, D.C. where he assisted the Commandant of the Marine Corps in providing executive oversight of a defense force of over 250,000 personnel including active duty, reservist, and civilians; Commanding General of Marine Corps Base

Hawaii; Commander U.S. Central Command's Forward Headquarters, with dual responsibilities as the Inspector General of U.S. Central Command which at that time was responsible for U.S. defense and security interests in much of Africa and all of the Middle East and Southwest Asia; Chief of the Evaluation and Analysis Division of the Plans and Interoperability Directorate (J-7) of the Joint Staff at the Pentagon. He commanded a training base at Camp Fuji Japan, working closely with the government of Japan in support of U.S. strategic interests and common security needs and objectives. During Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, General Fields commanded a Marine infantry battalion in operations against the Iraqi Armed Forces. During 1986-1988 he commanded a major unit of the Marine Embassy Security Guard battalion which was responsible for security at all U.S. diplomatic posts in North Africa, the Middle East and Southwest Asia.

His personal decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal; Defense Superior Service Medal with one bronze oak leaf cluster in lieu of second award; Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V"; Meritorious Service Medal; Joint Service Commendation Medal; Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal; and the Combat Action Ribbon. He was awarded the Department of State's Superior Honor Award for his service with the State Department in Baghdad, Iraq. General Fields enlisted into the Marine Corps in April of 1969 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in November of that year. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture from South Carolina State University and a Master of Arts Degree in Human Resources Management from Pepperdine University. General Fields is also a graduate of the Army War College; the Marine Corps Command and Staff College; and the Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School. In August 2007, the Secretary of the Navy appointed General Fields to a four-year term as member of the Board of Visitors, Marine Corps University, Quantico, Virginia.

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Want to Make a Difference?

Consider a Career in Government Financial Management

Are you, or someone from your chapter planning to attend a career fair, or an event for college students? AGA now has an eye-catching brochure that offers information about government financial management careers and answers questions for aspiring government financial managers regarding the qualifications and skills needed to get started. It also includes a bookmark for students that directs them to the Tomorrow's Professionals website for more information. To order free copies of the brochure, please submit the collateral order form found in the Members Only section on the AGA national website www.agacgfm.org or contact Jessica Jones at JJones@agacgfm.org.

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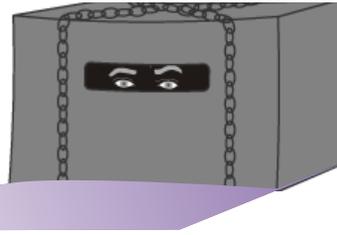
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Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA



Integrating the Budget and General Ledger

Introduction

Perhaps the two most important datasets in a government financial database are the general ledger and the budget. In some automated systems, these are kept in one file: the general ledger is the budget and hence controls spending. In others, they are kept in two separate files but must be synchronized. One problem that arises is that the Standard General Ledger (SGL) accounts don't always map neatly to how the budget is set up internally. The main authority availability SGL accounts are listed below.

4350	Canceled Authority
4420	Unapportioned Authority - Pending Rescission
4430	Unapportioned Authority - OMB Deferral
4450	Unapportioned Authority
4510	Apportionments
4590	Apportionments - Anticipated Resources - Programs Subject to Apportionment
4610	Allotments - Realized Resources
4620	Unobligated Funds Exempt from Apportionment
4630	Funds Not Available for Commitment/Obligation
4650	Allotments - Expired Authority
4690	Anticipated Resources - Programs Exempt from Apportionment

Linking Available Authority Account Balances to the Budget

There are a number of sources for authority. From a control standpoint, it only matters if the authority is realized or anticipated, because one can budget anticipated authority but not spend it. In the SGL, anticipated authority sits in account 4590 if it is subject to apportionment and 4690 if it is not; whereas realized authority sits in account 4610 if it is subject to apportionment and 4620 if it is not. Once the authority expires (and anticipated authority is generally withdrawn before expiration, so one should only be dealing with realized authority), the authority sits in account 4650. Upon cancellation (generally 5 years after expiration), the balance moves from 4650 to 4350.

Therefore, a budget file has to distinguish between anticipated and realized authority, and it has to track whether the fund is subject to apportionment and whether it is expired or unexpired. As funding is realized (reimbursable agreements signed, funds recovered, or appropriations transferred), the budget must move balances from the anticipated amount to the realized amount, just as the SGL moves the balances from 4590 or 4690 to 4610 or 4620 (generally only transfers out post to 4650). When the fund expires, the budget file does not have to change the available amount, just its status, while the SGL moves 4610 or 4620 to 4650.

When spending occurs, balances are moved from one of the three realized SGL accounts (4610, 4620, or 4650) into the spending account (from 4700 through 4982). The budget needs to track the amount spent in total, and preferably, distinguish between the types of spending (at a minimum, commitments, obligations, and expenditures). The budget can calculate the available amount as realized authority less spending, or it can directly track available authority.

Inside the Black Box (cont'd.)

Budget Levels

The first big twist with linking the general ledger to the budget are the different levels of the budget. The SGL only recognizes three levels: appropriation or fund level, apportionment (which is not universal), and allotment (technically optional). If funding is not subject to apportionment, then the SGL only tracks the highest level using account 4620 (4690 if anticipated). If funding is subject to apportionment, then the SGL uses account 4450 for the appropriation level if it is ready for apportionment, 4420 if it is not apportioned pending a rescission, or 4430 if the apportionment has been deferred by OMB. A budget file could track these three statuses or it could simply record that the funding has not been apportioned without tracking why. Apportioning the funding moves it from 4450 to 4510 (4590 if anticipated). The allotment moves the funding to 4610 if realized (4630 if anticipated).

<u>Level</u>	<u>Current Fund</u>	<u>Revolving Fund</u>	<u>Expired Fund</u>	<u>Current Reimbursable Fund</u>
Unapportioned	4450	4620.1	4650.1	4450
Apportioned	4510	4620.2	4650.2	4590.2 or 4690.2
Allocated	4610	4620.3	4650.3	4590.3 or 4690.3
Allotted	4610.4	4620.4	4650.4	4590.4 or 4690.4

In this way, the agency can tell from the trial balance how much is budgeted at each level, even when those funds are not subject to apportionment or are not available. In a transaction-based accounting system, the transactions would have to be set up to post differently for the different fund types. In this example, the agency decided to always use the .4 designator at the lowest level to help make spending posting logic consistent (i.e., spending documents always debit an account ending in .4). For the reimbursable fund, the agreement would transfer the funds from 4590.4 to 4610.4 (i.e., SGL entry A122 is combined with A706). The same entry would be used for realizing other types of anticipated authority. If a fund does not use all four levels, then intermediate numbers would be skipped (e.g., a current fund that does not allot would set up its allocation process to move balances from 4510 directly to 4610.4).

Complicating the tie between general ledger and budget is the level of detail associated with budget postings. Suppose the aforementioned agency defines their allocation level by major object class (OC) and their allotment by organization within OC. If the allocation only posts to the journal with an OC, and the allotment with both OC and organization, then any general ledger query for available balances by organization would have to look exclusively at GL account 4610.4, since a query that includes account 4610 would pick up both the debit and credit sides of the transaction and hence all amounts would net to zero. Similarly, a query for allocations by OC could not use all postings to account 4610 with an OC, since that also includes the allotment postings. The query would have to look for entries in 4510 that use OC (which would have a debit balance instead of the normal credit balance), or look for entries in 4610 that do not have organization on them (and so ignore allotment postings).

Inside the Black Box (cont'd.)

Annual Close

The second big twist with linking the general ledger to the budget is the annual close process. Since the annual close process usually changes the status of funds from unexpired to expired, or expired to cancelled, it would have to be set up to support the subaccounts as in the chart below. For example, if a single-year appropriation had some allocations that were not completely allotted (i.e., sitting in 4610), they should close to 4650.3. Often agencies ignore this possibility, closing all available funds to 4650 (without using any subaccounts), and then, in the new year, any allotments post to 4610 and 4610.4, creating extraneous GL balances. Since anticipated authority (4590) does not survive the end of the year, it should close to the same account that the anticipated source (in this example, 4210 Anticipated Reimbursements and Other Income) does, resulting in a zero net amount. If funds carry over and need to be reapportioned, the carryover entry would take them out of the post-close account and move them to 4450, and the budget file would have to withdraw the funds from the lower levels.

<u>Closing Account</u>	<u>Closes to, Unexpired</u>	<u>Expiring or Expired fund</u>	<u>Cancelled fund</u>
4450	4450	4650.1	n/a
4510	4510	4650.2	n/a
4590.n	wherever 4210 closes	wherever 4210 closes	n/a
4610	4610	4650.3	n/a
4610.4	4610.4	4650.4	n/a
4620.n	4620.n	4650.n	4350
4650.n	n/a	4650.n	4350
4690.n	wherever 4210 closes	wherever 4210 closes	n/a

Conclusion

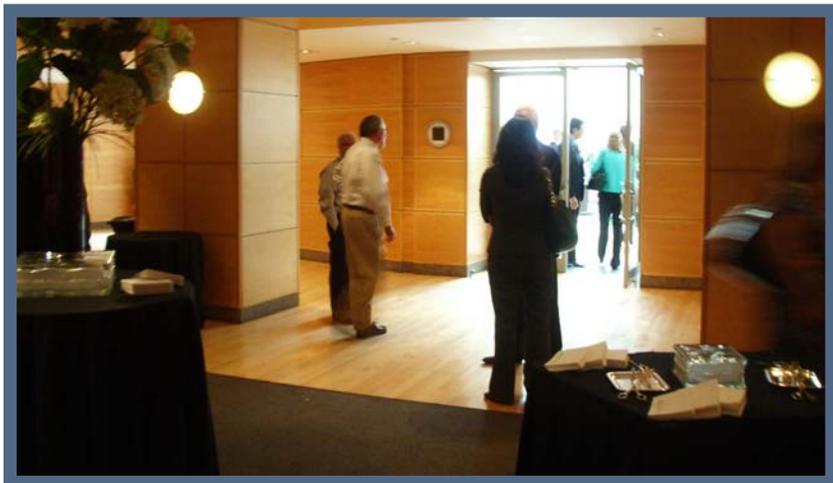
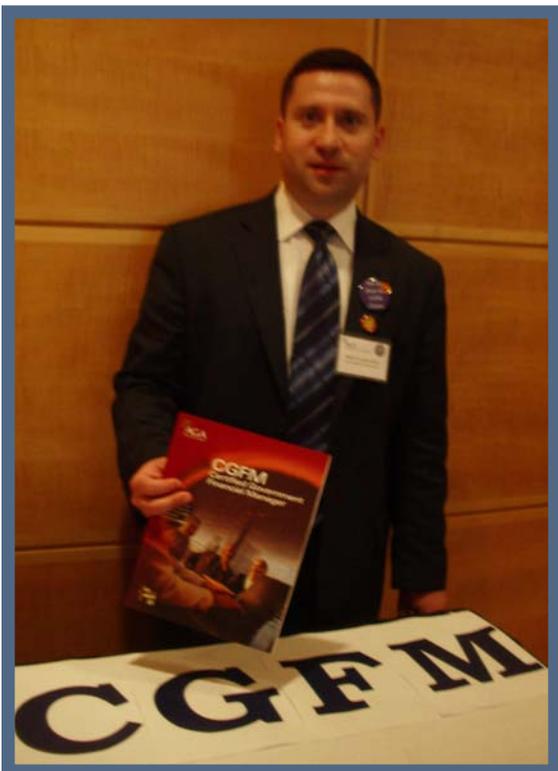
Keeping the budget synchronized with the general ledger is no easy task. The SGL is not designed to support internal budgeting, and agencies have to either use special SGL accounts that must be reported with zero balance in FACTS II or make their own subaccounts for budget available SGL accounts for the intermediate budget levels. Care must also be taken in querying general ledger balances for budget available GL accounts and in setting up annual close logic.

Simcha Kuritzky
 Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA

Comments and critiques, as well as specific questions or suggestions for future topics, are always welcome. Send them to Simcha.Kuritzky@CGIFederal.com, and not to the AGA.

This column is provided as part of a free exchange of ideas in federal accounting, and is not reviewed substantively before publication.

Snapshots



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AGADC Annual Awards Gala Dinner

Saturday, June 12, 2010

6:00 PM to Midnight

Black Tie Optional

\$25 per person before May 10

\$35 per person after May 10

Grand Hyatt Washington

1000 H Street, NW, Washington, DC

Metro Center (Red/Blue/Yellow/Green Lines) 11th Street Exit

On behalf of the membership of the Washington, DC Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA), please join us for the chapter's annual awards dinner as we celebrate another exciting chapter year and honor our members' accomplishments. The dinner will take place on Saturday, June 12 at the Grand Hyatt Washington in downtown DC from 6:00 p.m. until midnight.

This black-tie optional event features an elegant dinner, our annual awards ceremony, and plenty of time to dance the night away as we celebrate the evening and the past chapter year with friends and colleagues.

- Registration will be released on website and in an email soon.
- Tickets are \$25 each before May 10 and \$35 each thereafter
- Thereafter, reservations are on a space and rate availability basis.

All reservations must be guaranteed by cash or credit card. Any reservation canceled within 72 hours of arrival, are non-refundable.

Any reservation not guaranteed will not be held beyond 3 p.m. the day prior to check-in.

Please contact John Lynskey at jlynskey@nsf.gov with any questions, and we hope to see you on June 12!

Hotel Main Phone: (202) 582-1234

Member Services

Recognition of Sponsors and New Members at the April 2010 Luncheon

At the April 2010 Luncheon, AGA-DC Chapter President Kim Farington and Chapter Membership Co-Director Eileen Parlow introduced new members and sponsors who recruited new members during the current program year and presented them with a DC Chapter lapel pin.

Sponsors recognized for recruiting new members were:

- Ryan Bolz, KPMG
- Audrey Duchesne, Office of Management and Budget
- Debbie Mattingly, U.S. Department of Education
- Karin Mubang, Ernst & Young
- Janice Trey, Danaher Corp. (Janice Trey is a sponsor and a new member!)



Left to right: Janice Trey, Karin Mubang, Kim Farington, Debbie Mattingly, Audrey Duchesne, Ryan Bolz

Member Services (Cont'd)

Recognition of Sponsors and New Members at the April 2010 Luncheon

New members that attended the luncheon were also introduced and welcomed:

- Ana Chaletzky, Library of Congress
- Lena Lewis, Treasury Financial Management Service
- Paul Lionikis, Internet Payment Platform
- Ramesh Reddy, Federal Aviation Administration
- Alicia Schneider, Securities and Exchange Commission
- Becky Shoustal, Kearney & Company
- Janice Trey, Danaher Corporation



New Members:

Back Row- Left to Right: Kim Farington, Becky Shoustal, Ramesh Reddy, Paul Lionikis

Front Row - Left to Right: Eileen Parlow, Janice Trey, Ana Chaletzky, Lena Lewis, Alicia Schneider

Heads Up for New Members and Sponsors:

New Members:

AGA-DC Chapter lapel pins will be presented to new members who attend the May 2010 monthly luncheon. Since each new member is entitled to one free AGA-DC Chapter luncheon, May would be a great time to take advantage of your "free lunch." To register for your complimentary first luncheon, please send an e-mail to AGA-DC Meetings Director Ryan Bolz at rbolz@kpmg.com with a cc to AGA-DC Membership Co-Director Eileen Parlow at parlowe@fasab.gov.

Sponsors:

Everyone who sponsors even one new member during the current program year will be awarded an AGA-DC Chapter lapel pin, which will be either presented to you at an AGA-DC Chapter luncheon or mailed to you at the end of the program year with our thanks.

Community Service

Everyone thanks so much for your contributions at our April luncheon in support of Autism Awareness Month. We would especially like to thank our speaker from Pathfinders for Autism for educating us about Autism.

Our May Community Service Event will be collecting used eye glasses for the Lion's Club and used cell phones for HopeLine sponsored by Verizon Wireless Communications. Verizon Wireless' HopeLine program turns unused wireless phones into support for victims of domestic violence. Verizon Wireless collects no-longer-used wireless phones, batteries and accessories in any condition from any wireless service provider.

Proceeds from the HopeLine program are used to provide wireless phones and cash grants to local shelters and non-profit organizations that focus on domestic violence prevention and awareness. The Lion's Club Recycle for

sight program provides used eye glasses for developing countries throughout the world to ensure that needy children and adults have eyeglasses. Donated eyeglasses are provided to the Lion's Club's Eyeglass Recycling Centers that are located throughout the world. The used eyeglasses are cleaned and classified by prescription and then they are distributed to those in need by Lion volunteers and other organizations worldwide.

Please contact:

Lloyd A. Farmer [703-294-4473](tel:703-294-4473),

Tonya Allen Shaw [202-720-5026](tel:202-720-5026)

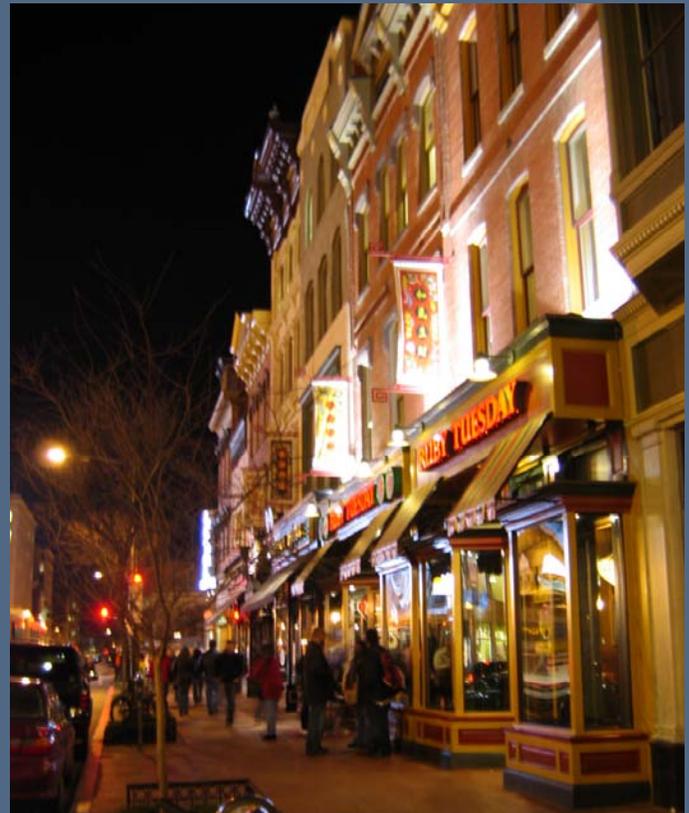
or AnnMarie Walker [202-461-6499](tel:202-461-6499)

if you are interested in these programs.

Raffles at our Monthly Luncheon!

*There will be a drawing at every
monthly luncheon.*

*Another great incentive
to attend the monthly meetings!*



CGFM Spotlight!

Intensive Review Course Offered at the 59th Annual Professional Development Conference (PDC) & Exposition.

Are you attending the PDC? Interested in the CGFM certification? Sign up for AGA's special Intensive Review Course and take the CGFM Examinations before the PDC. Don't miss this opportunity to earn your CGFM!

The Intensive Review Course will take place from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 8, and Friday, July 9, 2010. The CGFM Examinations will be offered by appointment only on July 10-11, 2010.

The cost of the course is only \$279 for qualified participants, and it offers 18 CPE hours. ***Special Bonus: the CGFM Examinations are offered at no cost to course attendees.*** The cost of this course is not included in the PDC registration fee.

For more information, see the Conference home page at <http://www.agacgfm.org/pdc2010/index.htm/>

Indian Affairs Makes it Simple for Finance Employees to Earn CGFM

Janet Hogler, CGFM, is not only committed to bringing the best training to employees, but also to making it as convenient as possible.

About six years ago, Hogler brought AGA's three Government Financial Management (GFM) courses to U.S. Department of Energy employees in Pittsburgh, PA, and Morgantown, WV. While successful, in looking back she thought more employees would have taken the three examinations if she had brought the test to them, rather than expecting them to do that footwork on their own.

That's why Hogler added an extra step this time. As Chief Of Staff to the Chief Financial Officer – Indian Affairs, she asked AGA to bring the three GFM courses to their workplace in Reston, VA. She lined up 26 students, most of them from Indian Affairs and a few from the U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) Office of Financial Management, and also arranged for the exams to be held immediately after each course.

Hal Steinberg, CGFM, CPA, taught all three courses over a two-week period in January, with the examination for each course held the day after the class work ended. "Most of the folks said it was pretty intense," Hogler said. In fact, one employee told her, "You put me through hell those two weeks." In the end, most Indian Affairs employees, plus additional DOI employees have passed all three CGFM Examinations. Most others passed two of the three exams and are already studying to retake the exams they did not pass.

CGFM Spotlight! (Cont'd)

Hogler said the courses attracted a range of employees from GS-7 through GS-15. Some were from the Office of Internal Evaluation and Assessments, some from the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, and some from DOI.

“It was funny on the days of the test, they all wanted to change to the afternoon slots to allow more time to study. I would go around to the conference rooms and they were all studying,” Hogler said.

Hogler, who says she’s “big on training,” particularly likes AGA’s GFM courses and the fact that the CGFM credential is portable—employees who must move to another agency within federal government or to state or local government can use the credential to show they have a broad range of knowledge in government financial management. It also goes a long way toward boosting the credibility of the office within the financial management community.

The GFM courses were the culmination of a training program that also included courses on the Standard General Ledger, appropriation law and other topics. She said her boss saw the value in bringing the courses and exams onsite to “bring this group to the next level.”

Katya Silver, AGA’s director of Professional Certification, said Hogler put all the pieces in place to ensure success for the employees. “I am happy to see Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) make an investment in their staff. This is such a success story! The GFM training, the onsite exams, the employer support and the dedication of the candidates have all paid off—congratulations to BIA and our new group of CGFMs!

Who Is Pushparajan Arokiaswamy?



Name: Pushparajan Arokiaswamy

AGA Position: Director, Administration

Company: Department of Veterans Affairs

Title: Director, Business Integration, FLITE Program Office

Background: Currently, I serve as the Project Management Lead to plan and implement the FLITE Data Warehouse that will be a central repository for financial and asset management data. I have been working with VA for 15 years in the financial management and system development. Prior to joining VA, I worked at the U.S. Office of Personal Management CFO Office. Before starting my career with the Federal Government, I worked in the private sector as an auditor, and financial manager for almost 10 years. I am a certified Public Accountant in the District of Columbia and a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM). I am also a Certified Project Management Professional (PMP).

How long have you been a member of AGA? I have been a member since 2001. However, I'm actively involved the DC Chapter only since 2007.

How has AGA helped you with your career? AGA through its various conferences, trainings and social events provided me the opportunity to get to know the financial management professionals in the Federal government as well as in the private sector. It helped me to expand my knowledge base through the contacts I gained through AGA. It also helps me to keep abreast of the current and emerging issues in the Federal Financial Management arena.

What advice do you have for someone thinking of joining the AGA? I strongly encourage anyone working in the audit or financial management sector to join AGA and become an active participant. It provides you opportunity to get to know financial management professionals at various levels of responsibility both in government and private sector. Their knowledge, experience and contact can be used to enrich and promote your career.

What is the best thing about working in government service? It is knowing that you work for a greater cause. The mission of VA is to serve the veterans and their families. As such it gives me a great pride and satisfaction knowing that by serving the Veterans, I do in my own way serve this great county of ours. Government service provides you the opportunity to give back to your community, your state and to your country.

What has been the biggest obstacle in getting where you are today? I believe the biggest obstacle is you. You need to believe in yourself 200%, aim for lofty goals and pursue them with purpose and determination. Though there are outside forces that do play a role in our career and in our life, you need to use them as a learning experience and develop a plan to deal with them as you move on with your life and career.

What is your favorite hobby or outside activity? I have a passion for community service as such I love to volunteer.

I serve as a scout master for a Boys Scout Troop. I serve as the Treasurer for the Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC), a non profit organization that promotes equal opportunity and cultural diversity for Asian Pacific Americans within the Federal and District of Columbia governments. I'm also actively involved with the Asian American Catholic Communities in the Greater Washington DC area.

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream? My favorite flavor is pecan praline but learning to go easy with the scoop.

Anything else that you would like to highlight? Become a member of AGA and get involved with your local chapter. Be a positive force to make a difference in your family, community and country. Practice random act of kindness.

AGADC Mentor Program



Mentors have had a direct and positive influence on my career throughout the years and have probably helped you in one way or another as well.

The Washington DC chapter of the Association of Government Accountants is organizing a mentorship subcommittee and is looking for volunteers to serve as a mentor. The time requirements and format for mentoring are flexible. It could take as little 1 - 2 hours a month and be conducted via email, phone, Facebook, happy hour, or whatever venue you and your mentee find appropriate (e.g., at the local polka festival). This is your opportunity to "pay it forward" and positively impact the career of someone else.



If you are interested in serving as a mentor, please contact **Douglas Glenn** at 202-501-0562 or Douglas.Glenn@GSA.Gov.

Chapter Participates in Career Event at UMUC

Your chapter, the DC Chapter, and AGA's National Office joined together the evening of April 27, 2010 to discuss with the University of Maryland University College (UMUC) students what it's like to work in the financial management arena, what the benefits of membership in AGA are, and how a CGFM designation can help them advance. Almost 200 UMUC graduate students attended the event and many came to the AGA table to find out more about AGA. By the time the evening was over, Rodneikka Scott, National Office Membership Manager, had given away almost all of the membership applications and promotional giveaways she brought with her.

In addition to Rodneikka, the following made up our AGA team:

- Tyrone Allmond, DC Chapter Historian
- Stephen Wills, DC Chapter Membership Director
- Tolu Shoyemi, MPG Chapter Early Careers Director
- Angela Walter, MPG Chapter President, and
- Flora Milans, RVP-Elect, Capital Region.



Chapter Participates in Career Event at UMUC (Cont'd)



Our chapter's **Kathleen Sobieralski**, Assistant Academic Director, Collegiate Accounting Faculty at UMUC played a key role in providing the chapters the opportunity to participate as an exhibitor. Kathleen Klose, Program Director, Financial Management & Accounting, UMUC, organized and coordinated the evening. She also organized an excellent program for the students including remarks from a recruiter regarding do's and don'ts in the job search process, a benefit expert's discussion of how to evaluate benefits as part of a job offer, and tips for career development from a career coaching expert.

The students benefited from the evening and so did the AGA team!

Submitted by

Flora Milans

RVP-Elect, Capital Region

Education Training

Hotel Reservations Now Being Accepted For 2010 PDC in Orlando

Make plans now to attend AGA's 59th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC)--the premier education and networking event of the year!

Dream. Learn. Achieve. The PDC has it all! Join us *July 11-14, 2010*, in Orlando, FL, to hear dynamic speakers, participate in informative sessions, learn about the latest research, share best practices, discover innovative management techniques and see the technological tools that can aid efficiency and improve effectiveness.

In addition to an outstanding technical education program, and the ability to earn 24 CPE hours, AGA's PDC is packed with opportunities to network with colleagues from around the country and make new friends. While you're here, be sure to experience all the attractions, shopping, fine dining and recreational activities Orlando has to offer.

Information about the agenda, speakers, travel discounts and registration is coming soon. In the meantime you can reserve your spot at the official conference hotel.

We have reserved a block of rooms at the Orlando World Center Marriott to accommodate PDC attendees. The rate is \$108 per night (plus tax) for single and double occupancy. However, *rates are only guaranteed until June 18, 2010, or until the room block is sold out.*

Reservations received after June 18, or after the room block has been filled, will be made on a space-available basis, and may be subject to significantly higher rates. Rooms sell quickly...we encourage you to make your hotel reservations early, for the best price and availability.

- To make a reservation, please call the Orlando World Center Marriott at 800.621.0638 and mention you are attending the "AGA PDC" to receive the discounted rate.
- You can also [reserve a room online](#).
- [Download Registration Form](#)

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MAY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6 AGA CEC	7	8
		Spring Conference The CFO Act Twenty Years Later: Our Past, Our Present, and Our Future				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Luncheon (University Club of DC) Networking Reception (W Hotel)	19	20	21	22 Charity Fashion Show
23 Ballroom Dance Lessons	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Memorial Day					

JUNE 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 AGA CEC	2	3	4	5 White House Tour
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 AWARDS DINNER
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
		NOTES: No Luncheon held this month Member Services: Nationals Game & Golf Tournament - TBD				

Calendar of Events — 2009/2010 Program Year

Month	Luncheons	Community Service	Member Service	Education	Early Careers	Membership/ Liason Committee	Awards	CEC Meetings
May	18-May-2010	18-May-2010	TBD	4-May thru 5-May-2010				4-May-2010
	Luncheon Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm Speaker: Major General Arnold Fields, Special IG for Afghanistan Reconstruction, Location: The University Club, DC CPE: 1	Cell/Phone and Eyeglasses Donations will be accepted at the Chapter luncheon. Please contact Lloyd Farmer at 703-294-4473 for more information.	Charity Fashion Show and Brunch	Spring Conference The CFO Act Twenty Years Later: Our Past, Our Present and Our Future.				Veterans Administration Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
June			TBD				12-Jun-2009	1-Jun-2010
			Nationals Game ***** Golf Tournament				Annual Awards Gala Location: Grand Hyatt - Washington DC 1000 H Street NW Time: 6:00PM to 11:00PM	Veterans Administration Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM

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