

The Washington Connection

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS
WASHINGTON D.C. CHAPTER



Issue 5 • January 2009

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Snapshots



\$10 Early Sign-up Special
for Federal Employees
for January Luncheon
(by 1/9/09)

LUNCHEON SERIES



Read Bio

Kenneth E. Carfine,
Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Dept. of the Treasury
January 22nd, 2009

We are honored to have Kenneth Carfine, Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury as our luncheon speaker on January 22nd.

Mr. Carfine is one of the leading experts on topics such as banking, payments, and government accounting. Mr. Carfine's topic for the luncheon will be "Progress and Challenges: A Report on the Consolidated Financial Report of the US Government."

The luncheon will be held on January 22nd, 2009,
11:30-1:30 at the Army Navy Club.

Announcements

Audio Conference - Free for AGA-DC Members!

"How XBRL Can Enable Improved Financial and Performance Based Reporting"

Wednesday, January 21st • 2:00 to 3:50 p.m.

2 hours of CPE issued by the AGA National Office

See our website for information on how to register.

HURRY! Space is limited.

Registration ends on January 14th.

[Read More](#)

Save The Date: Spring Conference

The Association of Government Accountants Washington, DC Chapter will be hosting its annual spring conference on May 12 and 13, 2009. This 2-day conference will address emerging issues related to federal financial management and systems.

Dates: Tuesday, May 12 and Wednesday, May 13, 2009
Time: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Location: Ronald Reagan Building
Continuing Education: 15 CPE

Click here to sign up to get newsletter and meeting notices automatically e-mailed <http://agadc.org/mlistsubscribe.php>

Contact
Cover photos by Christian and Barbara Escobar

Note From the Editor

by *Leon Fleischer, Editor*

I hope everyone enjoyed our previous December issue. I wish all our readers a Happy New Year. This January in particular is special because of the inauguration ceremony this month for President-Elect Obama. It is a momentous occasion for our country.



This newsletter promises to contain much information of events for the year including the monthly luncheons, education events, member services, early careers, etc.

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 offer, 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 February 2009 issue is January 19, 2008. Please send your comments and contributions to Leon Fleischer, the newsletter editor at leon.fleischer@sba.gov.

Sincerely,

Leon Fleischer

**Leon Fleischer,
AGA D.C. Chapter Newsletter Editor**



Newsletter Team

Leon Fleischer, Editor

Erwin Solbach, Graphics

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Please refer to our website at www.agadc.org for more detail



AGADC

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President's Message



by **Ann Davis**

Our first event of the year is our January 15, 2009 training course "Internal Controls in the Federal Government - Understanding A-123" worth 8 CPEs. The cost is \$125 for AGA members, \$150 for non-members, with an additional \$20 handling fee for SF-182s. *The "Internal Controls in the Federal Government" course is sold out.*

Next, Early Careers is sponsoring a Happy Hour at Buffalo Billiards on January 20, 2009. Plan to meet us at 1330 19th St NW, Dupont Circle at 6:30 PM.

Join us for another FREE Audio Conference: How XBRL Can Enable Improved Financial and Performance Reporting on January 21, 2009 from 2-4 PM at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, DC. This event yields 2 CPE.

Happy New Year!

Thanks to you, we are off to a great start after a year of sold out lunches and training events and fun-filled happy hours. We hope that you will continue to participate in the exciting events we have planned for you.

Ann Davis

Ann Davis

On the following day, January 22, 2009, Ken Carfine, Treasury Fiscal Assistant Secretary, will serve as presenter at our luncheon at the Army Navy Club. Once again, we are offering a \$10 early registration discount to Federal employees. Register early and earn 1 CPE. While at the luncheon, please help us continue our support of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, a non-profit organization that fulfills the wishes of children facing life-threatening medical conditions. Simply deposit your spare change, dollars or checks in a fishbowl that will be at the community service table. Checks should be made payable to AGA DC Chapter. We will generate a check from the AGA DC Chapter from all the donations received. Many thanks in advance for your generous support.

Also, be on the lookout for details about our annual Chinese New Year celebration. We'll be sure to send you the exciting details as soon as they are finalized. You don't want to miss it!

Save the Dates:

February 18, 2009 - Luncheon featuring financial planner Michael Miles, Variplan Principal Advisor and Chief Executive, Army Navy Club, 11:45 AM - 1:45 PM

February 25, 2009 - Wizards vs. Philadelphia 76ers - Verizon Center, 7PM

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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 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.

The Washington Connection will not be issued in July or August. The deadline for submitting articles to appear in the **February 2009** issue is **January 19, 2008**. Please send you comments and contributions to **Leon Fleischer**, the newsletter editor for the 2009-2010 program year, at leon.fleischer@sba.gov.



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Grant Thornton

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Who is Natasha Severe?



Name: Natasha Severe

AGA Position: Member,
DC Chapter

Company: Federal Aviation
Administration

Title: Systems Accountant

Background: I have been with the Federal Aviation Administration since 1988. Recently, I received my certificate for 20 years of federal service. I began my career as an Accounting Technician at the FAA Eastern Region office in Jamaica, New York. I have worked in the various accounting areas, such as Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Travel Management, General Accounting and Grants Management. Two years ago, I relocated to Washington D.C to accept a Systems Accountant position with, FAA Washington Headquarters where, I work in the FAA, Office of Financial Management, Internal Controls Division. My duties include ensuring that FAA Management is compliant with the Office of Management and Budget Circular (OMB) A-123 and Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA). I am also the primary Audit Liaison and my main duty is to make certain that the FAA annual financial statements audit runs smoothly. I coordinate all Audit related issues with FAA management, lines of business/staff offices, independent auditors and the Department of Transportation's Office of the Secretary. I must ensure the processing of sample testing documentation, Notice of Findings and Recommendations (NFR) Management. In addition, I manage, track and report the NFR corrective actions for FAA Management.

How long have you been a member of AGA?

I have been an AGA DC member for almost 2 years.

How has AGA helped you with your career?

The various AGA trainings and conferences that I have attended helped me enhance my knowledge of my field and have increased my opportunities to advance in my career.

What advice do you have for someone thinking of joining the AGA?

I would advise someone that by joining AGA it will allow them numerous opportunities towards career advancement. AGA provides great ways to network with people

who work in the same field as you; and the trainings and conferences are a very good way to stay current with the changes to federal accounting policies and regulations.

What is the best thing about working in government service?

The best thing about working for the government is recognizing that my contributions make a difference in helping the FAA achieve and maintain their overall mission "Public Safety". Therefore I feel privileged to work for an agency that is dedicated to aviation safety for all citizens

What has been the biggest obstacle in getting where you are today?

My biggest obstacle was almost 15years ago when I didn't have a supportive manager. I have learned the importance of management and leadership during that time and have a better understanding of the importance of working in a supportive collective environment where everybody is focused on accomplishing a common goal.

What is your favorite hobby or outside activity?

As a Single Mom of two young ladies, most of my time outside of work is spent with Simone, my 14 year old daughter bowling/shopping, or with Mishelle, my 20 year old daughter when she comes home from college. In addition, I like to dance (Latin ballroom dancing) when I can, attend church functions, and I do volunteer work with the Prison Ministry where I work with incarcerated youths helping them find themselves and GOD.

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?

I love chocolate ice cream and when I really want to live a little I like chocolate ice cream dipped in chocolate fudge.

Anything else that you would like to highlight?

I am a person who believes in the good of people and seek out the best in everyone and everything. I feel that life is good and should not be taken for granted as well as the opportunities that come with it. I have been offered many wonderful opportunities during my employment with FAA. The many avenues I have taken as an employee has definitely played a major role in helping me become the individual that I am today.

Natasha Severe

Natasha Severe

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WANT TO HELP?

If you're interested in being a liaison or joining the mentor program, as either a mentor or mentee, please contact Ruthie Apelt: ruth.apelt@thomson.com

Connect to the World of Government

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the World of
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Accountability

AGA serves government accountability professionals by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

Click on the link below to view a short AGA video:
<http://www.agacgfm.org/downloads/agaweb.wmv>

Awards Committee Update

THE AGA/DC AWARDS COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Annually, the Association of Government Accountants presents at the Professional Development Conference and Exposition a series of awards to recognize individuals for their contributions to the Association. We need your assistance in identifying outstanding individuals who exemplify the characteristics described below:

- **Robert W. King Memorial Award** - an AGA member who has provided superior service that enhanced the AGA's national prestige and stature.
- **Einhorn-Gary Award** - An active AGA member or organization that has, over a sustained period of time, made major contributions to advancing government accountability at the federal, state, and/or local level.
- **Frank Greathouse Distinguished Leadership Award** - A government employee who has demonstrated sustained outstanding leadership and notable contributions to financial management, and to encourage increased interest, growth, development and distinctive leadership in the field of financial management.
- **Achievement of the Year Award** - A government employee who has exhibited leadership or outstanding achievement in developing, implementing and improving financial management in government service in the past year.
- **Educator Award** - An individual who have made significant contributions to the education and training of government financial managers.
- **Cornelius E. Tierney/Ernst & Young Research Award** - An individual who throughout their careers (minimum of 15 years) have made continuous contributions to governmental financial management by their direct participation in research activities and/or through their encouragement and support of others engaged in government financial management research.
- **Chapter Service Award** - An active AGA member who has consistently made important contributions to the development and enhancement of a chapter.
- **International Achievement Award** - A government employee who has exhibited leadership or outstanding achievement in international government financial management.
- **Emerging leader Award of Excellence** - A government financial manager with 5 to 10 years experience providing notable contributions toward excellence in financial management.

Please send the names and nomination information of outstanding professionals to Eleanor Crawford at Eleanor.long@EY.com no later than February 8, 2009. If you need assistance or have questions, feel free to contact Eleanor at 202-327-5903. For more information on each of these awards and their nomination forms, visit AGA's National website: www.agacgfm.org/membership/awards.

Kenneth E. Carfine



Biography

Ken Carfine was appointed Fiscal Assistant Secretary, a career position, on March 15, 2007.

In this position, Mr. Carfine provides policy oversight over the two Fiscal Service Bureaus - the Financial Management

Service and the Bureau of the Public Debt. This office also serves as the Treasury's liaison with the Federal Reserve System in its role as the government's fiscal agent. The scope of his responsibilities includes managing the government's cash flow, improving government financial management, executing the government's financing activities and overseeing the operation of government-wide financial accounting and reporting systems, including the preparation of the Consolidated Financial Statements of the United States. In addition, Mr. Carfine is a statutory member of the Government-wide CFO Council, and represents the Secretary on the Trust Fund Boards for the National Archives and Library of Congress.

Previously, Mr. Carfine was the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fiscal Operations and Policy, a position to which he was appointed in April 2003. In that position, he advised and assisted the Fiscal Assistant Secretary on a broad range of policy and operational matters related to the fiscal activities of the Treasury, and oversaw the development and implementation of policies relating to the government's cash and investment management, debt financing, trust fund investment and administration, payments, collections and debt collection. He also worked closely with the Financial Management Service, the Bureau of the Public Debt, and the Federal Reserve System in the execution of his duties.

Mr. Carfine began his Treasury career in 1973 with the Financial Management Service, holding positions of increasing responsibility in areas of banking, cash management, payments, check claims, and government-wide accounting.

Mr. Carfine graduated from the University of Baltimore with a B.S. degree in Accounting. He and his wife, Deborah, have two sons and one granddaughter and live in Maryland.

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Want to Make a Difference?

Consider a Career in Government Financial Management

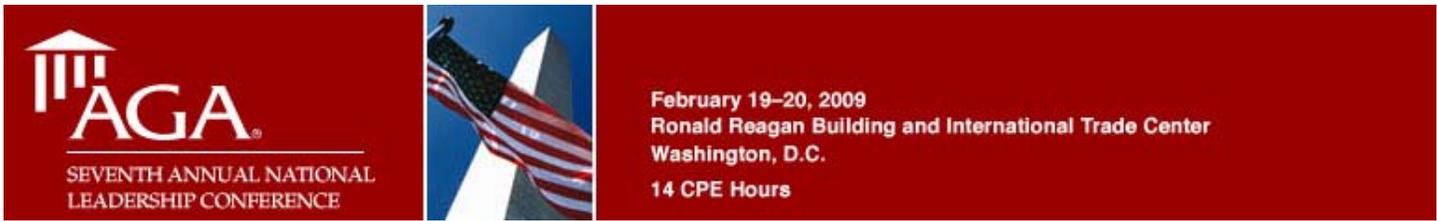
Are you, or someone from your chapter planning to attend a career fair, or an event for college students? AGA now has an eye-catching brochure that offers information about government financial management careers and answers questions for aspiring government financial managers regarding the qualifications 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 or contact Jessica Jones.

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National Leadership Conference



Welcome!

Government financial managers are deeply committed to producing timely, reliable and useful financial information, with the goal of running government programs more efficiently. At AGA's Seventh Annual National Leadership Conference (NLC), those sentiments are more than just words.

The conference brings together the top minds in the industry to provide "how-to" lessons, the newest management techniques, and the most recent information on always-changing standards and regulations. The conference, set for February 19-20, 2009, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C., also features the newest tools to help agencies do their jobs more easily and more effectively.

Don't miss this opportunity to earn 14 CPE hours, network with your peers and learn from the top financial management leaders and industry experts, including:

- Tom Allen, Chairman, Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board
- Ernest A. Almonte, CGFM, Chairman, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and Auditor General, State of Rhode Island

- Douglas Brook, Ph.D., Professor, Naval Postgraduate School, and former Under Secretary (Comptroller) and Chief Financial Officer (Acting), Office of the Secretary of Defense, U.S. Department of Defense
- Lisa Casias, CPA, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Department of Commerce; AGA National President Elect-Designate
- Thomas N. Cooley, Chief Financial Officer and Director, Office of the Budget, Finance and Award Management, National Science Foundation
- Former Congressman Tom Davis
- Gene L. Dodaro, CGFM, Acting Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office
- Ron Elving, Senior Washington Editor, National Public Radio
- Peter Franchot, Comptroller, State of Maryland
- Scott Pattison, Executive Director, National Association of State Budget Officers

The Exhibit Hall is also a gathering spot to meet with colleagues from around the country. The NLC offers outstanding training, dynamic speakers and multiple networking events.

Show your commitment to excellence—register today!

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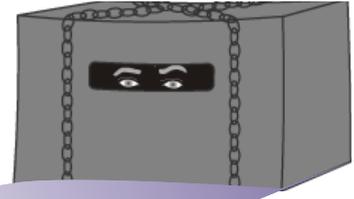


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Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA



Appropriation Corrections in the Journal and on the FMS-224

With continuing resolutions lasting longer and longer, many agencies get taken by surprise when the appropriation finally gets passed. Not only do the amounts vary, but the funding structure itself may be very different from what they had anticipated and, more importantly, loaded into their financial system. What can you do if you thought your funding would come in on a single-year fund but Congress moved it to a multi-year fund? I will give two possible scenarios. It is important to note, though, that making the change in your agency's accounting system may not be sufficient; there may also need to be special postings to fix Treasury's records on their cash balance statement (FMS-6653). For those agencies already using the Governmentwide Accounting (GWA) system, there may be alternative remedies.

Set Up

Agency X was anticipating a \$1.1 billion appropriation in their fund number 6. This fund has always been a single-year fund. With the continuing resolution in place for two months, the agency set up fund 6 for 2009 with symbol 9990006 and anticipated a warrant for \$1100M. Payroll disbursements, which are reported by Agency Y, were \$100M and Agency X disbursed another \$50M in 9990006. The appropriation was actually for \$900M in a new multi-year fund, 999/00006. The starting value of the agency's and Treasury's books follows. I show disbursements as a reduction to cash and not an increase in disbursements for ease of comparison to journal balances. All the non-cash accounts are lumped into one entry because they aren't relevant to the discussion; though they are included so debits will equal credits. This example also assumes that any postings to cash account 1010D will be reported on the agency's FMS-224 Statement of Transactions, while postings to all other cash accounts listed here won't.

Agency's Journal:		Treasury's records:	
Fund 6 – 9990006		Fund 9990006	
1010A appropriations		Disbursements, ALC X	-50M
1010D agency disbursements	\$1100M	Disbursements, ALC Y	-100M
1010P payroll disbursements	-50M		
all non-cash accounts	-100M	Fund 999/00006	
		Warrants	\$900M

Solution #1 - Transfer

One solution is to set up a new fund, 6M, for the multi-year. All the postings that had been in fund 6 are backed out and reposted to 6M. This will result in correct FACTS and FACTS II trial balance submissions, but will not correct all the activity already reported to FMS. The amounts reported by the payroll-processing agency have to be transferred to the correct symbol by the agency using the normal disbursements account, so they are reported on the FMS-224. This means that, in addition to transferring the cash, the agency must post debit 1010D credit 1010P the \$100M of payroll, to back it out of the single-year fund on the FMS-224 (the opposite is posted into the multi-year fund).

Inside the Black Box (Cont'd.)

	Start	Transfer entry	224 Adjustment	End
Fund 6:				
1010A	\$1100M	-1100M		0M
1010D	-50M	50M	100M	100M
1010P	-100M	100M	-100M	-100M
non-cash accts	-950M	950M		0M
9990006				
Disbursements-ALC X	-50M	50M	100M	100M
Disbursements-ALC Y	-100M			-100M
Fund 6M:				
1010A	0	900M		900M
1010D	0	-50M	-100M	-150M
1010P	0	-100M	100M	0M
non-cash accounts	0	-750M		-750M
999/00006				
Warrants	900M			900M
Disbursements-ALC X		-50M	-100M	-150M

In this way, the agency has \$100M of payroll disbursements in the single-year fund, which agrees to what was reported on the Agency Y's FMS-224. However, there is an offset reduction of \$100M disbursements under the Agency X's own Agency Location Code (ALC), so the net cash balance is zero. The disbursement shows up under the Agency X's ALC in the multi-year fund.

Any future payroll postings that use the incorrect single-year appropriation will have to be entered into fund 6M as an agency disbursement (using account 1010D), and only a transfer entry of debit 1010D credit 1010P should be made to fund 6.

Solution #2 – Retroactive Adjustment

Another solution is to force the original Fund 6 to use the multi-year symbol. All the postings that had been in Fund 6 are changed to show symbol 999/00006. This will result in correct FACTS and FACTS II trial balance submissions, but will not correct all the activity already reported to Treasury. The amounts reported by both agencies X and Y have to be transferred to the correct symbol on the FMS-224 (by posting the normal disbursements account). This means that the agency must post debit 1010D the \$150 million of payroll and other disbursements to back them out of the single-year fund on the FMS-224, and post the opposite into the multi-year fund. How this is accomplished will depend on the system. We will assume they back out the postings with the old symbol, then adjust their journals (but not the FMS-224) to show the new symbol, then post the other side of the adjustment entry.

Inside the Black Box (Cont'd.)

	Start	Adjustment Old Symbol	Adjustment New Symbol	End
Fund 6:				
1010A	\$1100M	-200M		900M
1010D	-50M	150M	-150M	-50M
1010P	-100M			-100M
non-cash accounts	-950M	50M	150M	-750M
9990006				
Disbursements-ALC X	-50M	150M		100M
Disbursements-ALC Y	-100M			-100M
999/00006				
Warrants	900M			900M
Disbursements-ALC X			-150M	-150M

Since Agency X has no fund with the single-year symbol any more, there is no place to represent the \$100 million of payroll disbursements in the single-year fund. However, the net value of zero (if you include both ALCs from Treasury's statements) does agree with the agency's revised books (which shows nothing under the single-year symbol).

Any future payroll postings that use the incorrect single-year appropriation will have to be entered into Fund 6 as an agency disbursement (using account 1010D) with the multi-year symbol, and a transfer entry needs to be made (how is dependent on the system) to reduce the disbursement under the single-year appropriation symbol. If this is not easily done, the agency may have to wait until Agency Y updates its records before correcting the symbol in its journals.

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

LUNCHEON ARMY & NAVY CLUB



Snapshot

TOYS FOR TOTS



Federal News Article

Federal CFOs could be key players in Obama administration

By Katherine McIntire Peters kpeters@govexec.com
November 14, 2008

Chief financial officers could play a significant role in shaping agency missions during the next administration. But first, they'll need to learn the ins and outs of federal financial management, which is very different than in the private sector, where most incoming CFOs are likely to have been schooled.

"President-elect Obama has talked about wanting to bring a scalpel to programs and to really look at places in the federal government where we can take money from certain things that are no longer effective and apply it to other things," said Patricia Healy, who served nine years as deputy chief financial officer at the Agriculture Department before retiring from federal service in January 2008.

"CFOs should be on the strategic executive teams, working with the missions and doing that analytic work to determine how the programs can operate more effectively, how we can work across government agencies more effectively," said Healy, now an executive consultant at CGI Federal.

To help bring incoming CFOs up to speed, Healy led a group of current and former federal executives working as advisers to the Council for Excellence in Government, a nonprofit organization in Washington that works to improve public sector management, to produce the "Federal CFO Roadmap." The five-page document outlines the responsibilities of finance personnel and the key laws that govern reporting and accountability requirements.

"The audience for this is really the incoming appointees, so they understand the full scope of the job in the federal government," Healy said. The document describes the federal budget process, major reporting milestones CFOs must meet, and a dozen laws that govern the process.

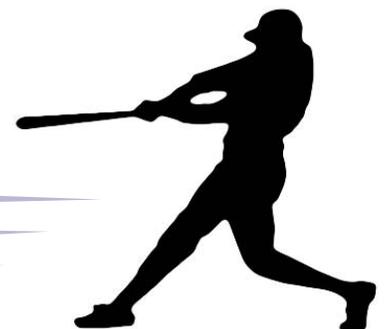
Healy advised incoming CFOs to read the laws behind their responsibilities and develop strong partnerships with career personnel who can help them navigate the requirements.

"This is the time for the CFOs to really become involved with their agency's missions," she said. "There's not going to be new money. We're going to have to make do with what we have and we're going to have to use it in the best way."

kpeters@govexec.com November 14, 2008.
Reprinted with permission.

Win Baseball Tickets at next Luncheon!

There will be a drawing at every monthly luncheon for 2 free tickets to a Washington National's game. Another great incentive to attend the monthly meetings!



Community Service

Thanks again to everyone who supported the Toys-for-Tots fundraising effort. Because of your support we were able to contribute approximately 60 new toys and \$420 dollars in donations (\$210 from the DC Chapter & \$210 in matching funds from the AGA National Office) to the Toys-For-Tots Foundation. Thanks to your support many needy children will have a new toy for Christmas.

The AGA DC Chapter will continue their support of the Make-A-Wish Foundation in January. The Make-A-Wish Foundation is a non-profit organization that fulfills the wishes of children facing life-threatening medical conditions. We are asking members and non-members to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation by depositing spare change in a fishbowl that will be at the January 22nd luncheon community service table. We will be collecting cash and checks. Please make all checks payable to AGA DC Chapter. We will then deposit the checks and then generate a check from the AGA DC Chapter with all the donations received.

In February, The AGA DC Chapter is continuing our tradition of supporting the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). The VITA Program offers free tax help to low- to moderate-income (\$37,000 and below) people who cannot prepare their own tax returns.

Volunteers sponsored by various organizations receive training to help prepare basic tax returns in communities across the country. VITA sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations. Most locations also offer free electronic filing.

If you are interested in finding out more details about these projects, please contact

Lloyd A. Farmer 703-294-4473

Tonya Allen Shaw 202-720-5026

AnnMarie Walker 202 461-6499.



Early Careers Committee

The Early Careers Committee (ECC) would like to thank you for making events held last year a success! Another exciting year is planned beginning in January. To kickoff 2009, the ECC of the DC, NoVA, and Montgomery chapters are planning a ski trip. Other events will be announced as we approach them.

The ECC strives to focus on early career members to promote long-term career growth in government financial management, to encourage active participation in AGA DC, and to provide valuable professional and social experiences. Some of the highlights of this year will include:

- Professional development – Luncheon Speaker Series, and the Mentor Program
- Social networking – Bi-monthly happy hour events in DC

- Chapter participation – Early Career member spotlights in the monthly newsletter
- And we can't forget about the White House and U.S. Capital Tours!

Please contact your ECC chairs if you have any suggestions for events or would like to be part of the committee.

Malena Brookshire malena.brookshire@gmail.com

Stacey Ansell s90210stay@aol.com

Boris Lyubovitsky BLyubovitsky@gmail.com

Education

The Washington, DC Chapter of AGA is Sponsoring 2 Hours of Free CPE for its Members!

The Chapter will participate in an audio conference, hosted by AGA National, on Wednesday, January 21 from 2:00 to 3:50 p.m. entitled, "How XBRL Can Enable Improved Financial and Performance Based Reporting."

The audio conference will be held at 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20420. Space is limited, so please register online at www.agadc.org **BY COB WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14**. A confirmation will be emailed to each registered participant. (Please note: In order to participate, you must attend in person.)

For further questions, please contact Rose Gaines at RoseM.Gaines@va.gov or 202-461-6104.

How XBRL Can Enable Improved Financial and Performance Based Reporting

With new data comes the opportunity to break old paradigms. In the third in a series of audio conferences on the AGA-sponsored research on Performance Based Management (PBM), participants report on the new perspectives brought about by integrated financial and non-financial information. PBM delivers what one pilot test participant calls "integrated awareness," the big picture information that decision-makers need to keep their organizations steering in the right strategic direction. It also provides the data managers need to detect and solve performance problems. All this, plus PBM shows taxpayers both the how and what of their return on investment in government.

To share their expertise and experiences in PBM reporting are Clifton A. Williams, CGFM, CPA, Partner, Grant Thornton LLP; and James Brimson, MS, founder of Activity Based Management Institute.

Please join us for two hours of lively discussion about this important and timely topic. In addition to the speakers' commentary, there will be approximately 20 minutes for Q & A so that the participants can ask the speakers questions and share their own experiences.

Learning Objectives:	Understand the benefits of a new approach to integrating financial and non-financial information, and the issues involved in implementing it
Prerequisite:	Familiarity with financial and performance based reporting
Advance Prep:	None required
CPE:	Two credits
Field of Study:	Accounting (Government)



AGA Sponsored Training

Internal Controls in the Federal Government— Understanding A-123 *January 15, 2009*

Course Objective

Gain a better understanding of the significance of OMB Circular A-123 and its requirements.

Course Description

This training is being hosted by the Washington, DC Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants. The course covers the following topics:

- ♦ GAO Standards for internal controls
 - ♦ OMB Circular A-123 requirements and reporting
 - ♦ Risk and control model
 - ♦ Assessment of internal controls
- Learning objective: gain compliance and increase organizational effectiveness.

CPE Credits: 8
Field of Study: Auditing (Governmental)
Format: Lecture, group discussion, and class examples
Length: 1 day (from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Instructor

David R. Hancox, Audit Director, Comptroller's Office, State of New York.

Location

The training will be held at Ernst & Young's office, 1101 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Metro Center is the closest Metro station.

Registration

AGA members: \$125

Non-members: \$150

Deadline for registration: January 9, 2009. Space is limited, so register early.

Visit www.agadc.org to register.

Suggested Attendees

Financial management professionals from the government and private sectors.



CGFM Exams

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



The Intensive Review Course will take place from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 16, and Tuesday, February 17, 2009. The CGFM Examinations will be offered by appointment only on February 18 and 19, 2009.

The cost of the course is only \$249 for qualified participants, and it offers 18 CPE hours. Special Bonus: the CGFM Examinations are offered at no cost to course attendees.

This is a special limited enrollment offer for those individuals who have already been studying for the CGFM Examinations and need extra reinforcement of the material. The Intensive Review Course is **not a substitute** for the three instructor-led training courses. On the contrary, it is designed as a supplement to previous preparation for the CGFM Examinations. Attending previous courses or studying using CGFM Study Guides before participating in this event is strongly encouraged. The cost of this course is not included in the NLC registration fee.

Registration

Registration: To participate in this event, individuals must:

1. Apply for the CGFM Program (submitting CGFM application form, fee and college transcript – see Eligibility section below).
2. Pre-register for this event by submitting the Intensive Review Course Registration Form and appropriate fee. Walk-ins will not be accepted.

The complete application for the CGFM Program must be submitted BEFORE or TOGETHER with the [Intensive Review Course Registration Form](#). Registrations for this event will not be confirmed until after the CGFM application is accepted.

Cancellations must be received by January 20, 2009; refunds will not be granted after this date.

Deadline: Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first-served basis. Space is limited, so we encourage you to sign up early. Registrations will not be accepted after **February 4, 2009**.

Location

The Intensive Review Course and the CGFM Examinations will be held in Alexandria, VA (near King Street Metro). The exact address will be provided to all registered attendees.

The facilities for this event are provided by Grant Thornton LLP



Eligibility

To attend the Intensive Review Course and/or take the CGFM Examinations participants must first apply and be accepted into the CGFM Program. Candidates need to submit the CGFM Program application form with \$85 application fee and a copy of a transcript from an accredited college or university. The transcript must show that a degree (bachelor's or higher) was awarded and list at least 24 credit hours of courses in financial management or related topics. Applicant's name and the name of the college or university must appear on all transcripts. Please see www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/start/ for more information.

In addition, those individuals who want to complete their CGFM at this event need to submit a Work Verification Form listing at least two years of professional-level government financial management experience.

Prior attendance of CGFM training course(s) or purchase of the CGFM Study Guides is not required but is strongly encouraged.

If you have already taken a CGFM Examination and did not pass, you must satisfy the waiting period before taking that CGFM Examinations at this event.

Materials

No materials will be provided at the Intensive Review Course. However, participants are encouraged to order CGFM Study Guides at least eight weeks before the course date. For more information on study guides visit www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/prepare/studyguide.aspx.

The cost of the study guides is not included in the price of the Intensive Review Course.

Examination Information

Three time slots are available for CGFM Examinations to be held February 18-19, 2009:

- 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- Noon – 3:00 p.m.
- 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.

The actual exam time is limited to 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Space is limited, so participants are encouraged to send in the registration form indicating their preference for an examination date and time as soon as possible ([Intensive Review Course Registration Form](#)). Some of the time slots may fill up and no longer be available. We will confirm your registration and indicate whether we are able to accommodate your request for the particular examination time slot(s).

CGFM Exams (Cont'd)

Individuals who want to take the CGFM Examinations at this event without attending the review course can do so by following the same registration procedures. The fee for taking the three CGFM Examinations is the same as the Intensive Review Course fee – see [Intensive Review Course Registration Form](#) for more details.

The CGFM Examinations are:

- Examination 1—Governmental Environment
- Examination 2— Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting
- Examination 3—Governmental Financial Management and Control

More detailed information on CGFM Examinations content can be found on www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/exams/.

The examination results will be available immediately.

Testing Procedures

You must be at the CGFM Examination registration desk at least 15 minutes prior to the testing time to check in. If you are not at the registration desk at the start of your examination time slot, we cannot guarantee your requested time slot.

Please bring a valid photo ID to the CGFM Examination registration desk—your ID must match the name you provide in the Intensive Review Course Registration Form and on the CGFM Program application form and must contain a photograph and a signature.

Personal belongings, including food, drink, papers, books, writing utensils, electronic and other organizers, cameras, cell phones, beepers, briefcases, bags, purses, pocketbooks and hats, may not be brought near the testing computer station and must be left in the designated area within the testing room. Scratch paper, a pen and a calculator will be provided.

For more information, please contact Crystal Vanison, Certification Program Coordinator via e-mail at cvanison@agacgfm.org or by phone at 800.AGA.7211, ext. 316.

Thank you!

Member Services

Hello Again from Member Services!!

Hello again from Member Services. We hope that you are finding time to relax after the Holiday season. In December we held a chapter happy hour at Old Ebbitt Grill. As with all of our events this year we had a great turnout! We hope that everyone enjoyed themselves! The new year is bringing more exciting events for our chapter. This month we will be celebrating the Chinese New Year at China Garden in Rosslyn. Please look for an email in the coming days with more information. On February 25th we will be hosting a combined event with the

Northern Virginia AGA chapter at the Washington Wizards game. Tickets are \$15 for members and \$35 for guests. Tickets are selling fast so please visit the following website for more information and to RSVP:

http://agadc.org/page.php?name=basketball_registration

Hope to see you all at one of our many events scheduled for the coming months!!!

Montgomery County AGA Events

01/21/09***FREE* AGA Audio Conference: How XBRL Can Enable Improved Financial and Performance Reporting****Event Description:**

Description: AGA is pleased to announce its latest audio conference on one of its important ongoing research projects that demonstrates the value of government financial and performance reporting.

Date and Time: This conference is scheduled on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 from 2:00 - 3:50 p.m. EST

Location and Cost: Clifton Gunderson, one of our chapter's esteemed corporate partners, has agreed to sponsor this event ***free of charge*** for our chapter members.

The conference will take place at Clifton Gunderson's corporate offices:

11710 Beltsville Drive, Suite 300

Calverton, MD 20705

Please contact Elizabeth Robinson to RSVP for this event.

Contact: [Elizabeth Robinson](#)

Phone: 301-931-2050

01/21/09**January Dinner Meeting****Event Description:**

Presentation: "Latest Security Vulnerabilities" by Jack Heyman, CPA, CISA, CGFM, CIPP, of Your Internal Controls.

CPEs: You will receive 1 CPE for attending this dinner meeting.

Community Service Activity: Please bring new or used toys to be provided to the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program.

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

Location: Hilton Hotel (formerly the Double Tree Inn) at 1750 Rockville Pike

Cost: \$30 per person - Checks made payable to "AGA".

RSVP: Please RSVP no later than COB on Monday, January 19th.

Contact: [Scott Turnbull](#)

Phone: 301-931-2050

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Calendar of Events — 2008/2009 Program Year

Month	Luncheons	Community Service	Member Service	Education	Early Careers	Membership	Awards	CEC Meetings
August			17-Aug-2008	20-Aug-2008				6-Aug-2008
			Washington Nationals Game: Pre-game Tailgate: 11:30 AM at RFK Stadium 1st Pitch: 1:35 PM	Audio Conference: Everything You Wanted to Know About Performance Management and Reporting But Were Afraid to Ask Time: 2-4 PM CPEs: 2				Veterans Administration Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
September	17-Sep-2008	17-Sept-2008		3-5 Sept-2008 10-12 Sept 2008	19-Sep-2008			3 Sep 2008
	Luncheon Time: 11:45 - 1:45 Speaker: Danny Werfel, OMB Location: D'Acqua Restaurant CPE: 1	American Cancer Society (Raffle) during the Luncheon		Training: CGFM CPEs: 48	"Explore DC Series" Jazz Location: Sculpture Garden Time: 5:30pm			Veterans Administration Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
				10-Sep-2008				
October				Audio Conference: Fraud Prevention and Detection Time: 2-4 PM CPEs: 2				
	14-Oct-2008	12-Oct-2008	4-Oct-2008	15-Oct-2008	Date: TBD	22-Oct-2008		8-Oct-2008
	Luncheon Time: 11:45am - 1:45pm Speaker and Location: Army Navy Club CPE: 1	Walk to D'Feet ALS® Constitution Gardens, Washington, DC	C&O Canal Tour and Lunch	Audio Conference: Results of AGA's Research on Performance Based Management Reporting Time: 2-4 PM CPEs: 2	Luncheon Speaker Series Location: GAO Building	Fall Membership Liaison Luncheon: The Value of Certifications Location: Veterans Administration		Veterans Administration Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
			23-Oct-2008		23-Oct-2008			
November				Haunted Tour of DC Location: 17th and I Exit of the Farragut West Metro Station Time: 7:30pm				
		14-Nov-2008	Date: TBD		18-Nov-2008			5-Nov-2008
		DC Chapter AGA's Food2Feed Thanksgiving Donation Old Post Office Pavilion, Washington, DC **Collection of donations are accepted until Nov. 14th**			Happy Hour Kickoff Location: ESPN Zone Time: 6:30pm			Veterans Administration Teleconference #: 1-800-767-1750 Access code: 71805 12:00 - 1:00 PM
December	10-Dec-2008	10-Dec-2008	15-Dec-2008	10-Dec-2008				
	Luncheon Time: 11:45 - 1:45 Speaker and Location: Mr. Stan Collender, Managing Director, Qorvis Communications @ Army Navy Club CPE: 1	Toys for Tots during the Luncheon	AGA DC Holiday Happy Hour Location: Old Ebbitt Grill, Back Bar Time: 4:30 - 6:00pm	Audio Conference: 21st Century Managers: New Mix of Skills and Education Levels Time: 2-4 PM CPEs: 2				

Calendar of Events — 2008/2009 Program Year

Month	Luncheons	Community Service	Member Service	Education	Early Careers	Membership	Awards	CEC Meetings
January	22-Jan-2008	22-Jan-2009	Date: TBD	15-Jan-2009	20-Jan-2009			
	Luncheon Time: 11:45 - 1:45 Speaker and Location: Ken Carfine, Treasury Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Army Navy Club CPE: 1	Make-a-Wish Foundation during the Luncheon	Chinese New Year	Training: Internal Controls in the Federal Government-- Understanding A-123 Location: Ernst & Young, Washington DC Time: 8AM - 4:30PM CPEs: 8	Happy Hour Location: Buffalo Billiards Dupont Time: 6:30 PM			
				21-Jan-2009				
				Audio Conference: How XBRL Can Enable Improved Financial and Performance Reporting Location: Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC Time: 2-4 PM CPEs: 2				
February	18-Feb-2009	Date: TBD	25-Feb-2009		Date: TBD			
	Luncheon Time: 11:45am - 1:45pm Speaker and Location: Mr. Michael S. Miles, Principal Advisor and Chief Executive of Variplan, Army Navy Club CPE: 1	Volunteer Tax Assistance Program - (Throughout the Month of February)	Wizards Game - Wizards vs. Philadelphia 76ers Location: Verizon Center, Washington, DC Time: 7pm		Lucky Strikes Event ***** Explore DC Series			
March	19-Mar-2009	19-Mar-2009	Dates: TBD		10-Mar-2009			
	Luncheon Time: 11:45 - 1:45 Speaker and Location: Army Navy Club CPE: 1	Dress for Success Suit Drive during the Luncheon	Post Financial Management Conference Happy Hour ***** Smithsonian Jazz Cafe		Luncheon Speaker Series Location: GAO Building			
					18-Mar-2009			
					Happy Hour Location: Chef Geoff's, Metro Center			
April	21-Apr-2009	Date: TBD	Date: TBD	8-Apr-2009	10-April-2008 17-April-2008	22-Apr-2009		
	Luncheon Time: 11:45 - 1:45 Speaker and Location: Clydes CPE: 1	DC Habitat for Humanity	Virginia Vineyards Tour (new vineyards)	Audio Conference: Auditing Time: 2-4 PM CPEs: 2	White House Tour	Spring Luncheon Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm Speaker and Location: TBD CPE: N/A		
May	20-May-2009	20-May-2009	Date: TBD	12 thru 13-May-2009	10-May-2009			
	Luncheon Time: 11:45 - 1:45 Speaker and Location: Army Navy Club CPE: 1	Cell Phones/Eyeglass Donation during the Luncheon	Botanical Gardens	Training: Annual Spring Conference Time: 8-4:30 PM CPEs: 15	US Capital Tour			
					19-May-2009			
					Happy Hour Location: Bar Louie, Chinatown			
June	16-Jun-2009	16-Jun-2009	Date: TBD		4-Jun-2009		6-Jun-2009	
	Luncheon Time: 11:45 - 1:45 Speaker and Location: TBD CPE: 1	So Others Might Eat (SOME) during the Luncheon	Nationals Game and Tailgate		Explore DC Location: Kennedy Center Millenium Stage		Awards Dinner Location: Hyatt Hotel, WDC Time: TBD	

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