



56<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY HISTORICAL RECORD  
OF THE AGA VIRGINIA PENINSULA CHAPTER  
1960-2016



September 2016

# **AGA Virginia Peninsula Chapter's Annual Historical Record**

## **Introduction**

The Virginia Peninsula Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) is pleased to present an updated annual history record of its 56<sup>th</sup> year as a chapter. The purpose of this document is to maintain and publish an annual history record of the Virginia Peninsula Chapter, highlighting notable achievements of our past, as we continue to advance governmental accountability into the future.

## **A Brief History of Our Chapter**



The Federal Government Accountants Association (FGAA) was founded on Sept. 14, 1950. On Sept. 8, 1960 the Virginia Peninsula Chapter of FGAA received charter No. 37, with Thomas E. Inman as president and 31 members. The charter was presented to the chapter during a ceremony on Oct. 1, 1960 by FGAA National President Raymond Einhorn. (Today we are known as chapter No. 57). Later, in May 1962, charter No. 43 goes to Tidewater in Norfolk with William H. Morris Jr. as its president. The Tidewater Chapter dissolved and it is not known if its members joined the Virginia Peninsula Chapter. In June 1975, FGAA changed its name to AGA. Today, of the 36 chapters chartered before our chapter, 23 have celebrated their 50th anniversary. Nationally, only 20 chapters are larger than our chapter, excluding the At-Large Chapter.

The chapter had 65 members in 1975 and today (2010) has 161 members. Most members in 1975 came from the federal sector such as Army, GAO, NAS, USAAA, Air Force, Navy and VA. Today, the mix is mainly federal (GAO, NASA, U.S. Coast Guard Finance Center, Navy, Air Force, DCAA and DoD IG) and local government (cities of Norfolk, VA Beach, Suffolk, Hampton, Chesapeake) and professional consulting firms (Savantage Solutions, Kearney & Co., Booz Allen Hamilton, and Deloitte) composing membership. In recent years, we've lost a number of our chapter leaders to promotions to the metropolitan DC area.

The Old Dominion University student chapter, known as AGA @ Old Dominion University, was chartered as Student Chapter No. 1 on April 17, 1997. This chapter is unique to AGA, as it is the only remaining student chapter. While the chapter is separate from the Virginia Peninsula chapter, they remain very close through its sponsor Dr. Doug Ziegenfuss. This chapter is for finance and accounting students attending ODU. The student chapter has both evening and daytime meetings to accommodate both traditional and non-traditional students via the Managerial Accounting and Auditing Club, where guest speakers make presentations about government and government accounting issues.

## **Chapter Mission**

To create value for our members and communities through the advancement of government accountability by: (1) participating in the future of governmental financial management through research and development, (2) ensuring continuity of quality government accountability professionals, and (3) serving our member communities through our time and service.

## **Our Golden Anniversary**

One of the most memorable highlights in our recent years was the commemoration of the chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **AGA Virginia Peninsula Chapter 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration September 23, 2010 Holiday Inn Executive Center, VA Beach**

***Welcome to the VA Peninsula  
Chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Celebration***



Master of Ceremonies  
(A Member Who Makes a Difference) - Joe Rutecki

#### **Program**

Introduction of Special Guests  
Invocation  
Dinner  
Highlights of Chapter History  
Guest speaker, AGA Executive Director Relmond Van Daniker

*Everyone is invited to stay around after the program for continued  
socializing*

#### **Introductions**

- AGA's Executive Director – Relmond Van Daniker
- AGA's National President – Lisa Casias
- AGA's RVP for the Mid-Atlantic – Paul Gerraty
- Past National Treasurers – Mary Peterman & Julie Bryant
- Longtime Member and Mr. Everything for AGA – Lee Ball
- President of Hampton Roads chapter of ASMC– Norma Canonizado
- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee – Joe Rutecki, Chris Rice, Melissa Saunders, Mark Morehouse, Cecelia Smith, Joaquin Liborio, Ellen Silvela, Kelly Stefanko
- Current VA Peninsula Chapter Board of Directors
- Past VA Peninsula Chapter Presidents

## Our Silver Anniversary

In 1985, the chapter celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, under the leadership of chapter president, Joe Stevens.

### *WELCOME TO VIRGINIA PENINSULA'S 25th ANNIVERSARY MEETING*

*Reaching this milestone is quite an honor for the chapter, and it signifies that our 33 founding members knew what they were doing when they brought AGA to Hampton Roads on Oct. 14, 1960. We are grateful to those individuals and to the many other members that have shared their time and expertise over the years to build and maintain a strong, professional organization.*

*Tonight's festivities are our way of honoring our founders, recognizing past accomplishments, and reaffirming our commitment to this chapter and our Association. In doing so, we want to thank each past and present member for their part in the chapter's success. Due to the quality of our members, we have had and continue to have an exemplary chapter. Let's build upon our outstanding tradition as we move toward our golden anniversary!*

#### *Guest Speaker*

*Ms. June Gibbs Brown*

*National President Association of Government Accountants*

#### *Entertainment*

*Don Baker at the keyboard*

#### *Cuisine*

*Roast Prime Rib of Beef or Flounder Stuffed with Crabmeat served with wine*

*Association of Government Accountants*

*Silver Anniversary Meeting*

*October 17, 1985*

*Fort Monroe Officers Club, Fort Monroe, Virginia*

## Our Charter Presentation

In 1960, the chapter was presented with its charter as a chapter of the Government Accountants Association.

### *Government Accountants Association*

*Virginia Peninsula Chapter*

*Charter Presentation Ceremonies*

*October 14, 1960*

*Charter presentation*

*Mr. Raymond Einhorn, FCAA President Presentation of membership certificates Mr. James*

*Thompson, FCAA Chairman - Chapters Committee*

### *CHARTER MEMBERS*

*Roland G. Adcock, Willard G. Bauer, Charles S. Borenstein, Woodley L. Chandler, Riley V. Clark Jr., Delavan C. Clos, John, P. Donovan, William N. Farinholt, Mary B. Gallagher, Leon Golden, Thomas T. Hamilton, Thomas E. Harmon III, Edward A. Howe, Thomas E. Inman, Virginia Kabrick, Robert E. Lee, Howard W. Martin, J.E. McCormack, R.E. McDaniel, Donald A. Norton, Andres G. Pagan, Robert L. Poole Jr., Richard L. Price Sr., Stephen E. Quinlan Jr., Woodrow Rasco, Walter E. Richie, Harry R. Seay, Lawrence G. Stewart, Frank P. Velano, Michael Wagner, Lawrence P. West, Walter B. Wolberg, Phillip Wrenn*

## **Virginia Peninsula Chapter Presidents**

### **1960s**

1961 – Thomas E. Inman (Deceased)  
1962 – W. N. Farinholt  
1963 – Edward A. Howe (Deceased)  
1964 – Eugene W. Fadely  
1965 – Donald A. Norton (Deceased)  
1966 – Harry P. Seay  
1967 – Joseph R. Struhar (Deceased)  
1968 – Harris Budoff (Deceased)  
1969 – Tom Lindsey and Bill Ferebee

### **1970s**

1970 – Bill Ferebee  
1971 – Paul F. Siceloff (Deceased)  
1971 – Donald A. Norton  
1972 – Behn C. Taylor  
1974 – Paul Latta  
1975 – Paul R. Allison and Ernest B. Elder (Deceased)  
1976 – Ernest B. Elder (Deceased)  
1977 – Warren D. Anderson (Deceased)  
1978 – James H. Ogiba  
1979 – Alberta L. Wagner

### **1980s**

1980 – Jimmy H. Wilson  
1981 – Warren D. Anderson (Deceased) and Donald C. Ingram (Deceased)  
1982 – Donald C. Ingram (Deceased)  
1983 – Edward Fisher  
1984 – Tom Sayre  
1985 – Andy Habina and Joe Stevens  
1986 – Joe Stevens  
1987 – Phil Wilde (Deceased)  
1988 – Sharon Horne  
1989 – Richard G. Payne

### **1990s**

1990 – Julie V. Bryant (now with the Northern Virginia Chapter)  
1991 – Fred Harrison  
1992 – Doug Sexton  
1993 – Chris Rice  
1994 – Pat Link  
1995 – Angela Womack – Gregg  
1996 – Dr. Jesse Hughes  
1997 – Renee Picot (Renee Gilman, CGFM, now in Richmond Chapter)  
1998 – Charles Parker  
1999 – Jose Watkins (Deceased) and Larry Reinkemeyer (now in Kansas City Chapter)

### **2000s**

2000 – Larry Reinkemeyer (now in Kansas City Chapter)  
2001 – Beckie Beale

2002 – Dave Schmitt  
2003 – Ron Ingram  
2004 – Janine Prybyla  
2005 – Mark Morehouse  
2006 – Mary Lechner (Mary Peterman)  
2007 – Joann Stevenson (now in Indianapolis Chapter) and Cecelia Smith  
2008 – Cecelia Smith  
2009 – Tanya Renica

### **2010s**

2010 – Donna Miller  
2011 – Brad Smith  
2012 – Curtis Joachim  
2013 – Ellen Silvela  
2014 – Melissa Saunders  
2015 – Jocelyn Leyeza  
2016 – Lance Poulter

### **Present and Future**

2017 – Raymond McGinley  
2018 – Tara Lambert

## **Milestones**

At present, the following members have reached the following membership milestones:

### **40 Years and Lifetime Member**

Mr. Joe B. Stevens (Became lifetime member June 2010)

*Lifetime Membership* is bestowed by AGA National upon individuals who have remained paid members for at least 40 consecutive years. This honor recognizes their life-long commitment to AGA. It is their commitment and determination that have made AGA the strong, vital organization it is today. As a token of their achievement, individuals are presented with a Lifetime Member certificate. As Lifetime Members, these individuals no longer pay AGA membership or chapter dues.

### **35 Years**

Mr. Lee T. Ball (He became a lifetime member in June 2013.)

### **30 Years**

Ms. Maria Elena Walters

Mr. Thomas E. Sayre

Mr. Michael A. Joseph

### **25 Years**

Mr. Julien C. Picot Jr.

Mr. Douglas C. Sexton Sr.

Ms. Sharon WatkinsHorne

Mr. Thomas A. Pantelides

Mr. Joseph A. Rutecki

Dr. Jesse W. Hughes

Mr. David A. Schmitt

Ms. Carol Arlene Jackson

### **20 Years**

Mr. Mark A. Morehouse

Ms. Clare Witt Britcher

Ms. Brenda M. Waterfield

The chapter has evolved with the times over the years. Meetings traditionally were held on the third Thursday of each month in a single location. The dinner meetings gradually became a mixture of dinner meetings and luncheons, but always with dynamic speakers, fantastic meals and excellent networking opportunities. Later, the meeting locations themselves were rotated among choice locations on both sides of the tunnel to accommodate more members. From 2004 to 2007, members could attend meetings for free and nonmembers could attend for a nominal fee. These changes resulted in greater attendance at meetings and more active members.

### **Well Known Meeting Speakers:**

**Mary Sigillo Barrac**, Belgium Dame, WWII Belgium Underground Leader

**Charles A. Bowsher**, Comptroller General of the United States, 1981-1996

**June Gibbs Brown**, CGFM, AGA National President 1985-1986, NASA Inspector General

**Susan Crawford**, Assistant Inspector General for Audit DoD

**Gene L. Dodaro**, Acting Comptroller General of the United States 2008

**Bobby A. Derrick**, CGFM, AGA National President 2004-2005

**Eleanor Hill**, DoD Inspector General

**Bob Lieberman**, Assistant Inspector General for Audit DoD

**Gene Reardon**, Assistant Inspector General for Audit DoD

**Harold L. Stugart**, AGA National President 1984-1985, Army Inspector General

**Richard Kusserow**, Inspector General, Health and Human Services

**Past AGA-ASMC Mini-PDC Speakers:**

**ADM Jonathan W. Greenert**, Vice Chief of Naval Operations (named CNO in 2011)

**Robert F. Hale**, CDFM, ASMC Executive Director, later Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and Chief Financial Officer

**Larry White**, CGFM, CPA, USCG Finance Center, Commander

**Bill D. Colvin**, NASA Inspector General

**Chapter Communications**

Chapter communications saw much change in the past decade. The chapter went from sending its newsletter by U.S. mail to e-mail. This change alone resulted in significant savings to the chapter. The chapter won a national award for its newsletter in 2010 and in 2013.

About 2002, Janine Prybyla started the chapter's first website. The website continually improves throughout the years and currently includes a home page with highlights of upcoming activities, pages listing chapter leaders with photos and contact information, local resources for chapter members interested in the CGFM and local community service activities, photos from various chapter events and information on training conferences. The website won a national award in 2013. It serves a key method of communication with members, particularly as more and more members have access to the internet through smart phones.

In 2011, the chapter started using an event management service, 123signup to manage registration and payments for its monthly meetings and training conferences. It also uses 123signup to provide members and potential members of notifications of monthly meetings and issuances of chapter newsletters.

Additionally, the chapter set up a United States Postal Service post office box providing a centralized collection of chapter mail. The chapter also set up an email address used by the current president and president-elect, and other chapter directors as needed, providing a common email address to reach chapter leaders and ensuring emails are addressed.

The following articles have been published by chapter members in *The Journal of Government Financial Management*

- ☐ Spring 1999 **Jesse Hughes** – Social Insurance Programs – Financial Liability or Not?
- ☐ Winter 2001 **Jesse Hughes** – Two Sets of Internal Governmental Financial Standards: One Common, Audited Data Base
- ☐ Winter 2002 **Leland Jordan** – Summary Results of the Financial Information Needs of Government Policy, Program Operations Officials Survey
- ☐ Spring 2003 **Leland Jordan** – Strategic Budgeting
- ☐ Fall 2004 **Jesse Hughes** (co-author) – Should Financial Reporting Standards be established for Budget Reports in the Public Sector?
- ☐ Fall 2007 **Jesse Hughes** – Transitioning From Current Basis to Full Accrual Basis
- ☐ Winter 2006 **Mary Lechner** – Citizen-Centric Government Case Study: Virginia Beach

**Job Fairs**

For a number of years, the chapter hosted a booth at college job fairs to give local college students an opportunity to learn more about careers in government financial management, the Certified Government Financial Management certification and local government employers.

**Successful Job Fair Hosted by VA Peninsula Chapter**

By: Patricia A. Link, VA Peninsula Chapter

On Tuesday, January 23, our chapter hosted the Second Annual Job Fair 2001 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center. Under the leadership of our Director of Education, Pat Link, we orchestrated a program designed to bring together federal, state and local government agencies and students from the area's colleges for an evening of



networking, interviewing, dining and fun. We had approximately 10 agencies participating such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA), Army Audit Agency (AAA), U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO), the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Department of Veterans Affairs-Office of the Inspector General. Students from Old Dominion University, Norfolk State University, Hampton University, Christopher Newport University, and William and Mary University attended the job fair in order to learn more about government service and to perhaps acquire a full-time position or an internship with an agency. As part of the program, dinner was served to the approximately 80 attendees. AGA National President Bill Broadus, CGFM, attended and spoke about working for a government agency and the benefits of membership in professional organizations. He also presented \$500 scholarships to previously selected students. Additionally, door prizes were given away throughout the evening. Overall, the event went very well and was another success for our chapter. Thanks to all the agencies who participated, the students who attended, and the committee that pulled it all together!

## **National Awards**

The chapter has won the following national awards:

- 2003 National Web Site Award
- 2004 Chapter Overall Growth, Group B – Janine Prybyla, President & Kelly Stefanko, Membership Chair
- 2005 Chapter Website Award, Group B, Honorable Mention- Janine Prybyla, Webmaster
- 2005 Chapter Education Award, Group B – Tanya Renica
- 2006 Chapter Overall Growth, Group B – Cecelia Smith, President, and Sheila Arrington, Membership Chair
- 2006 Community Service (Crystal) Award, Group B -- Joe Rutecki Community Service Chair
- 2007 Community Service (Crystal) Award, Group B – Joe Rutecki Community Service Chair
- 2007 Chapter Education Award, Group B – Donna Miller, Education Chair
- 2007 – Membership Award for “Reach the stars Membership Campaign”
- 2007 Chapter Service Award – Mary Lechner
- 2007 Chapter CGFM Award, Group B – Cecelia Smith, President
- 2007 National President Award – Mary Lechner
- 2008 Chapter Education Award, Group B – Cecelia Smith, President and Donna Miller, Education Chair
- 2008 International Achievement Award – Jesse Hughes
- 2009 Chapter Education Award, Group B – Tanya Renica, President
- 2010 National President Award – Kelly R. Stefanko, CGFM, CPA
- 2010 Chapter Education Award, Group B – Donna Miller, President
- 2010 Chapter CGFM Award, Group B – Steve Reagan
- 2010 Chapter Newsletter, Group B, Honorable Mention – Kelly Stefanko
- 2011 Chapter Education Award, Group B – Brad Smith, President
- 2011 Chapter Recruitment—Second Place
- 2011 Chapter Newsletter, Group B, Honorable Mention – Kelly Stefanko
- 2012 Chapter Newsletter, Group B, Honorable Mention – Kelly Stefanko
- 2013 Chapter CGFM Award, Group B – Steve Reagan
- 2013 Chapter Newsletter Award, Group B, First Place - Melanie Geesaman, CGFM and Crystal Graves
- 2013 Chapter Website Award, Group B, Honorable Mention – Denise Lentz, CGFM
- 2016 Robert W. King Memorial Award – Mary Peterman

### **Chapter members have won the national recruiting awards:**

2003 Among Top Recruiter for May-Nov 2003 (4 members) – Kelly Stefanko

2004 Among Top Recruiters (5 members) – Cecelia Smith

2006 Recruiter of the Year (30 members) – Sheila Arrington

2006 Top Sponsor/Membership Achievement (24 members) – Dr. Doug Ziegenfuss

2007 Recruiter of the Year (59 members) – Sheila Arrington

2010 Top Sponsor/Membership Achievement (37 members) – Ellen Silvela

### **National Scholarships**

Recipients of the full-time and part-time academic scholarships were rated on their academic success and achievements and their potential to make a significant contribution to government financial management.

2007 -- Mary Lechner, part-time graduate studies

2010 -- Brittany F. Renica, \$3,000 full-time scholarship

2011 – Ms Beale, \$3,000 full-time scholarship

2016 – Gloria Bradshaw, \$1,500 AGA Community Service Scholarship

**Other National Awards:**

2004 Grand Prize Drawing at PDC for three days, four nights and hotel in U.S. – Joaquin Liborio

**Chapter Awards**

The chapter has its own chapter awards program to recognize those who have made impactful contributions to the chapter and the progression of the government financial management in our community.

**Edward A. Howe Impact Award** to non-CEC member for outstanding participation in chapter activities and programs.

1999 – Cecelia Wagner  
2000 – Mark Morehouse  
2001 – George Morse  
2002 – Linda R. Jones  
2003 – Patricia Link, George Morse & Patricia Carroll  
2004 – Gail Artis  
2005 – Cecelia Smith  
2006 – Shelia A. Arrington  
2007 – Daphne Turner & Robert Epps  
2008 – Maria Walters  
2009 – Joseph Rutecki  
2010 – Joseph Rutecki  
2011 – Joseph Liborio  
2012 – Tia Godwin  
2013 – Regina Stradford  
2014 – Lance Poulter  
2016 – Gloria Bradshaw

**Chapter Membership Award** to member who recruits the most members to the chapter in any one year.

1999 – Charles Parker  
2000 – Charles Parker  
2001 – Charles Parker  
2002 – Patricia A. Link  
2003 – Helen M. Brooks  
2004 – Joaquin Liborio and Kelly Stefanko  
2005 – Cecelia Smith  
2006 – Cecelia Smith  
2007 – Shelia Arrington  
2008 – Gail Artis  
2009 – Ellen Silvela  
2010 – Ellen Silvela  
2011 – Cecelia Smith & Socorro Folkes  
2012 – Cecelia Smith  
2013 – Jocelyn Leyeza  
2014 – Kelly Stefanko  
2015 – Lushens McNamara  
2016 – Krystle Hagans

**Thomas E. Inman Award** recognizes exemplary support and participation in chapter and national AGA programs.

1999 – Renee Picot  
2000 – Renee Picot

2001 – Pat Link  
2002 – V. Malvern Saavedra  
2003 – Joseph Rutecki  
2004 – V. Malvern Saavedra  
2005 – Joseph Rutecki  
2006 -- V. Malvern Saavedra  
2007 – Mary Lechner  
2008 – Mark Morehouse  
2009 – Cecelia Smith  
2010 – Kelly Stefanko  
2011 – Ronald Ingram  
2012 – Brad Smith  
2013 – Stephen Reagan  
2014 – Curtis Joachim  
2015 – Kelly Stefanko  
2016 – Joy Leyeza

**Behn C. Taylor Outstanding Chapter Member Award** recognizes the chapter member who, through exemplary service and dedication, has contributed substantially to improving the operation of the Virginia Peninsula chapter and the AGA organization. This member exemplifies the highest ideals of AGA.

1999 – Susan Kowalewski  
2000 – Dave Schmitt  
2001 – Chris Rice  
2002 – Janine Prybyla  
2003 – Dave Schmitt  
2004 – Joe Rutecki  
2005 – JoAnn M. Stevenson  
2006 – Tanya Renica  
2007 – Donna Miller  
2008 – Joseph Rutecki  
2009 – Donna Miller and Allison Shoemaker  
2010 – Tanya Renica  
2011 – Joseph Rutecki  
2012 – Melissa A. Saunders  
2013 – Marcelito Sangalang  
2014 – Jocelyn Leyeza  
2015 – Dr. Douglas Ziegenfuss  
2016 – Kelly Stefanko

**Don Ingram Past-President's Award** recognizes a past president for his or her total service to the chapter and dedication to the principles of AGA.

1999 – Larry Reinkemeyer  
2000 – Larry Reinkemeyer  
2001 – Rebecca "Beckie" Beale  
2002 – David Schmitt  
2003 – Ron Ingram  
2015 – Ellen Silvela

**Agency Recognition Award** is presented to acknowledge an agency's contribution to chapter success over a period of time.

2005 – GAO, Norfolk, VA Office

2006 – USCG Finance Center  
2007 – City of Norfolk  
2008 – USCG Finance Center  
2009 – USCG Finance Center  
2010 – DCAA  
2011 – NAVFAC  
2012 – City of Norfolk  
2013 – USCG Finance Center  
2014 – USCG Finance Center  
2015 – USCG Finance Center  
2016 – NASA Langley Research Center

**Presidents Special Award** is generally given to the members of the Board of Directors and anyone else the President wishes to honor who have made significant contributions to the Chapter during the year.

2013 – Traneisha Bailey-Williams  
2014 – Ellen Silvela and Marc Sangalang  
2015 – Traneisha Bailey-Williams, Krystle Hagans, Anna Ashley, Melecia Lagarile, and Lance Poulter  
2016 – Autumn Palmateer, Melecia Lagarile, Raymond McGinley

#### **Other Honors**

##### **Member Who Made a Difference: Joseph A. Rutecki, CGFM**

*(AGA National distinction bestowed in its September 2010 Journal of Financial Management in honor of the organization's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary)*



AGA members often tell us they joined the Association or became active in a chapter because someone else reached out to them, and that made all the difference. When former Virginia Peninsula Chapter 2001 incoming president Dave Schmitt asked his good friend Joseph A. Rutecki, CGFM, to head up the chapter's Community Service Committee, Schmitt couldn't have known that many years later Rutecki would still be actively involved in the chapter's efforts to serve the local community. His many years of hard work led the chapter to nominate Rutecki as an AGA Member Who Made a Difference in the last decade.

During his 35-year career with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), Rutecki has been involved with many of the agency's community service efforts including area blood drives, food collections, recycling, and combined federal campaigns. So it was a natural transition for Rutecki to put those skills to work for the VA Peninsula Chapter. His career began in Washington, D.C. but he's been in GAO's Norfolk office since the late 1970's.

Rutecki originally joined AGA in 1984 when he had a young family and traveling quite a bit for GAO and wasn't able to give as much of his time to the organization. Rutecki and his wife Sandy have two children, Kate, now 25, and Alex, 22. However, as his children and career grew he was in a position to be much more active and he became a chapter officer.

He inherited the chapter's community service program from a member who was leaving the area and had the opportunity to make it his own. "I didn't have a roadmap, so to speak, of 'this is how we do it,'" Rutecki said of those early years. He was lucky, he said, to have as fellow chapter members many colleagues from GAO who were used to giving their time and talent to their local community. At the same time, the chapter was growing to include more state and local members, which also helped to build a robust community service effort.

"What I did recently, because I'm coming up on retirement and didn't want to leave our chapter

flat, is I got someone involved and groomed her for the Community Service Director role,” said Rutecki, a GAO senior defense analyst. “Then they transferred to Washington, so now I am in the second year of mentoring.”

In nominating Rutecki as a Member Who Made a Difference, Virginia Peninsula Chapter President Donna L. Miller, MSAC, wrote, “For eight of the last 10 years, Joe led the chapter's community service program as our director of community service and unselfishly expended countless hours of his time for our chapter and the community. Under his tenure and through his efforts, our chapter's community service has grown significantly and was selected in 2006 and 2007 by AGA national for its Group B Community Service Award.

“Under his direction and sustained efforts,” Miller continued, “we have been able to contribute \$10,000–\$15,000 in donations and services to area charities and the Hampton Roads community. Joe has also been a CGFM since 1996 and has received just about all of our other chapter awards, including the Thomas E. Inman Award for Exceptional Service, the Behn C. Taylor outstanding chapter member award, the Edward A. Howe Impact Award, and a few Presidents' Awards.”

Upon hearing that his chapter had nominated him as a Member Who Made a Difference, Rutecki said, “It was very humbling to be nominated because we have so many people who have given so much in the way of time and leadership. We've had some very strong leaders who have committed a lot of their time to our Virginia Peninsula Chapter.”

—Marie S. Force (May 2010)

#### **National Officers:**

Many chapter leaders have later become regional and national officers within AGA. The chapter has provided two National Presidents while named FGAA: **Edward A. Howe** in 1973 and **Behn C. Taylor** in 1976. **Dr. Jesse Hughes** has served on the AGA International Development Committee and the AGA Journal Editorial Board. Earlier members who served on the National Executive Committee include **Joe Stevens**, **Don Ingram**, **Paul Latta** and **Richard Payne**. Recently, the chapter was represented at the national level by **Mary Peterman** (formerly Mary Lechner) as National Treasurer in 2010 and National President 2013-2014 and **Kelly Stefanko** two terms as Senior Vice President (at-large). **Julie V. Bryant**, a past chapter president, later moved to the Northern Virginia Chapter and served as 2000-2001 National Treasurer. **Renee Gilman, CGFM**, served as the National Community Service Committee Chair during 2000-2001. Several members have served on national committees such as by-laws and awards. Additionally, members have served as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Vice President or a Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator. These include :Chris Rice 1996, Renee Picot (Gilman) 1998, Charles Parker 1999, Kelly Stefanko 2006, Janine Prybyla 2007, Mary Lechner (Peterman) 2008, Cecelia Smith 2010 and Mark Morehouse 2012.

#### **Virginia Peninsula Chapter Scholarship Recipients**



2003 - Jovandra Sanderline (\$175)

2003 – LaWanda Ann Johnson (\$175)

2003 – Sharnell Thomas (\$175)

2007 – Christopher M. O'Brien, Old Dominion University (\$500)

2007 – Kari L. Mcpherson, Christopher Newport University (\$500)

2008 – Kim O'Connell, The College of William & Mary for master's degree in accounting

2008 – Pamela D. Foster, Old Dominion University accounting student

2010 – Randy Pullins, Old Dominion University

2010 – Anna Marie W. Hawkins  
2011 – James Fiske, Old Dominion University  
2011 – Todd Vernon, Christopher Newport University  
2012 – Maxim Urinev, Old Dominion University  
2013 – Mary Davis, Old Dominion University and Amber Kauffman, Christopher Newport University  
2014 - Troy Constance, Old Dominion University and Rebecca Halsey, Christopher Newport University  
2015 – Amanda Newman, Old Dominion University (\$500)  
2016 – Susan Baker, Old Dominion University (\$500)

### **Chapter Recognition Program**

The chapter has been a platinum chapter since 2006 and was a gold level chapter for many years before. Chapter recognition points are earned for chapter leadership, meetings, education, community service, membership, awards, certification, communications and early careers. The recognition levels start at bronze, then silver, then gold, and finally platinum. Chapters at the gold or platinum are normally more active and provide a well-balanced program for its members.

Pre- 2004 All Star Chapter  
2004 Gold Status Chapter  
2005 Gold Status Chapter  
2006 Platinum Status Chapter  
2007 Platinum Status Chapter  
2008 Platinum Status Chapter  
2009 Platinum Status Chapter  
2010 Platinum Status Chapter  
2011 Platinum Status Chapter  
2012 Platinum Status Chapter  
2013 Platinum Status Chapter  
2014 Platinum Status Chapter  
2015 Platinum Status Chapter  
2016 Platinum Status Chapter

### **Community Service**

Community service has always been a cornerstone of the chapter. These activities have helped the chapter maintain visibility in the community. Countless volunteer hours and donations of cash, toiletries and inspiring smiles have made the lives of many less fortunate than ourselves better. Examples of the organizations the chapter has helped include: March of Dimes, Make-A- Wish, Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia, EDMARC, Union Mission, Equikids, Clean the Bay, Ronald McDonald House, Toys for Tots, Salvation Army and the Samaritan House.

Additionally, it has become a tradition during the 2 day training events, co-hosted with the AGA Richmond Chapter in the fall and the American Society of Military Comptrollers in the spring, for the hosting chapters to raise funds for a local charity through silent auction raffles with prize donations from local businesses and supplements of prizes from the chapters.

### **CGFM**

The chapter has seen many members become Certified Government Financial Managers (CGFM). At present there are approximately 90 CGFMs in the chapter. These members have demonstrated their knowledge of: (1) government environment, (2) government accounting, financial management and budgeting and (3) government financial management and control. Those certified have the potential to become leaders in the workplace and AGA. Also, chapter members hold 62 other professional certifications such as Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) and Certified

Fraud Examiner (CFE).

Our chapter's CGFM program efforts are also supported by our own chapter members having served on the AGA National Professional Certification Board and as Regional CGFM Coordinator.

## **Education**

Another cornerstone of the chapter is education. The chapter has offered a single CPE for chapter meetings and 14-16 CPEs at Professional Development Training (PDT) events. These CPEs go a long way toward meeting the 80 CPE two-year requirement for CGFMs in the chapter. The regional PDT is normally held near Colonial Williamsburg and is co-hosted with the AGA's Richmond Chapter. The Mini-PDT is co-hosted by the Hampton Roads ASMC chapter at the Chesapeake Convention Center. Most recently in the 2015-2016 program year, the chapter offered 37 CPEs.

The chapter has held joint meetings with other professional organizations from time to time such as the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Certified Internal Auditors, AICPA and others. These meetings have helped the chapter rise from a gold chapter to a platinum chapter. In addition, the chapter has held joint meetings with the Old Dominion University Managerial Accounting and Auditing Club, bringing professional speakers and topics to ODU accounting students. The chapter also begun incorporating AGA National's Audio Conference / Webinar training offerings into its own training program, where members are able to earn 2 hours of CPE for each session. Additional recognition points are earned for holding meetings with other professional organizations.

## **Memories from Past Chapter Presidents**

### **Thomas E. Inman (1960-1961)**

When reached by phone, Tom Inman's son said that his father, Past Chapter President Thomas E. Inman, passed away in April 2010. We noted that our chapter has an award named after his father, and the son was very pleased to hear that. He shared a story about his dad taking a transfer from San Antonio to Fort Monroe in 1957, and after moving his family across the country and showing up for his first day of work in Hampton, being told by his commanding officer not to get too comfortable, because Fort Monroe was slated to close! Tom Inman raised his family in the area and retired 18 years later in 1975. As we know, with Fort Monroe lasted another 37 or so years after!

### **Paul R. Allison (1975)**

I was an accountant with the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) at Fort Monroe during my tenure as chapter president of AGA in 1975. In January 1975, I became the Chief of Accounting with the 14th Finance Section, U.S. Army in Nuremburg, Germany. In 1976, I became an Internal Auditor with TRADOC at Fort Monroe. In 1977, I was the Chief of Internal Review with the Comptroller at Fort Belvoir, VA. In 1978, I became an Auditor with the Defense Audit Service, Department of Defense in Arlington, VA. In 1983 until my retirement in 1999, I was a Management Analyst with the Office of the Inspector General, DoD, in Arlington, VA.

AGA was an opportunity to meet and network with people in my chosen profession. I was willing to serve because I was serious about succeeding in my career and felt that AGA would afford me the opportunity to demonstrate some leadership qualities while I was in a very early stage of my working life. AGA did enhance my career in ways that are hard to prove in purely black and white ways. I believe future employers looked upon my service favorably and realized that I was determined to succeed. In addition, AGA allowed me to meet many fellow professionals whose experience and company I respected and enjoyed and in a few instances I formed some friendships that have survived to this day.



My tenure as AGA chapter president in 1975 was very limited as I accepted a job in Europe in the middle of my term. As a consequence, Ernie Elder was the president for most of the year, and I now have learned that Ernie is deceased. I do not have any documents or photos from my time as president, and my recollection of that time (now more than 35 years ago) is also limited. I regret that I have no recollection of any fellow officers/directors other than Ernie who I mentioned earlier.

### **Joe Stevens (1985 and 1986)**

At the time I served as president, I worked for the General Accounting Office's Norfolk Regional Office. I retired from GAO in January 1999. In retirement I have done some traveling and enjoyed watching my grandkids grow up. We spend a lot of time in Nags Head where we have a small condo. My greatest pleasure these days comes from reading and watching my grandson play soccer.

Serving as chapter president was certainly one of the highlights of my professional career. Working with leaders from other financial and audit organizations was exciting and helped sharpen those skills, which were required in my job at GAO. I got to know a lot of great people while involved with the chapter and I have many fond memories of these relationships. Over the years, I was fortunate to be involved in AGA activities at the national and chapter levels, which gave me a wonderful appreciation of the organization and its accomplishments.

J. P. Wilde was President-Elect and program director and Tom Sayre was a director and in charge of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program. Other directors included Don Ingram, Lee Ball, Joe Struhar and Paul Latta.

As president, my main emphasis focused on getting members and potential members to attend meetings. At that time the chapter had about 110 members and our meetings were held at the Fort Monroe Officer's Club. Though the efforts of the directors and other key members, we were able to average over 40 participants at each meeting. The highlight of my second year was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, which was a gala event attended by about 100 members and guests. The speaker was the National President June Brown (DOD IG).

Members in 1986 included Andy Habina, Joe Stevens, Tom Sayre, James Ogiba, Joe Struher, Lee Ball, and Edward Howe.

### **1985-1986 Chapter Officers:**

President.....	Andy Habina & Joe Stevens
President-Elect .....	Joe Stevens
Immediate Past President .....	Tom Sayre
James Ogiba	
Joe Struher	
Lee Ball	
Edward Howe	

### **Richard Payne (1988-1989)**



I was chapter president while employed by the U.S. Government Accountability Office. Afterward, I served as Regional Vice President and a member of AGA's National Executive Committee. I retired from GAO as Assistant Director for Defense Analysis in 2005. After retirement, I spent four years as Volunteer Tax Counselor for AARP's tax assistance programs in Chesapeake, and more recently, Charlottesville, VA. I moved to Palmyra, VA, in 2009 and am enjoying a new job as Grandpa. I am also a member of Fluvanna County's

Leadership Training Committee. Marilyn and I have been traveling to Alaska, Glacier National Park and elsewhere while enjoying life.

I enjoyed my years in AGA and particularly the years leading up to and following my years as chapter president. AGA's monthly meetings and seminars provided wonderful professional development. The various leadership roles I held in our chapter, regionally and nationally were tremendous opportunities to network with others and employ the skills that aided in my career development. I was glad to continue the 10-year tradition whereby the chapter achieved the maximum number of chapter participation points. We delivered monthly training, two seminars and joint meetings with other local professional financial organizations, such as the American Society of Military Comptrollers.

#### **Julie Bryant (1989-1990)**



#### **Chapter Officers (1989-1990)**

President ..... Julie Bryant  
President-Elect..... Fred Harrison  
Immediate Past President .....Richard G. Payne  
Julie V. Bryant

#### **Fred Harrison (1990-1991)**



At the time of my presidency, I worked for GAO, Norfolk Field Office. I completed my career with GAO in 2007. After retiring, I have been involved in independent consultant work and working as an independent contact investigator for CACI. I have also played a lot more golf and my wife and I have traveled a lot more.

I was involved with AGA to further the standards of financial management and accountability in the federal government. AGA also allowed me an avenue to network with professionals with a similar interest. Being a chapter president for AGA did add a credible line item on my resume.

During my year as presidency, the board was all great people, but I cannot recall the exact individual or their roles so I will not guess. Highlights of my year as president were the two great seminars we put on and national recognitions the chapter received (although I do not recall the exact award we received).

I'm hoping to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in Virginia Beach September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **Chris Rice (1992-1993)**



I was working for GAO then and now as part of our Norfolk Field Office. I had the privilege to serve as a Director (At Large) for ten additional years after finishing my year as Chapter President for the 1992-1993 program year. I also served as the East Regional Vice President for the 1995-1996 program year.

My 25 plus years in the AGA Virginia Peninsula Chapter have been a wonderful experience and provided many opportunities to serve in various positions such chairing multiple training conferences, serving as Director of Education, working with many extremely fun and talented people, and all of this really prepared me for my current position as Executive Director of the Mid Atlantic

Intergovernmental Audit Forum.

Several key members of the Executive Board during my term included:

Pat Link .....	President Elect
Doug Sexton	Immediate Past President
Ron Kaufman .....	Treasurer
Malvern Saavedra .....	Secretary and Newsletter Editor
Fred Harrison .....	Director of By-Laws
Michael Joseph .....	Director of Education
Dr. Jesse Hughes .....	Director of Research

We held two well-attended educational conferences and generally averaged about 50 attendees for our monthly meeting which was quite good for back then. One funny story was when several of us were around the podium getting ready to ask everyone to sit down for the meal and speaker following our happy hour at one meeting. We were laughing and telling stories not knowing that the podium microphone was already on until Brad Simpson came forward to warn me! Better late than never!

I would not miss the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting for the world as it will be great seeing everyone again and retelling many of our old stories!

#### **Angela Womack-Gregg (1994-1995)**

I am now employed with DHS, C4IT Service Center, performing internal audits and property inspections. I completed a doctoral degree, moved into internal reviews and have become proficient at property and inventory inspections. I enjoyed the AGA family and the learning aspects of the organization. I have great contacts that I can call upon for the latest and greatest information and data. The one item that sticks out is that during my tenure as president we had the highest recognition for community service, the awareness that we brought to AGA members in getting involved and volunteering was at a peak during that era of the chapter's history. Chapter officers were Tammy Cherry, Chris Rice, Pat Link, Renee Picot, Phyliss Ingram and Dr. Jesse Hughes.

#### **Dr. Jesse Hughes (1995-1996)**



When I was president of the local chapter in 1996, I was the Associate Dean of the College of Business and Administration at Old Dominion University. I retired from the university in 1998 and have been traveling around the world since then helping other countries improve their financial management systems. Thus far, I have assisted 20 countries in each of the major continents.

Prior to becoming involved with the local chapter, I helped establish AGA chapters in California, Colorado and South Carolina. My involvement with AGA has given me a great opportunity to stay current in the latest technology and to keep up to date on managerial improvements throughout government. I can only hope that other AGA members take advantage of these opportunities as well.

#### **Renee Picot (1996-1997)**



### Chapter Officers (1996-1997)

President.....	Renee Picot
President-Elect .....	Charles Parker
Immediate Past President.....	Dr. Jesse Hughes

### Ron Ingram (2002-2003)



I worked for the U.S. Army Audit Agency during my presidential year. I still work for the agency. When I became chapter president I was an AGA member, but was not actively and regularly attending meetings. I had never served on the chapter council or any position within the chapter. Late in the program year the President-Elect, who also worked for the agency, accepted a promotion and moved out of the area. Then-President Dave Schmitt was completing his year and wanted relief. He tried to recruit someone to assume the position without success. It was coming to the point of either someone had to take over or the chapter could disband. In a moment of weakness, I accepted. I was truly unprepared for the challenges

of the position and the chapter (and I) would not have survived without great help, advice and knowledge of great people like Mark Morehouse, Joe Rutecki, Chris Rice, Janine Prybyla and many others.

Unfortunately, I can't remember all the CEC members. But I know Janine Prybyla was President-Elect, Joe Rutecki handled community service. Mark Morehouse was a big help. The highlight of the year has to be that the chapter survived me. Our meetings were mostly held at the Holiday Inn off Newtown Road in Virginia Beach. The attendance was usually not very large.

### Chapter Officers (2002-2003)

President .....	Ron Ingram
President-Elect.....	Janine Prybyla
Immediate Past President.....	Dave Schmitt
Chapter Recognition.....	Mark Morehouse

### Janine Prybyla (2003-2004)



Since being the chapter president, I served as AGA Mid-Atlantic Region RVP 2005-2006 (I think!). I continue to work at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. AGA was a great way to network with others throughout the Hampton Roads area, learn about various topics (and obtain CPEs) and socialize outside of work with others within my agency. I was willing to be involved as a chapter leader because of all of the dedicated people on the board and the membership that supported all of the events and made

them a success. My participation as chapter president did enhance my career on various levels. It showed my willingness to participate in an extracurricular activity that supports the accountability profession, demonstrated professional development in terms of leadership, and also allowed me to practice my public speaking skills. The 2003-2004 program year was an extremely exciting and successful year for the Virginia Peninsula Chapter. For example, the Old Dominion University Student Chapter has continued to grow. Additionally, we once again presented three \$750 AGA scholarships to top-level governmental accounting students at three local universities. This has been a great success for the last 15 years and the scholarship amount has grown from \$50 to the current \$750 level. We also had one social event, various community service events, and awarded almost 5,000 continuing professional education (CPE) credits through our educational seminars and monthly meetings.

### Educational Seminars

The Virginia Peninsula Chapter met monthly from September through June. Some of the more interesting topics included: Current Issues Facing the Accounting Profession; A Taste of Local Government Auditing; Transforming Government with Technology; Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003; and The Ethical Dilemma.

During this program year, the Virginia Peninsula Chapter also presented three Professional Development Seminars. In November, we conducted our Eighth Annual Mid-Atlantic Professional Development Conference in conjunction with AGA's Richmond Chapter. This event was held at the Williamsburg Hospitality House and Conference Center in the historic section of Williamsburg and was well attended and received very high scores from the attendees. The attendees also received 15 CPEs. In March, we co-sponsored our Spring Seminar with the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) and awarded 16 CPEs to all attendees for this two-day seminar. Our theme was "Taking Accountability to a Higher Level." Additionally, in May, we co-sponsored the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Williamsburg Fraud Examiner Conference with the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and Institute of Internal Auditors. This 2-day seminar provided an opportunity to earn another 16 CPEs.

### Community Service

The Virginia Peninsula Chapter donated \$1000 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation that was matched by AGA National, \$500 to the Old Dominion University Accounting Department, \$250 to the EquiKids Foundation for Disabled Children, \$1,048 for the March of Dimes Foundation, and \$100 to the Southeastern Virginia Food Bank. Our members also filled about 200 Christmas stockings for the Salvation Army to distribute to needy children in the area. Further, at our January Scholarship Night, we presented three \$750 scholarships to students at area universities and provided them with AGA memberships paid for by our chapter. We also collected and distributed toiletry products to the Samaritan House for homeless and battered women and children. Finally, in June several members participated in the 16th annual Clean the Bay day and spent several hours cleaning the Chesapeake Bay of trash and debris.

### National

During 2003-2004, Patricia Link served as the Chair of the AGA National Bylaws Committee. Fred Harrison served as the Regional Coordinator for Chapter Assistance and Development.

At AGA's June 2004 Professional Conference & Exposition held in Washington D.C., the Virginia Peninsula Chapter received a Gold Award once again. The Chapter experienced another sizable increase in our membership during the 2003-2004 program year and also received an award recognizing the chapter with highest overall membership growth for its region. The chapter also received Honorable Mention for its chapter website.

The Chapter earned almost \$72 from selling Entertainment Books and also donated three free books to be raffle prizes for our two seminars.

### **Chapter Officers (2003-2004)**

President .....	Janine Prybyla
President-Elect .....	Mark Morehouse
Past President/Director of Chapter Recognition .....	Ron Ingram
Treasurer .....	V. Malvern Saavedra
Secretary .....	Janine Cantin
Director of Bylaws .....	Fred Harrison
Director of Meetings/Publicity .....	Patricia Albritton
Director of Membership .....	Kelly Stefanko
Director of Education .....	Joaquin Liborio
Director of Newsletter .....	Leslie Harmonson
Director of Research .....	Doug Ziegenfuss

Director at Large (CGFM) .....	Doug Sexton
Director at Large (Social Events).....	Chris Rice
Director at Large (Community Service) .....	Joe Rutecki
Director at Large .....	Richard Payne
Director at Large .....	Dave Schmitt
Director at Large .....	Michael Joseph

### Mark Morehouse (2004-2005)



My year as chapter president was a personal growth experience for this basically shy accountant. My employer at the time, as now, was the Military Sealift Command (MSC) with the U.S. Navy. Since '05 I have served the local chapter through assisting Ron Ingram with chapter recognition and small projects here and there while serving as a director-at-large. Additionally, I served as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator for Certification for two and half years. Before serving as president I was the chapter recognition director. For the past several years, I have been a dual member of the Cincinnati Chapter. Before moving to MSC in 1996, I was employed at the Naval Avionics Center in Indianapolis. While there I was a member of the Indianapolis chapter, where I served in various positions over a span of nine years such as education committee, publicity chair, meeting arrangements chair, community service chair and director-at-large. This chapter was rather large and our meetings normally had large turnouts.

Serving as chapter president does something to you personally. While you are a chapter member and you do not own the chapter, the chapter becomes part of you because of your devotion and resources (time, emotion and funds) to make your year successful. My association with AGA helped me in my career progression from GS-07 to GS-12 while at the Naval Avionics Center where I served as auditor, management analyst and administrative officer. My networking skills were enhanced during my year as chapter president and yes, I do think these skills helped me become a better accountant.

### Chapter Officers (2004-2005)

President .....	Mark Morehouse
President-Elect & Director of Awards .....	Mary Lechner
Past-President & Webmaster.....	Janine Prybyla
Treasurer .....	V. Malvern Saavedra
Secretary .....	Janine Cantin
Director at Large (By-Laws) .....	Fred Harrison
Director at Large & Regional Vice President-Elect.....	Kelly Stefanko
Director at Large .....	Michael Joseph
Director at Large .....	Dave Schmitt
Director at Large (Social Events).....	Chris Rice
Director at Large .....	Richard Payne
Director of Membership .....	Kim Hehe
Director of Community Service.....	Joe Rutecki
Director of Chapter Recognition.....	Ron Ingram
Director of Education .....	Helen Brooks
Director of Meetings/Publicity.....	JoAnn Stevenson
Director of Research.....	Dr. Ziegenfuss
Director at Large .....	Charles Pittman

During the 2004-2005 program year, membership was around 200. Meetings normally had 40 to 60



members attend. At the time we experienced some attendance growth. We had several notable speakers during the year. Bobby Derrick as AGA National President spoke at our Career Fair meeting in October. I had known Bobby from my years at the Indianapolis chapter. He used to attend the pre-meetings we had each month. At the May meeting Mary Sigillo Barrac, a Belgium Dame, spoke about her experiences in the Belgium Underground during WWII. She made a very dramatic patriotic speech. We had a large turnout at this meeting.

(Mark Morehouse remains an active member of this chapter today, recently spotlighted for his volunteerism by AGA National President Lisa Casias in her Topics column. He was a member of the chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary planning committee).

### Mary Lechner (2005-2006)



Since my year of presidency I have gone on to serve AGA at the National level, first as RVP of the MidAtlantic Region and I just concluded my year as AGA National Treasurer. I will serve one more year on the National Executive Committee. Professionally I changed positions, and am now a Vice President for Savantage Solutions. Personally, I have my dream "farm" in NC, just south of the VA border which I share with my best friend, my kids, 5 dogs, 4 cats, 2 horses, 2 goats and a bunny rabbit ☐

Being our chapter president was an honor and privilege and I think one of the toughest "jobs" in the AGA governance structure including National level positions. I gained great perspective about how AGA really touches its membership – most of which happens at the local chapter level and how we can better help our members and our member organizations get the biggest bang for the buck out of their AGA Membership. Chapter presidency DEFINITELY enhanced my career opportunities ... its hard work but the opportunity to network with government professionals well above my pay grade and outside the area, gave me exposure to opportunities I would not have had otherwise.

My year was the chapter's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. We achieved Platinum chapter status for the first time! We got the Governor of Virginia to declare March CGFM month. ... for the first time. We had RECORD attendance at meetings and conferences and a profitable year due to sponsorship focus. Many chapter level awards including Community Service.

*Being full of energy and ideas, Mary's year as chapter president was an exciting and ambitious one. Plans included monthly meeting themes, an invitation to Governor Warner to accept an award from the chapter, "get 5" membership campaign, commercial sponsors, and succession planning for each position. Many VA Peninsula chapter conference goers will remember Mary's pledge...and later delivery...to wear a diaper if the fundraising goal for March of Dimes was achieved.*

The spring joint conference with ASMC included the following speakers and topics:

- ☐☐ Mr. Tom Allen, newly appointed Chairman, Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) and former chairman, Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB)
- ☐☐ COL(R) Dave Berg, "Comptrollership Training at Syracuse University"
- ☐☐ Dr. C.J. McNair, USCG Academy "LEAN Management – Taking the Waste Out"
- ☐☐ Dr. Douglas Ziegenfuss, ODU "2006 Required Virginia Ethics CPE"
- ☐☐ Ms. Julie Bryant, CGFM, CPA, AGA National Office, "Measuring What You Manage"
- ☐☐ COL(R) Dave Weinberg "Taking Care of People"
- ☐☐ Mr. Dave McDermott, DFAS Client Executive for Navy and Marine Corps, "Process Management and Quality"
- ☐☐ LCDR Karen Somers, Navy Legal Services Officer, "Leadership"
- ☐☐ Ms. Christine Bacon, Navy Fleet and Family Support Center, "Motivation and Mentoring"

- ☐ Mr. John Choplinsky, Deputy Comptroller, Fleet Forces Command, "Financial Reporting"
- ☐ Ms. Melanie Thomas Armstrong, Director, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, "Internal Control Documentation Requirements"
- ☐ Mr. Ken Mason, Mason and Associates

### **Chapter Officers (2005-2006) *Disclaimer – some of these are guesses!***

Chapter President .....	Mary (Lechner) Peterman
Chapter President Elect.....	JoAnne Stevenson
Director of Awards.....	Cecelia Smith
Treasurer .....	V. Malvern Saavedra
Director of Membership.....	Sheila Arrington
Director of Research, Early Careers and Academic Affairs.....	Doug Ziegenfuss
Director of Chapter Recognition.....	Ronald Ingram
Director of Newsletter.....	Virginia DuBois
Director of Community Service .....	Joe Rutecki
Director of Professional Certifications.....	Steve Reagan
Director at Large .....	Kelly Stefanko
Director at Large .....	Michael Joseph
Director at Large .....	Mark Morehouse

### **JoAnn Stevenson (2006)**



At the time of my chapter presidency, I was with the Defense Finance & Accounting Service-Norfolk. However, with over twenty-five years of extensive and progressive federal experience in accounting, customer service, training, supervision, and management, due to BRAC, I journey to and accepted an Accountant position with Defense Finance and Accounting Service-Indianapolis. My new position is in the Strategic Business Management Office, Financial Management Center of Excellence, Shared Services Division, where I participated in coordinating, designing, revising, and maintaining Microsoft Access Database used for storing, updating, monitoring, and managing systems functional requirements.

Currently I am providing professional accounting systems research, analysis, and consultation services for Enterprise Resource Planning programs. I am responsible for designing, testing, analyzing, implementing, and maintaining Department of Defense (DoD) accounting, finance, and reporting systems requirements.

The moment I attended my very first meeting I was excuse me, hooked. You see I love serving and the professionalism of the organization was overwhelming. The VA Peninsula chapter members were very open to me on my first visit and I acquired a mentor (Mark Morehouse) all in the first visit.

My first position as Director of Meetings/Publicity continued to expose me to a commitment of volunteering, education and networking opportunities. I believe networking is a great reason that AGA and other professional organizations are beneficial to the workforce. Networking is more than just the luncheons, but a good place to start. Also, attending local and national professional development conferences, working on committees and volunteering with community service events are additional opportunities to meet others within and outside our own agency. To-date, I have the most up-ward respect for Joe Rutecki and I'll call it his "community service events" because, he worked that program like a champ. I could hardly keep up with him and his dedication during my first year as a member. And today, the VA Peninsula Chapter has the best community service program. By the time I was elected president, Joe's program was one of the first and easiest task to incorporate into my program for the year! Thanks Joel!

Daily, I encourage my colleagues to join the AGA and immediately get involve by volunteering. I



explain volunteering offers you the opportunity to meet new people, learn different ways to accomplish tasks, feel a sense of accomplishment, and sometimes turn lives around. It doesn't have to be a full time endeavor; a few hours a day or week will do. The rewards are numerous and your time and effort can make a difference to your community and organization.

It was an honor and privilege to lead this chapter and worked with generous members who volunteered to serve on the Chapter Executive Committee. Being a chapter president, I was entrusted immediately to lead in my current position, sit upon review panels for new positions and step in to assist with my new chapter who felt honored to have me on board when I arrived in Indianapolis.

### Chapter Officers (2006-2007)

President .....	JoAnn Stevenson
President Elect (Director of Awards) .....	Cecelia Smith
Treasurer.....	Tanya Renica
Secretary .....	Valeria Ward
Director of By-Laws .....	Darcea Johnson
Director of Education.....	Helen Brooks
Director of Meetings/Publicity.....	Ellie Cain
Director of Membership.....	Sheila Arrington
Director of Research, Early Careers and Academic Affairs.....	Doug Ziegenfuss
Director of Chapter Recognition.....	Ronald Ingram
Director of Newsletter.....	Virginia DuBois
Director of Community Service .....	Joe Rutecki
Director of Professional Certifications.....	Steve Reagan
Director at Large .....	Kelly Stefanko
Director at Large .....	Michael Joseph
Director at Large .....	Mark Morehouse
Director at Large/RVP Elect/Webmaster .....	Mary Lechner
RVP .....	Janine Prybyla (elected by AGA National)

My first memory on becoming President of the Virginia Peninsula Chapter was receiving my official "Congratulations" letter June 29, 2006 from the AGA National President (Jeffrey S. Hart) along with an AGA lapel pin. Following that inspiring kick off by the National President, were two great chapter meetings. We had 49 members attend in October and 74 in November! The growing meeting attendance was very encouraging.



As president, I got another opportunity to attend two great events which highlighted my belief in volunteering: Old Dominion University's first Accounting job fair (September 21, 2006) and Old Dominion University's Department of Accounting 5k run and walk. At left, yours truly, with Ms. Carolyn Heggins of the Virginia Beach Department of Public Health-Dental.



At left are Gail Artis and I representing our chapter at the job fair. This was a great opportunity for us to meet ODU's accounting students, alumni, private firms and other government agencies who recruited for internship, co-op and permanent employment opportunities, as well as introduce younger accounting students to our organization. Gail Artis, Kelly Stefanko, Dr. Ziegenfuss, ODU's AGA students, and yours truly also attended a luncheon with the accounting faculty.

Last but not least, receiving the AGA Chapter Recognition Award in Nashville, TN was the best memory of all.

### **Cecelia Smith (2007-2008)**



At the time of my presidency and currently, I work at NASA Langley. Since my presidency, I have become a part of the AGA National Team. I served as the Regional Vice-President for the Mid-Atlantic Region and am a member of the National Awards Committee.

Being chapter president of AGA was very instrumental in enhancing my leadership skills and presentation skills. It gave me the opportunity to lead an organization, which was great experience that I could use in my day to day job. The VA Peninsula chapter was an exciting chapter to lead as we had a great Chapter Executive Board to work with. This made the job of president so much easier, knowing you had a great team to depend on.

I received an RVP Silver level award at the PDC in Orlando, FL in 2010. The Deputy CFO (my boss) attended and sent an email to the entire OCFO community. It was also announced on an Agency wide telecon with all of the NASA centers.

Highlights of my year include having attendance of around 70 members attending monthly luncheons, the chapter winning platinum status at the PDC, and the chapter's awards for CGFM, Community Service, Education, Membership and New Member Growth

*(Note: Cecelia stepped in as president early, completing the 2006-2007 year, when JoAnn Stevenson's new position took her to Indianapolis. Cecelia remains active in the chapter today, serving as part of the chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee.)*

Chapter Officers (2007-2008)

### **Tanya Renica (2008-2009)**



### **Chapter Officers (2008-2009)**

President .....	Tanya Renica
President-Elect.....	Donna Miller
Treasurer.....	William Renica
Secretary .....	Valerie Ward
Education .....	Stephanie Mandel (formerly Ruben)

Professional Certifications .....	Steve Reagan
Newsletter .....	Helen Brooks
Chapter recognition.....	Ron Ingram
Meetings and publicity .....	Darcea Johnson
Research, Early Careers, and Academic Affairs .....	Dr. Doug Ziegenfuss
Community Service.....	LaToya King
Membership .....	Darren Padilla
Bylaws .....	Brad Smith
Webmaster.....	Lissa Jordin
Director at large .....	Janine Prybyla
Director at large .....	Kelly Stefanko
Director at large .....	Mark Morehouse
Director at large .....	Michael Joseph
Director at large .....	Mary Lechner
RVP - ELECTED BY AGA NATIONAL.....	Cecelia Smith

#### **Donna Miller (2009-2010)**



#### **Chapter Officers (2009-2010)**

President .....	Donna Miller
President Elect.....	Bradford Smith
Immediate Past President.....	Tanya Renica
Treasurer .....	Curtis P. Joachim, CPA, MBA
Secretary .....	Valarie Ward
By-Laws.....	Maria Walters, CGFM
Education .....	J. David Sweeney, PPM
Meetings/Publicity.....	Darcea Johnson
Membership.....	Ellen Silvela
Research, Early Careers and Academic Affairs.....	Doug Ziegenfuss
Chapter Recognition .....	Ron Ingram
Newsletter .....	Kelly Stefanko, CGFM
Community Service .....	Helen Brooks
Professional Certifications .....	Steve Reagan
Webmaster.....	Lissa Jordin
At-Large Director Regional Vice President-Mid Atlantic Region.....	Cecelia Smith
At-Large Director AGA National Treasurer.....	Mary Lechner, CGFM, CPA
At-Large Director .....	Michael Joseph, CGFM
At-Large Director.....	Mark Morehouse, CGFM

#### **Bradford Smith (2010-2011)**



At the time of my presidency and currently, I work for the City of Norfolk. Being chapter president was a very rewarding experience, and I was honored and count it a privilege to have been able to serve. As President, I was able to improve my leadership skills as well as increase my network of colleagues. I am truly glad I was able to have this experience. Not only from the perspective of working with some

amazing people but the friendships that were established. I have to give credit to Kelly Stefanko who encouraged me and was one of my biggest supporters during my term as president.

I would have to say the biggest highlight of my year was our chapter celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. The anniversary committee did an amazing job in coordinating this event, thank you Kelly Stefanko for spearheading this endeavor. Our guest speaker was the Executive Director of AGA and also in attendance was the National President. As I was told, having both of these distinguished individuals at a local chapter event was a rarity. Other highlights included the chapter being recognized at the PDC in Orlando, FL in 2011. The Chapter, once again earned Platinum Status, won the Education Award, earned 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Membership Recruitment and Honorable Mention for our newsletter.

The chapter also performed many community service projects which is something that I really enjoyed. Some of these activities included: Coats for Kids, Toys for Tots, March of Dimes Walk America, Clean the Bay, and Equids Therapeutic riding.

### **2010-2011 Chapter Officers**

President.....	Bradford Smith
President-Elect .....	Curtis Joachim
Immediate Past President .....	Donna Miller
Treasurer.....	Ellen Silvela
Secretary.....	Valerie Ward
By-Laws.....	Joy Leyeza
Education .....	Dave Sweeney
Meetings/Publicity.....	Melissa Saunders
Membership .....	Wanda Witherspoon
Research, Early Careers .....	Doug Ziegenfuss
Chapter Recognition .....	Ron Ingram
Newsletter .....	Kelly Stefanko
Community Service.....	Helen Brooks
Professional Certification.....	Steve Reagan
Webmaster.....	Clay Griffin
Emerging Leaders.....	Allison Shoemaker

### **Curtis Joachim (2011-2012)**



Mr. Joachim is the Director of The Joachim Group CPAs & Consultants, LLC, a full service accounting firm Headquartered in Chesapeake, Virginia. He has over 25 years of accounting, auditing and financial management experience, including 10 years service as a United States Marine where he participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Gulf war. Prior to founding The Joachim Group, he spent 8 years as an auditor with the U.S. Army Audit Agency, where he conducted performance and compliance audits on various Army Programs in the United States and around the world, including locations in Germany, Italy, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Kuwait. He has been the Managing Director of the Joachim Group CPAs for 8 years, where he has been performing compliance, financial, and program audits both in the public and private sectors. Curtis received a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Accounting from The University of Dubuque in Dubuque Iowa, and a Master of Business Administration degree with a concentration in Global Economics from Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma.

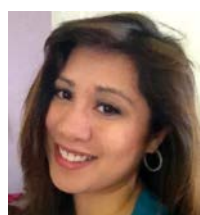
Mr. Joachim is actively involved in his Church where he serves on the finance committee, and sings in the choir and Praise Team. He is also a Royal Rangers Commander and volunteers at the Norfolk and Chesapeake Juvenile Detention Centers. He enjoys running, cycling and spending time with his family including his nine year old son and ten year old daughter.

Mr. Joachim is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM), Certified Global Management Accountant (CGMA) a member of the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA), the Virginia Society of CPAs, The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), the Chesapeake Unit of Parliamentarians (CUP) and a member and past President of the Virginia Peninsula Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA).

### **2011-2012 Chapter Officers**

President .....	Curtis Joachim
Immediate Past President .....	Bradford Smith
President-Elect .....	Ellen Silvela
Secretary .....	Valerie Ward
Treasurer .....	Nicole Whitaker
Membership .....	Traneisha Bailey-Williams
Newsletter .....	Kelly Stefanko
Education .....	David Sweeney
Awards .....	Marc Sangalang
Community Service .....	Tia Goodwin
Emerging Leaders .....	Brittany Renica
CGFM .....	Steve Reagan
Research & Early Careers .....	Dr. Doug Ziegenfuss
Historian & At-Large RVP-Elect .....	Mark Morehouse
Webmaster .....	Herbert Griffin
Accountability .....	Helen Brooks
Meetings & Publicity .....	Melissa Saunders
By-Laws .....	Jocelyn Leyeza
At-Large .....	Cecelia Smith

### **Ellen Silvela (2012-2013)**



During my term as chapter president, I worked for Deloitte and was assigned to project that I traveled to in the DC area during the workweek. My fellow chapter officers and board members were such a great support system, especially during times I had to be president from afar. There were plenty times we worked together after hours and on weekends to be able to successfully execute our chapter plans. Prior to being chapter president, I served in various roles as Membership Director and Treasurer – which I believe getting to know the members and chapter finances helped prepare me for my role, in addition to having great role models in the chapter presidents before me.

One of the notable things that the chapter worked on was using 123signup as a way to manage key chapter tasks. It helped us to become more efficient in spreading the word about our events, tracking attendance, collecting registration fees and maintaining a member directory. I was thrilled and proud to represent the chapter at the AGA National Professional Development Conference that year in Dallas, as we earned Platinum chapter status yet again. We celebrated our year with a picnic and ballgame at Harbor Park on a beautiful summer day. Back then and now, I am grateful for the opportunity the Virginia Peninsula Chapter's members gave me to serve as chapter president!

### **2012-2013 Chapter Officers**

President .....	Ellen Silvela
President Elect .....	Melissa Saunders
Immediate Past President .....	Curtis Joachim

Secretary .....	Jocelyn Leyeza
Treasurer .....	Traneisha Bailey-Williams
Membership .....	Glenys Vasquez-Banchon
Newsletter Editors .....	Melanie Geesaman & Chrystal Graves
Education .....	Kelly Stefanko & Regina Stradford
Awards .....	Marc Sangalang
Community Service .....	Tia Godwin
CGFM .....	Steve Reagan
Research .....	Dr. Doug Ziegenfuss
Early Careers/ Emerging Leaders .....	Brittany Renica Revilla
Historian .....	Johnarthur Duke
Webmaster .....	Denise Lentz
Accountability .....	Helen Brooks
Meetings and Publicity .....	Kim DeWitt
By-Laws .....	Daphne Turner
Regional VP .....	Mark Morehouse
At-Large Director, AGA National President-Elect .....	Mary Peterman

### **Melissa Saunders (2013-2014)**



At the time of my presidency and currently, I serve as an auditor with Deloitte & Touche. Serving as Chapter president provided me with great insights into my own strengths and weaknesses and allowed me to see the true power of teams as the chapter members truly make the chapter.

Highlights of my term included a government shut down due to sequestration, the first Fall Conference held at Great Wolf Lodge, and we also had Mary Peterman, a local chapter member, serving as the AGA National President! Ellen Silvela, Curtis Joachim, and Kelly Stefanko were great mentors and chapter supporters during my term. My favorite memories are from community service events, especially packing food boxes for families in need at Union Mission Ministries during the holiday season.

### **2013-2014 Chapter Officers**

President .....	Melissa Saunders
President Elect .....	Jocelyn Leyeza
Immediate Past President .....	Ellen Silvela
Secretary .....	Jocelyn Leyeza
Treasurer .....	Kim DeWitt
Membership .....	Lance Poulter
Newsletter Editors .....	Melanie Geesaman & Chrystal Graves
Education .....	Regina Stradford
Awards .....	Marc Sangalang
Community Service .....	Helen Brooks
CGFM .....	Steve Reagan
Research .....	Dr. Doug Ziegenfuss
Young Professionals .....	Maxim Urenev
Historian .....	Krystle Hagans
Webmaster .....	Faith Smith



Accountability .....	Curtis Joachim
Meetings and Publicity .....	Traneisha Bailey-Williams
By-Laws .....	William Gay
Regional VP .....	Mark Morehouse
At-Large Director, AGA National President.....	Mary Peterman

## Jocelyn Leyeza (2014-2015)



At the time of my presidency and currently, I work as an accountant for the U.S. Coast Guard Finance Center. I was very fortunate and blessed during my term. There were so many that were very committed, dedicated and worked hard to ensure the success of the year's program. I am so grateful to the AGA members, nonmembers, outstanding chapter leaders, remarkable guest speakers and generous and faithful sponsors; with their tremendous support, we were able to accomplish our goal of advancing government accountability and carry on our mission through the execution of the chapter program and community outreach.

### 2014-2015 highlights:

- Recruited 28 new members, increased membership by 11% and meeting attendance by 50-75%.
- Provided a free membership to a member and also gave a total of eleven \$10 discounts toward membership through the meeting attendance incentive and newsletter trivia question contest.
- Conducted 39 CPEs, 30% more professional education training than last year.
- Redesigned the chapter's website and automated the newsletter and created opportunities for website and newsletter corporate sponsorship.
- Increased the number of corporate sponsors as well as sponsorship opportunities, which helped keep the cost of meetings and training events affordable. This year, the chapter also provided a free luncheon meeting and a "Free Audio Conference". This significantly increased membership value and stabilized the chapter's financial position by 166%.
- Provided over 60 community service volunteers and donated \$3,345 to charity (includes AGA National donation match).

### **2014-2015 Chapter Officers**

President .....Jocelyn Leyeza

Immediate Past President .....	Melissa Saunders
President Elect .....	Lance Poulter
Secretary .....	Raymond McGinley
Education .....	Faith Smith & Connie Guzman
Membership .....	Lushens McNamara
Treasurer .....	Melecia Lagarile
Community Service .....	Marc Sangalang
Accountability .....	Curtis Joachim
Emerging Leaders .....	Maxim Urenev
Personal Certification/CGFM .....	Tara Lambert
Academic Affairs/Research .....	Dr. Doug Ziegenfuss
Meetings and Publicity .....	Traneisha Bailey-Williams
Chapter Recognition/Awards .....	Sandra Brown
Historian .....	Ellen Silvela
By-Laws and Procedures .....	Stephen Reagan
Communications/Newsletter .....	Kelly Stefanko
Webmaster .....	Krystle Hagans
Regional VP .....	Mark Morehouse
Regional VP (CGFM) .....	Steve Reagan
National Exec Committee .....	Cecilia Smith
National Exec Committee .....	Kelly Stefanko
Professional Certification Board .....	Ellen Silvela & Kelly Stefanko
National Past-President .....	Mary Peterman

#### **Lance Poulter (2015-2016)**



At the time of my presidency and currently, I work as an accountant for the U.S. Coast Guard Finance Center. Serving as chapter president was truly a rewarding and humbling experience. It takes a great deal of work to plan and execute all the great opportunities that our chapter has to offer and it wouldn't be possible without the hard work, devotion, and collaboration of our chapter officers and board of directors. Much appreciation also goes out to all of our members, volunteers, and sponsors!

Highlights from my term included a great education program which provided 37 CPE's including 2 two-day professional development training events; multiple amazing opportunities to serve our community through volunteer service; free social events which included an ODU Football tailgate party, an ODU basketball game, and an end of the year event at TopGolf. Also, it was an honor to attend the 2016 National Professional Development Training in Anaheim to accept the Platinum Chapter Award on behalf of our chapter and to see chapter member, Mary Peterman, receive the Robert W. King Memorial Award. It was a wonderful year and one I will always remember!

#### **2015-2016 Chapter Officers**

President .....	Lance Poulter
Immediate Past President .....	Jocelyn Leyeza
President Elect .....	Raymond McGinley



Secretary .....	Lushens McNamara
Education .....	Kelly Stefanko
Membership .....	Lakisha Speller
Treasurer .....	Melecia Lagarile
Community Service .....	Lisa Hill & Autumn Palmateer
Accountability .....	Lance Poulter
Emerging Leaders .....	Maxim Urenev
Personal Certification/CGFM .....	Clay Griffin & Tara Lambert
Academic Affairs/Research .....	Dr. Doug Ziegenfuss
Meetings and Publicity .....	Gloria Bradshaw
Chapter Recognition/Awards .....	Bill Gay
Historian .....	Katrina Labat
By-Laws and Procedures .....	Stephen Reagan
Communications/Newsletter .....	Anna Ashley
Webmaster/Social Media .....	Krystle Hagans
Regional VP .....	Curtis Joachim
Regional VP (CGFM) .....	Steve Reagan
National Exec Committee .....	Cecilia Smith & Kelly Stefanko
Professional Certification Board .....	Kelly Stefanko & Ellen Silvela