



Introducing AGA'S President-Elect Mitch Laine

Claiming that AGA's members are its greatest resource, Mitchell L. Laine, CGFM, is ready to embark on an exciting year as the next National President. Laine will succeed Virginia S. Brizendine, CGFM, this summer at the PDC in Little Rock.

Laine, 44, might be initially described as quietly assertive until he begins to discuss his mission as AGA's next leader. "My view is that we need to do everything we can for our members," Laine said recently.

Interviewed in his office at the U.S. Department of Education where he is the Deputy CFO and Director, Financial Services, Laine offered a glimpse of his private life as he prepares to step into the national spotlight.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh with a younger sister, he attended the University of Michigan, graduating with a degree in business and accounting. While continuing to be a loyal fan of all of Pittsburgh's sports teams, Laine stayed in Michigan after college to work for a regional public accounting firm, specializing in state and local government. After attending Wayne State University at night, he earning a MBA in 1981 and was soon off to Washington. First stop was the Office of Management and Budget and then to the education department in 1983 where he was initially selected as assistant inspector general for audit. In 1991, he became Deputy CFO.

Since joining the ranks of the Senior Executive Service in 1983, career highlights have included receiving the Distinguished Executive Award from President Bush in January of 1992

and the AGA Distinguished Leadership Award in 1994, for initiating changes and improvements in financial management at the education department.

Married for nearly four years to Tish Liggett, Laine speaks affectionately of his wife as well as the little feet that roam their Oakton, Virginia, home. Phred the Cat that is, who was a gift from Tish before they were married. In his spare time, Laine enjoys singing tenor for the Reston Choral; playing golf, racquetball and tennis as well as traveling with his wife to Europe and around the United States.

With each new year, comes new ideas and themes. While Laine has chosen the theme "Success in a Changing Environment" for his presidency, he also plans to leave well enough alone.

"AGA has started a lot of exciting new initiatives over the last year or two and I think they are wonderful," he said, pointing to the CGFM program as well the current education and membership campaigns. "My goal is to allow (these programs) to move forward and succeed. Then we can think about additional new things."

What AGA members can expect from Mitch Laine is an advocate for the professional and personal goals of financial managers who are in all stages of their careers. "To accomplish that I think its important that our members and chapters let AGA officers and staff know what AGA can provide for them," he said, adding with a smile, "I hope they do tell us."