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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

*By Ms. Nancy Zmyslinski, CGFM
 Chapter President*

I went to the recent **National Board of Director’s meeting** on July 10, 2005, and took notes of the meeting so I could share the following notes with you.

Bobby Derrick, National President, hosted the meeting and made the following comments:

- AGA has hired a professional public relations firm, and he showed us a 3-minute video that was made for AGA. You’ll be seeing it in the near future!
- AGA had a positive membership net growth this past year - the first since 1999!
- AGA grew in corporate partnerships - from 38 to 52.
- AGA won’t increase dues as we are financially healthy.

The Finance and Budget Committee gave their report. The FY05 profit should be \$409,500. AGA earned \$4.4 million in revenues from member services, PDC, National Leadership Conference, CGFM, and others (website). Expenses remained constant. Accomplishments included:

- Held successful PDC last year in Washington DC with 1409 attendees
- Began research project initiative (9 projects)
- Expanded the corporate partners program
- Recorded excess revenues for CGFM program and Government financial management courses were very successful
- Increased participation in CEAR program
- Held 3 successful audio conferences
- Obtained additional funding for SEA program
- Completed audit on time with no findings
- Accomplished stability in the finance staffing.

We then approved the proposed slate of officers for next year.



About the Federal Focus

The Federal Focus of the AGA Greater Columbus Chapter is provided as a service to our members to keep them informed of events and news affecting our lives in the government accountability profession. Views expressed in articles are those of the author and may not necessarily represent the views of the chapter leadership. Article content is copyrighted to the author/source from which it was received.

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They are: Jeffrey Hart, National President-Elect; Thomas Sadowski, National Treasurer-Elect; Deborah Loveless, Senior Vice President at Large; and Lealan Miller, Senior vice President for Regional Services – Section III. We also approved the RVPs-Elect.

Bobby delivered on his promise to start a new AGA chapter in Japan.

We approved 3 bylaws changes:

- To change the requirement that only the past three Regional Vice Presidents of the respective section can be selected for the position of the Senior Vice President Section representative, and modify the requirement to include any past Regional Vice President in good standing to be eligible for nomination of the position.
- To change the authority to set size and function of staff and determine salary and benefits of the paid staff of the Association from the National Executive Committee to the Executive Director.
- To change the submission date of independent nominations to February 1 of any year.

Sam McCall, City Auditor, City of Tallahassee, Florida, announced his theme for his upcoming national presidency – “Accountability Reporting with a Citizen Focus.” His theme has two parts: (1) accountability (CGFM, CEAR, SEA, Education and Research, and Service) with an expanded focus (only organization that represents Federal, state, and local professionals – wants to establish a research foundation) and (2) citizen focus (we should act as representative citizens, and citizens allow us to be where we are and to do what we do.)

The actual conference itself started on July 11 and ended July 13. My favorite speaker was Cynthia Cooper, CPA, CISA, CFE, the whistleblower of the WorldCom/MCI organization. Her message was amazing and thought provoking.

Bobby said farewell at the Wednesday afternoon luncheon. After he shared his many stories and pictures with us, he brought his three grandchildren on stage. The four of them stood there holding hands while his oldest granddaughter spoke the following words into the microphone, “Papaw, it’s time to come home.” They started playing Back Home Again in Indiana while the four of them walked off stage. Needless to say, there weren’t many dry eyes in the room. Bobby was a tremendous president! We gave him a standing ovation.

Our Greater Columbus Chapter was recognized four times (National President’s Award, AGA Top Sponsor, Chapter Newsletter Award and Chapter Recognition Award, Silver Chapter)! What a coup for our first year in business!

Next year the national PDC is in San Diego from June 18-21, 2006.

Nancy

CHAPTER CALENDAR

- 11 August 2005
 August Luncheon
 Speaker: Mr. David Weibel
 Topic: Preparing for Retirement
 Location: DFAS Conference Center Indy and Denver Rooms
 Time: 11:30-1:00
- 8 September 2005
 September Luncheon
 Speaker: Ms. Beth Winsor and Mr. Dennis Canterbury
 Location: TBD
 Topic: Mentoring
 Time: 11:30-1:00
- 9 September 2005
 Greater Columbus and Central Ohio Chapter Charity Softball Game
 Location: Whitehall Park
- 14-15 November 2005
 AGA National Performance Management Conference
 Location: Portland, Oregon
 See: www.agacgfm.org
- 5-6 December 2005
 Columbus Area AGA PDC
 Location: OSU Fawcett Center

TREASURER'S REPORT

AS OF 29 JULY 2005

Checking Account

Beginning Balance	\$7,216.34
Deposits	\$0.00
Disbursements	\$0.00
Ending Balance	<u>\$7,216.34</u>

Savings Account

Beginning Balance	\$ 5.00
Deposits	\$ -
Disbursements	\$ -
Ending Balance	<u>\$ 5.00</u>

Total Balance \$7,221.34

TECH TALK

THE COMING OF CONTINUOUS CONNECTIONS

Chapter 5 - Decisions, Decisions, Decisions

Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?' That depends a good deal on where you want to get to^{2'}

By Merle Robinson, CTM

In our early columns, we examined how our tools are evolving to allow ubiquitous portable connections, which will reshape our homes and offices. The consequence of this is that our white-collar jobs of the past are evolving so we become "knowledge workers"^{1a&b}. This will necessitate an increase in the coordination by/between those with specialized skills and increased communication between less specialized workers and specialists. Navigating this transformation successfully carries social imperatives for both self-management and managing dealings with one another.

"The most important contribution management needs to make in the 21st century is similarly—to increase the productivity of KNOWLEDGE WORK and the KNOWLEDGE WORKER." - Peter Drucker^{1c}

The advent of continuous connections tremendously increases the risk for both individuals and organizations of becoming entirely at the mercy of events. As the frequency of contact between people increases—immediate demands will tend to dominate our attention. Always being 'reachable' will add a new intensity to any service business and press everyone to move toward the service model. The lines between our business and personal lives will blur. Avoiding such a Brave New World^{3a&b} where our actions are dictated by others, will require a concerted effort to break our traditional approaches/conditioning. It will be more imperative than ever to plan how to drain the swamp when the alligators of life surround us. Reacting with old habits/approaches will lead to our eventual collapse as surely as the horse-drawn carriage was supplanted by the automobile^{4a&b}.

Since the early days of civilization people have attempted to manage time^{5a&b}. To accomplish this, at the turn of last century, the industrial revolution and "scientific management"^{5c} stressed more efficient ways of organizing groups for mass production. Time management is an extension of this trend where work tasks are forms of trauma for which we perform triage. Performing this triage entails prioritizing our responses based on the source/type of stimulus with tools such as the FiloFax^{5d}, the Day-timer^{5e}, the Franklin Planner^{5f}, or Microsoft Outlook. The illusion such an approach creates is that we save time when we "scientifically" manage tasks. If all we do is manage tasks, our time will be entirely filled with external requirements. The fundamental problem with how most people use time management systems is that they don't make the strategic choices. They don't earmark and defend time focused on draining the swamp to get rid of the alligators^{5g}. This

CHAPTER NEWS

EVENT RECAP AGA JUNE LUNCHEON

This month's guest speaker was Dayna Foster with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in Dayton. Ms. Foster also serves as the current Regional President-Elect for the Ohio-Michigan Region. The topic for the June Luncheon was on GAO protocols - How GAO audits come about and what the agency and GAO can expect of each other in the course of an audit. In her discussion, Ms. Foster provided a video that projected government agencies as the subject of several news reports regarding fraud and public deception. To obtain more information on GAO and matters pertaining to audits, please refer to the following web site: www.gao.gov

The following entails a brief synopsis of Ms. Foster's discussion: GAO was first established in the 1920's. However, it wasn't until the 1950's that GAO began to establish a more professional image by hiring in Accountants. During the 1970's, GAO again restored its profession by hiring in different disciplines within the field. The various backgrounds of people included History, English, Medicine, Law, etc. Even today, GAO continues to modernize their professional and legal standards. In 2000, GAO implemented Congressional Protocols and last updated them in July 2004. Congressional Protocols hold GAO accountable to Congress and ensure consistency in dealing with committees and members. GAO has the authority to investigate different matters within different agencies and it requires its staff to evaluate results. GAO priorities include Congressional mandates, requests from Senior Congressional leaders and individual leaders, and the Comptroller General's authority. Agency Protocols are similar with respect to Congressional Protocols, other than it exists with different policies. Agency Protocols provide

THE AUDITOR'S PERSPECTIVE

FRAUD PREVENTION CHECKLIST

*By Ross Lisman, CPA, CFE
DFAS Internal Auditor*

Fraud is usually difficult to detect because it is hidden until discovered. When managers say their organizations are fraud free - get concerned. Either the manager is naive or is not engaged in the organization. An entity that fails to protect itself from fraud should expect to become a victim of fraud, or rather, should expect to discover that it is a victim of fraud.

To assist entity's in managing fraud risks, the ACFE has developed a *Fraud Prevention Checklist*. Entity's normally score poorly in the initial fraud prevention checklist because they do not have appropriate anti-fraud controls in place. By finding out early, they have a chance to fix the problem before becoming a victim of fraud.

This *Fraud Prevention Checklist* measures 7 major areas. They are:

1. Fraud risk oversight: To what extent has the entity established a process of oversight of fraud risks by the entity's senior managers?
2. Fraud risk ownership: To what extent has the entity created "ownership" of fraud risks by identifying a member of senior management as having responsibility for managing fraud risks within an entity?
3. Fraud risk assessment: To what extent has an entity implemented an ongoing process for regular identification of the significant fraud risks to which the entity is exposed?
4. Fraud risk tolerance and risk management policy: To what extent has the entity identified and had approved by the senior management its tolerance for different types of fraud risks? Some fraud risks may contribute a tolerable cost of doing business, while others may pose a catastrophic risk of financial or reputation damage to the entity.
5. Process level anti-fraud controls / re-engineering: To what extent has the entity implemented measures, where possible, to eliminate or reduce through process re-engineering each of the significant fraud risks identified in its risk assessment? Basic controls include segregation of duties, custody of assets and recording or reporting of transactions.
6. Environment level anti-fraud controls: Major frauds usually involve a senior member of management who is able to override process-level controls through their high

clearly defined and transparent policies.

Agency expectations of GAO include notifications of work and coordinating entrance and exit conferences. Entrance conferences include discussions regarding the source of work, roles and responsibilities of GAO staff members, information needs, key objectives, sites to be visited, protecting data and information, and time frames. In order to understand the duties, powers and activities associated with specific organizations, GAO requires broad access to agency data. In the event that a dispute arises, GAO will contact the agency leaders for an attempt to resolve. Exit conferences are held to confirm critical facts and key information after the completion of data correction and analysis. This process is typically written, but in some instances exit conferences may also be verbal. GAO is required by Congress to follow-up on recommendations and must take action to remove those recommendations when they are no longer considered relevant.

NANCY ZMYSLINSKI, GREATER COLUMBUS CHAPTER PRESIDENT RECEIVES AGA NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Each year, the National President presents special awards to recognize individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the success of the Association's programs during that president's term. This year, National President Bobby Derrick, CGFM, has recognized our very chapter president for her efforts in supporting and leading our chapter during its establishment and first full program year.

This recognition is a great recognition of Ms. Zmyslinski and all of those who have assisted her in making this chapter a record setting and award winning chapter.

GOVERNMENT NEWS

TSP LAUNCHES LIFE-CYCLE FUNDS

By Karen Rutzick
krutzick@govexec.com

New life-cycle investment funds are now available to participants in the Thrift Savings Plan, as of Monday.

The TSP, which is a 401(k)-style retirement savings plan for federal employees, launched its newest set of funds in order to help participants allocate their money more effectively, according to plan administrators.

TSP Executive Director Gary Amelio said that surveys "have all shown that about 90 percent of plan participants either never ever reallocate their account balance or do so less frequently" than they should. "A great number of participants either never get on, or fall off, the participant frontier," Amelio said.

The new fund, which the TSP is advertising as putting investments on "cruise control," automatically shifts participants' money from a mix of riskier to more conservative investments as participants age, according to TSP literature.

Now, participants who log onto their accounts on the [TSP Web site](#) have the option to allocate money into the L 2040, L 2030, L 2020, L 2010 and L Income funds. Investors can opt into one of those funds based on the date they expect to start using the money in their account once they leave the civil service, TSP officials said.

Participants can make two changes to their account makeup to divert money into the new fund. They can change their contribution allocation to put any new contributions into the life-cycle fund, or they can perform an interfund transfer which will move an existing account balance into the fund.

On the TSP Web site, advisers warn participants to "think carefully before investing in multiple funds. The L Funds are designed so that 100 percent of your TSP account should be invested in the single L Fund that most closely matches your time horizon. Any other use of the L Funds may result in less than optimal returns, a higher amount of risk in your portfolio, or both."

Until now, the TSP had five investment funds. This sixth set allots resources among the five already existing options: government securities, fixed income securities, common stocks, international stocks, and small and mid-size companies.

For participants who foresee retirement around 2040, for example, 42 percent of their money will be invested in common stocks and 5 percent in government securities, the most conservative fund.

Participants who predict retirement around 2010, on the other

UPCOMING EVENT

August Luncheon
August 11, 2005

It is our pleasure to welcome Mr. David Weibel to be our guest speaker at the Greater Columbus AGA Chapter's August luncheon. Mr. Weibel, who is a financial planner/investments broker for Edward Jones, will be giving a presentation on "Planning for Retirement."

The luncheon will be held in the DFAS-CO Conference Center in room C-137 and the menu will consist of a Chicken Caesar Salad Bar, Pasta Salad, Roasted Vegetables, Rolls & Butter, Cookies, Brownies, and assorted beverages.

The price of a ticket is \$11 and you can purchase your ticket from the following people until August 5, 2005:

Bldg 21:

HenriAnn Franklin	3-6223
Jim Gillenwater	3-6907
Larita Killian	3-0672
Heather Drake	3-1148
Margaret Mootz	3-7418
Ben Novotny	3-2227
Melissa Ludovissie	3-0856

Bldg 20:

Monica Oliver	2-9606
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Please contact Jim Gillenwater or Melissa Ludovissie if you have any questions.

CALL FOR COLUMNISTS

Have you ever considered writing? Do you have a topic you want to write about? Do you have a knowledge that you want to share with others?

If so you might be able to find an outlet for your desire here in the Federal Focus. Please contact Chapter Communications Director, Ken George, about publishing your work in our chapter newsletter. Ken can be reached via email: kenneth.george@dfas.mil

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS STUDY FINDS PROBLEMS

AccountingWEB.com

August 03, 2005

RateFinancials has released the results of a two-year study that finds companies still take liberties in reporting their financials. In these overtly regulatory times, balance sheets and income statements still aren't transparent even when prepared following generally accepted accounting practices (GAAP) standards that provide management with broad discretion at times. Although these statement inaccuracies may not violate GAAP standards, the company's financial health may not be accurately reflected for intelligent investors and shareholders in clearly worded descriptions. RateFinancials is an independent research firm based in New York.

The study found several disturbing facts among the Standard & Poor's 500 companies it examined. It found that:

- Nearly 33 percent do not report their companies' financial conditions accurately.
- 64 percent reported inaccurate pension information.
- 75 percent engaged in some kind of off-balance sheet financing.
- 28 percent employed aggressive revenue techniques.

An audit committee should be aware of what can be done to further ensure the accuracy of their company's financial statements. GAAP standards aren't perfect by any means and Sarbanes-Oxley is a mighty sword for regulators.

Revenue recognition policies can convey much risk as their impacts are amplified in the P&L process. Earnings "smoothing" may be an attractive goal for management so audit committees should examine these policies to catch any language changes that may appear over time.

Any changes to reserves and accrual accounts should be evaluated for their current and future effects on net income. An audit committee should recognize this as a rich area for earnings management.

Members of the audit committee should understand the magnitude and reasoning any off-balance sheet financing in their corporate statements. As a component of long-term debt, the committee should recognize the need for this critical analysis.

A detailed presentation should be requested for the accounting policies for derivatives and other hedging instruments. These instruments are used in companies to isolate themselves from risk. The audit committee should focus on changes in the value of derivatives and derivatives classified as hedges.

Pension plans and other pension liabilities should be of

UPCOMING EVENT
September Luncheon
September 8, 2005

It is our pleasure to welcome Ms. Beth Winsor and Mr. Dennis Canterbury to be our guest speakers at the Greater Columbus AGA Chapter's September luncheon. Ms. Winsor, who is the DFAS Deputy Director, Defense Agencies, Columbus Operations and Mr. Canterbury, who is the DSCC Director of Transition and Transformation, will be giving a joint presentation on "Mentoring." More information to follow!

UPCOMING EVENT
Central Ohio and Greater
Columbus Chapter Charity
Softball Game
September 9, 2005

CALLING ALL SOFTBALL
PLAYERS!!!

Do you like to play softball? Are you a competitive person? Do you just like to have fun? Well do we have an activity planned for you! The Greater Columbus AGA Chapter and the Central Ohio AGA Chapter are planning their first annual softball challenge on September 9, 2005 at the Whitehall Park off of Hamilton Road.

The winner of this challenge receives a trophy while the loser donates money to the winning chapter's charitable organization of choice. More information to follow!

If you are interested in participating in the game, please contact Jim Gillenwater or Melissa Ludovissie.

THE BOTTOM LINE

HOMELAND SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

By Mr. Jason Carney

Every other year the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) publishes the results of the Federal Human Capital Survey. OPM administers the survey across all federal agencies where it is responsible for providing Human Resource policy and support. The effort put forward by OPM is designed to give senior leaders at the agency information about developing trends in the Federal workforce.

148,000 employees were surveyed across 26 Federal agencies. In May, results for the survey were published for 2004. Many of the results were positive, however many underlined some startling trends. According to the Federal Times, employees are just as happy with their jobs as they were a few years ago. Job satisfaction numbers posted in the high sixty percent range.

Further, employees were happy with many aspects of OPM's initiatives in response President Bush's Management Agenda. Employees felt that their agencies were able to recruit and retain more people with specialized skills and they were also happy with recent long-term care benefits.

Arguably the most startling finding was what Federal employees thought of their senior leadership. More than half of employees surveyed felt that their leaders did not maintain high levels of honesty and integrity, and many did not feel that high performance is recognized.

The results of the report are available via an OPM website, www.fhcs2004.opm.gov. The full report goes into fairly rich detail. Data is listed by agency and by sub-agency. Most of the Other Defense Agency data seems to mirror the trends of the rest of DoD.

Some interesting findings from the Other Defense Agencies survey data:

- Only 11.9% of respondents from the Other Defense Agencies disagreed that their first line supervisors were doing at least a "fair" job.
- 37% of respondents disagreed that promotions were based on merit.
- 33.1% of those surveyed disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement that "leaders generate high levels of motivation and commitment in the

BOTTOM LINE CONTINUED ON PG. 13

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Each man must for himself alone decide what is right and what is wrong, which course is patriotic and which isn't. You cannot shirk this and be a man. To decide against your conviction is to be an unqualified and excusable traitor, both to yourself and to your country, let me label you as they may."

Mark Twain

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN

The chapter leadership has decided to initiate a membership recruitment incentive program. We want to encourage you to speak up and tell your friends, coworkers, and anyone else who might be interested in a professional organization for Government Accountability Professionals.

Here's what you need to do:

First, see a chapter officer for some AGA information to give to whomever you talk to.

Second, talk to those you know in Government about the AGA, what you find to be beneficial in your membership in our chapter, and what benefits they can derive from joining.

Third, bring completed applications to a chapter officer.

Here's what we will do:

We will recognize your recruitment efforts in our monthly luncheon and you will be presented with an award after you achieve any of the following levels:

Recruiter (1 New Member) - AGA Lanyard or Retractable Badge Holder

Bronze Recruiter (2 New Members) - AGA Travel Mug

Silver Recruiter (5 New Members) - AGA Polo Shirt

Gold Recruiter (10 New Members) - Free Registration at Local PDC

Platinum Recruiter (20 New Members) - Free Registration at 2006 National PDC in San Diego

This campaign ends 4/30/06, or at the decision of the CEC. All applications must clear AGA National by 4/30/06 for award eligibility. Equal Prizes can be substituted by CEC decision.

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JULY 21, 2005

- Discussed plans for upcoming Luncheon's. The details are as follows:

August

Speaker: David Weibel, Investment Planner with Edward Jones

Topic: "Planning for Retirement"

Date: August 11, 2005

Time: 11:30 - 1:00

Location: DFAS Conference Center, Room C-137& 138

Menu: "Make your own" Chicken Caesar salad bar with pasta salad, roasted vegetables, rolls, cookies, brownies, and assorted beverages

September

Speaker: Beth Winsor/Dennis Canteberry

Topic: Mentoring

Date: September 8, 2005

Time: 11:30 - 1:00

Location: TBD

October

Date: October 13, 2005

November

Date: November 10, 2005

December

Local PDC

Location: The Ohio State University

UPDATES:

- Heather provided ideas from Cindy Cox on how to recruit and retain the younger AGA members
 - DFAS Indianapolis has experienced same concerns with the ELPA/ELFA program
 - Suggestion is to establish a point system that would give members credit towards annual membership fees for participation in events such as luncheons, PDC's, meetings, charitable events, etc.
 - Requires strong marketing efforts from chapter members
 - DFAS Indianapolis is still conducting research on actual costs and benefits
- **Programs/Education Update:**
 - Jim and Larita met with the Central Columbus Chapter to discuss ideas for the upcoming Local PDC in December. Recommended topics included: FASB Update, Yellow Book, Sarbanes-Oxley, BRAC, NSPS, Joint AGA/GAO regarding the federal budget deficit,

COMMUNITY SERVICE CORNER

The AGA Community Service Committee is sponsoring a VITA site - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance - in partnership with the IRS, United Way of Central Ohio, and Columbus Public Schools.

VITA provides free income tax preparation for the low-income (under \$36,000) and elderly population (55+). The West Side of Columbus is extremely under-served so our AGA Chapter has decided to open a site at West High School and/or Northland High School for 5 Saturday mornings beginning with the last Saturday in January - Site dates 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25.

We are looking for many volunteers to make this project a success.

Volunteers are needed to:

- Coordinate advertising (Hang up posters, distribute pamphlets, etc.)
- Schedule appointments and screen applicants
- Prepare and mail data intake sheet and appointment reminder slips
- Prepare tax returns on TaxWise software and e-file return

If you are interested in hanging up posters, distributing pamphlets, scheduling appointments and screening applicants, or preparing data intake sheet mailings and appointment reminder slips please email responses to: holly.vandeventer@dfas.mil

For those willing to prepare tax returns, IRS Certification must be obtained between November and December by taking IRS Training and passing the test with a 70%. IRS Training Sections include Basic, Wage Earner, and Pension. Training and tests are available on-line through the IRS' convenient "Link and Learn" website or by attending a weeklong class taught by the IRS and current VITA volunteers. Preparers will attend a four-hour session to familiarize users with the Tax-Wise software and e-filing procedures.

Again, these are simple, basic returns: W-2s, earned Income tax credit, and maybe Social Security payments. Do not be worried about having to prepare complicated returns - VITA is not for people with small businesses, complicated returns, or high incomes...These people can afford and are referred to a paid tax preparer.

We are looking for FIRM commitments from people willing to volunteer. Appointments are scheduled in 45-minute increments although some walk-ins may show up at the site. Walk-ins are then either scheduled an appointment at a later date, or if time permits, the return is prepared that day.

If interested in completing the training and volunteering to prepare tax returns, please fill in the times in the chart below that you are firmly committed to working. We ask that you work the entire 4 1/2 hour shift. Please email responses to: holly.vandeventer@dfas.mil

	West High School 8:00am - 12:30pm	Northland High School 8:00am - 12:30pm
Saturday, January 28th		
Saturday, February 4th		
Saturday, February 11th		
Saturday, February 18th		
Saturday, February 25th		

Thanks for your support as we kick off our AGA Community Service events!

AGA Community Service Committee:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Roger Neefe | Alita Kay |
| Fon Holloway | Debbie Temesvary |
| Holly Van De Venter | |

CERTIFICATION CONNECTION



INFORMATION

OVERVIEW OF THE CGFM PROCESS:

Step 1 - Applying for the CGFM Program: Submit a CGFM Program application form with the \$85 application fee and proof of a bachelor's degree.

Step 2 - Eligibility Letter: Once your application, payment and degree information are received and processed by the Office of Professional Certification, AGA will mail you an eligibility letter with instructions on how to purchase your CGFM examinations. The letter is usually sent out within 10 business days of receipt of your CGFM application and proof of bachelor's degree. Your eligibility for taking the CGFM examinations will expire in three years from the date of processing your CGFM application.

Step 3 - Work Verification: Submit a Work Verification Form as soon as you have at least two years of professional-level experience in the government financial management field (you do not have to submit this form before taking the examinations, but it must be filed before the designation can be granted).

Step 4 - Studying for Examinations: Prepare for the examinations by attending a classroom course, purchasing a study guide or reviewing reading resources on your own. See:

[What Do Exams Cover?](#)

(www.agacgfm.org/exams/default.aspx) and

[How Do I Prepare?](#)

(www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/prepare/default.aspx) for more information...

Step 5 - Exam Purchase: Following the instructions on your eligibility letter, purchase CGFM examination(s) on the AGA website. Upon payment, print the Exam Authorization Letter.

See: [How Do I Purchase Exams?](#)

(www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/purchase/default.aspx) for more information...

Examination fees: \$109 for each of the three examinations.

Step 6 - Taking the Exam: Follow the instructions on the Exam Authorization Letter to make a testing appointment at a Prometric Center near you. See:

Exam Procedures

(www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/purchase/cgfm_examprocedures.aspx) for more information...

Step 7 - Score Reporting: After you complete the examination at a testing center, you will immediately receive an unofficial pass/fail score on your computer. An official score letter will be mailed to you by AGA within 10 business days of your exam.

If you did not pass your exam, there is a 30-day waiting period before you can repurchase and retake the examination; if you failed this exam more than once, the waiting period is 90 days.

Step 8 - Award Letter: Once you pass all three CGFM examinations, and your Work Verification Form has been submitted to the Office of Professional Certification, AGA will send you an award letter announcing your new CGFM designation. The letter is usually sent out within 10 business days.

Step 9 - CGFM Certificate: Within 6-10 weeks of receiving the award letter, you can expect to receive your CGFM certificate in the mail.

If you have any questions about the process or if you have not heard from AGA within the estimated time frame, please contact the Office of Professional at 1.800.AGA.7211, ext. 306 or via email at agacgfm@agacgfm.org.

CGFM STUDY GROUPS

Are you one of those people who would like to earn the CGFM but don't know where to start? A CGFM study group may be just the ticket. The Education and Certification Committee will sponsor a study group for "Module I: The Government Environment" if there is sufficient need and interest. If you want to participate in a CGFM study group, state your interest to Larita Killian in an email (larita.killian@dfas.mil). She will send you a short questionnaire to capture your preferences, such as noontime versus Saturday morning, etc.

means you can choose some tasks not to do or to delegate. Not dedicating time to strategic choices always puts people and organizations in a real pickle^{5h}.

“We can’t manage time: we manage self.

We can manage what we do with the time we have

-Peggy Duncan^{5i&j}

In the 21st century, improving our thinking processes (wetware) needs to take priority over improving our technological hardware/software tools. Tools only enhance our ability to manipulate large amounts of information—they don’t create understanding. To improve our success, we need to focus on the difference between efficiency and effectiveness and choose effectiveness. To understand the difference one example should suffice. If you have to ship goods from New York to San Francisco, finding a cheap rate to St Louis is great; but you can’t be effective, unless you can find a way to get the goods from St Louis to San Francisco. This requires a higher level of understanding and connection to our underlying/true requirements to be effective. Businesses that don’t understand the underlying reasons for what they do cannot be effective at meeting customer needs—they (and everyone in them) are at the mercy of events.

When a focus on effectiveness is at the center of our thinking, we have to do right things more than do things right^{6a}. World-class organizations such as Hewlett-Packard^{6b&c}, Wal-Mart^{6d}, Disney^{6e,f,&g}, Google^{6h}, Amazon⁶ⁱ, and FedEx^{6j} practice this extensively. The outward signs of this focus are that each is wildly successful in the toughest markets and each has a recognized “way” of business that permeates their priorities. Commitment to innovation by focusing on doing the right things is the common thread they all share. Each has a way to earmark significant time to promoting and developing change. Furthermore, gathering knowledge on their environment/customers is a process involving all of their team members.

Success in the new age requires us to tap two groups of workers. The first are knowledge experts on our environment. This is everyone on the team and especially those in direct contact with the customer. These are experts on what is happening, who wants what, and who needs what. In the modern age, every employee becomes a channel to evaluate our environment. One of the cutting edge organizations

level of authority. Preventing major fraud requires an emphasis on creating a workplace environment that promotes ethical behavior.

7. Proactive fraud detection: To what extent has the entity established a program to detect, investigate and resolve potentially significant fraud? Such a process should include proactive fraud detection tools that are specifically designed to detect the potential frauds identified in the entity’s fraud risk assessment. Leading edge fraud detection methods include computer assisted audit tools (CAAT), computer e-mail monitoring (where legal) to identify certain phases that might identify planned or ongoing wrongdoing and audit “hooks” embedded in the entity’s transaction processing system and flag suspicious transactions for investigation and/or approval prior to completion of processing.

A fraud prevention checkup presents a broad idea of an entity’s performance with respect to fraud prevention. The screening involves broad judgements, therefore the important information to take from the checkup is the identification of potential fraud prevention gaps. Significant gaps in fraud prevention should be closed promptly in order to reduce fraud losses and reduce risks of future disaster.

Ideally the fraud prevention checklist should be a collaboration between objective, independent individuals (Certified Fraud Examiner) and people within the entity who have an extensive knowledge about its operations. Internal auditors bring extensive knowledge and a valuable perspective to such an evaluation. If you are interested in more information relating to the *Fraud Prevention Checklist* you can access the ACFE website at www.CFE.com or contact me at (614) 693-0783.

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workforce.”

Although some of the trends in the data might be discouraging, it does highlight an important fact. Agency employees are underscoring the need for greater transparency in performance measurements and they are demanding a higher level of honesty and integrity from their leaders.

Since we are accountability specialists, we as AGA members can have a pivotal role in nurturing and developing the idea that government should be responsive and transparent to its stakeholders.

understanding this change is the US Army. The Army has come to recognize each soldier as a sensor^{7a&b} reporting on the enemy and environment. So every worker becomes our eyes and ears—providing the lifeblood for survival. If our organizations re-structure to listen to our customer needs, then our management teams can evaluate options and our knowledge workers with technical/collaborative skills (as predicted by Drucker) help leverage the changes needed to ensure survival^{7c&d}.

Once we come to recognize that our pace, our place and our divisions of labor will all change because of the impact of ubiquitous portable connections and the advance of technology—we start to see our traditional methods of responding to every demand (like Pavlov's dogs) won't succeed any longer. New methods of organization, communication, and response will be needed. In our next column, we will examine how our social organizations/teams will change in the workplace in a world of high tech continuous connections.

Points of Departure for more research (provided for information not a product endorsement):

1. Knowledge Workers
 - a. Knowledge Work and Knowledge Society The Social Transformations of this Century http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/ifactory/ksgpress/www/ksg_news/transcripts/drucklec.htm
 - b. Managing Knowledge Means Managing Oneself by Peter F. Drucker <http://www.pfd.org/leaderbooks/L2L/spring2000/drucker.html>
 - c. Management Challenges for the 21st Century by Peter F. Drucker Tasks, Responsibilities, Practices (1982) <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0887309992/103-7826480-7950214?v=glance>
2. Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (see Chapter VI) <http://www.sabian.org/alice.htm>
3. Brave New World
 - a. The book <http://www.huxley.net/bnw/>
 - b. Synopsis http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brave_new_world
4. Impact of Stagnation
 - a. Horse drawn carriages <http://encyclopedia.laborlawtalk.com/Carriage>
 - b. History of Transportation http://encarta.msn.com/text_761558787___2/Transportation.html
5. Measurement is Not Choice
 - a. The Invention of Clocks and Calendars <http://inventors.about.com/library/weekly/aa070701a.htm>
 - b. Measuring time - a research guide for students <http://www.aresearchguide.com/time.html>
 - c. Scientific Management - Fredrick Winslow Taylor http://www.accel-team.com/scientific/scientific_02.html
 - d. Filofax <http://www.filofax.co.uk/aboutus/SEURLF/ASP/SFS/SFE/heritage.htm>
 - e. Daytimer Company history -origins http://www.daytimer.com/content/help/btm_nav_daytimer_history.asp?shopperid=3C620C9B02144EEABA04B1F7D981ADA2andaid=Falseandwu=0andkeycode=179811andline=andPP=andcid=1037andOrigin=
 - f. Powerful Time Management skills for Franklin Planner <http://www.franklincovey.com/promotion/wmm/flash/ptmfp/>

TECH TALK CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

end of the spectrum, will have 43 percent of their funds put into government securities and 27 percent in common stocks.

Life-cycle funds are automatically rebalanced daily. Then, each quarter, the investments are shifted to a slightly more conservative mix. TSP officials also review the investment mixes periodically to ensure suitability.

Participants can view pie charts illustrating how investments will change over time in the various "life-cycle" funds on the [TSP Web site](#).

Despite discussion in the past of making this new option the default for participants who do not designate specific funds, the default will remain the G fund for the time being, according to TSP spokesman Tom Trabucco.

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extreme interest to an audit committee. The assumptions for each plan should be understood and under-funded pension plans should be noted on the balance sheet.

The audit committee should discuss the reasoning for any differences in the effective and statutory tax rates. Tax rates on recurring tax items should also be discussed and understood. Any unexplained differences should be full detailed. Audit committees should understand any changes to a company's accounting policies. Their impact on the balance sheet and income statement should be detailed and clarified to shareholders also.

Any large changes between net income and cash flow should be explained to the audit committee and the shareholders. Operating problems or lapses in accounting policies can be revealed in these differences.

But I Digress

So, it's August. The year is nearly two-thirds gone and we soon will begin the school season anew. As you may know, this month and last were named after the Roman Ceasars Julius and Augustus. This is why even though September begins with sept meaning seven it is actually the ninth month in our calendar.

Additionally, it is interesting to note that the word august has two different meanings. The first, meaning the month of August. The second, meaning "majestic, dignified, or grand." Thus August, the only month without a holiday, is our opportunity to make something grand or majestic of what remains of the summer. Having said that, have an august August. But I digress.

- g. The Secret of Time Management Revealed: <http://www.businesstown.com/time/time-secrets.asp>
- h. Time Management: The Pickle Jar Theory <http://www.alistapart.com/articles/pickle/>
- i. Peggy Duncan Time Management at Work <http://stress.about.com/od/timemanagement/>
- j. Peggy Duncan Say No to Responsibility Overload <http://stress.about.com/cs/copingskills/a/aa100700.htm>
- 6. Efficiency versus Effectiveness
 - a. What do we mean by "Doing the Right Things"? <http://www.2transformbusiness.com/newsletters.html>
 - b. The HP Way : How Bill Hewlett and I Built Our Company <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0887308171/103-7826480-7950214?v=glance>
 - c. The HP Way http://www.paloaltoonline.com/weekly/morgue/2002/2002_04_10.hpway10.html
 - d. The Wal-Mart Way: The Inside Story of the Success of the World's Largest Company http://www.walmart.com/catalog/product.gsp?product_id=2391143andcat=36266andtype=3anddept=3920andpath=0%3A3920%3A36266
 - e. The Disney Way: Harnessing the Management Secrets of Disney in Your Company <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/007137969X/103-7826480-7950214?v=glance>
 - f. Inside the Magic Kingdom: Seven Keys to Disney's Success <http://btobsearch.barnesandnoble.com/booksearch/isbninquiry.asp?btob=Yandpwb=1andean=9781885167231>
 - g. Contagious Business Philosophy the "Disney" Way! http://www.themedattraction.com/disney_way.htm
 - h. The Google Way http://www.infoworld.com/article/04/02/20/08OPconnection_1.html
 - i. Mighty Amazon The Amazon way <http://www.mutualofamerica.com/articles/Fortune/May03/fortune.asp>
 - j. FedEx Delivers: How the World's Leading Shipping Company Keeps Innovating and Outperforming the Competition <http://search.barnesandnoble.com/booksearch/isbnInquiry.asp?userid=ebIIWotBL4andisbn=0471715794anditm=1>
- 7. Sensors, Soldiers, Knowledge Workers and the Future
 - a. Dramatic Changes to Provide Better Intelligence in the Field <http://ausa.org/www/news.nsf/0/d4c06e8c14f5777585256f3a0043cf5f?OpenDocumentandAutoFramedandClick=>
 - b. Actionable intelligence relies on every Soldier http://www.dcmilitary.com/army/strife/9_15/national_news/28594-1.html
 - c. What is a knowledge worker? http://www.nelh.nhs.uk/knowledge_management/km3/knowledge_worker.asp
 - d. Contemporary Models for Professional Development in the Knowledge Era <http://www.flexiblelearning.net.au/projects/resources/PDFutureC.doc>

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Mentoring

- The PDC Committee is asking for a total of 6 speakers. As of date, we have 4 positively. Members are advised to provide suggestions for more topics.
- Considering panel discussions for this year's local PDC – possibly include a “How I Became Me” panel for one of the educational sessions.
- 1st Annual Softball Event: Softball diamond reserved for September 9, 2005
- **Membership Update:**
 - Members are encouraged to bring potential AGA members to our monthly meetings
 - Non-Member Luncheon Prices will be raised soon
 - New members will be awarded a free lunch at their 1st luncheon
- **Community Service Update:**
 - Recommendation for October Speaker:
 - **Speaker:** Karen West, Ohio Society of CPA's
 - **Topic:** Accounting for Kid's Day (5th Grade); Stock Simulation Game
 - Chapter Participation in High School Career Days: promoting the Government to partner with the Ohio Society of CPA's
 - VITA Site: Holly and Debbie Temesvary are coordinating
 - Collaboration between Columbus IRA and Columbus Schools
 - Event would involve 5 Saturdays, need volunteers to prepare taxes

MISC

- Update on application with the Ohio Board of Accountancy:
 - Monica Oliver successfully completed application
 - Approval and registration letter should be in Chapter mailbox for pick up
- Ken George has volunteered to be on the host committee team for the 2006 San Diego PDC
- Discussed idea of forming a Chapter Library
 - Chapter Officers/Committee members to obtain copies of CGFM study guides for self-study
- Chapter may want to consider working with faculty members from local Universities to discuss current issues and perhaps invite them to our luncheons.
 - Potential speakers for future luncheons