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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Some years the month of February is dreary, snowy and generally a month to endure as we prepare for spring. This particular February has been especially difficult with the constant snow, ice and high winds. I have seen more of my neighbors these past weeks, as we gather to remove the snow from our driveways and sidewalks, than I have seen them all winter.

February is a month when most of us begin to get serious about gathering and preparing our documents to prepare our income taxes. AGA will again participate in the volunteer income tax assistance (VITA) program. Our members will be preparing taxes for low income and elderly residents. If you know of someone who would benefit from this program, please contact our Community Service Director, Kortney Whiteman, for more information.

February is also the month that our chapter accepts nominations for officer positions for the upcoming year. The positions to nominate for are President-elect, Treasurer, and Secretary. Interested candidates should contact a current officer to self nominate. I encourage all members in good standing to consider nominating themselves for a leadership role. From a personal perspective, serving as a leader of the chapter has been a gratifying experience. It has afforded me the opportunity to work with our wonderful chapter members and to network with members across the country.

Finally the second annual Spring Professional Development Opportunity (PDO) is scheduled for March 28 at Confluence park. I hope everyone will consider attending this worthwhile educational event.

Have a great month, stay warm and remember that spring is just around the corner.

*-Lori Mikesell*

**AGA'S 56<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
CONFERENCE  
& EXPOSITION**

**June 24-27, 2007**  
Nashville, Tennessee



**PDO at a  
Glance**

“Maintaining Excellence  
in a Changing  
Environment”

Sponsored by AGA and  
ASMC

28 March 2007  
Riverfront Club at  
Confluence Park  
679 W. Spring St

# Get More Involved With AGA!

## Still Time to Self-Nominate

Officer elections will be held in April. Nominations are still being accepted for the following positions through February 23, 2007. Contact an officer today for more information.

### President-Elect

The primary responsibility of the President-Elect is to learn the duties of the President and to fill in when the President is not available. The President-Elect is also responsible for managing the Chapter Recognition Program. As a leader in AGA, the President-Elect is required to attend all monthly CEC meetings.

### Treasurer

The main duty of the Treasurer is cash management. The treasurer is

responsible for handling all cash collections and disbursements and ensuring proper funds in the bank account. He or she is also responsible for reporting and paying all applicable taxes. As a leader in AGA, the Treasurer is required to attend all monthly CEC meetings.

### Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for composing and disseminating meeting notes for monthly CEC meetings and monthly luncheons. He or she prepares and distributes meeting agendas, composes memorandums for the President and President-Elect, and is responsible for the AGA Post Office box. As a leader in AGA, the Secretary is required to attend all monthly CEC meetings.

## Call for Committee Members

The Early Career Committee is looking for an individual interested in becoming a leader of the committee.

For more information, contact Aubrey Martin at 693-0747.

## Chapter Officers

### PRESIDENT

LORI MIKESELL  
lori.mikesell@dfas.mil

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

KENNETH GEORGE, CPA  
kenneth.george@dfas.mil

### TREASURER

JUSTIN SPONSELLER  
justin.sponseller@dfas.mil

### SECRETARY

HEATHER DRAKE  
heather.drake@dfas.mil

### EARLY CAREER DIRECTORS

YULONTE MERRELL  
yulonte.merrell@dfas.mil

AUBREY MARTIN  
aubrey.martin@dfas.mil

### COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

D. AMY MOBLEY  
amy.mobley@dfas.mil

### CHAPTER HISTORIAN

HENRIANN FRANKLIN, CGFM  
henriann.franklin@dfas.mil

### PROGRAMS DIRECTORS

JIM GILLENWATER  
jim.gillenwater@dfas.mil

DIANA KAUFMAN  
diana.kaufman@dfas.mil

### COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTORS

KORTNEY WHITEMAN  
kortney.whiteman@dfas.mil

### BETH WINSOR, CDFM

beth.winsor@dfas.mil

### WAYS AND MEANS DIRECTORS

KEVIN BRUNS, CPA  
kevin.bruns@dfas.mil

TARA BRUNS, CPA  
tara.bruns@dfas.mil

### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

JUSTIN SPONSELLER  
justin.sponseller@dfas.mil

### EDUCATION DIRECTOR

SHAWN MCCrackEN, CPA, CGFM  
shawn.mccracken@dfas.mil

## Sponsor of the Quarter

“It’s a Tie!”

Please join us in congratulating Early Career Co-Directors, Aubrey Martin and Yulonte Merrell on “Sponsor of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter”. When asked about membership and how it relates to their leadership role as Early Career Co-directors, this is what they had to say :

Recruiting and retaining “Early Career” members is one of our highest priorities as Early Career Co-directors.

We are constantly looking for ways to make this organization attractive to individuals within the early stages of their government career. To do this, we need to hear from members and non-members alike.

If you’re not a member, we need to know what’s holding you back. If you are a member, but not active in the chapter, how can we help you get more involved?

Membership alone increases awareness of current issues and challenges facing the government accounting and finance profession. However, active participation at the local, regional, or national level connects you with opportunities for personal, educational and professional development.

Sincerely,

*Aubrey and Yulonte*

## CGFM Update

### Intensive Review Course

By Katya Silver, Director of Professional Certification Administration

Have you applied for the CGFM Program, but are having difficulty committing time to study and take the exams? Would you like to save on exam fees?

Then consider AGA's Intensive Review Course! Already a staple at two of AGA's conferences, it was just offered before the National Leadership Conference (NLC) in Washington DC and once again was sold out.

After attending the two-day review course on February 9-10, the candidates tackled the CGFM Examinations over the next two days (with some taking all three exams in one day!). As a result, 19 of the participants passed all three (or finished up their remaining) CGFM Examinations at this event. Several others passed one or two examinations and are on their way to completing the CGFM process.

While this "intense" experience is not for everybody, participants were attracted to the idea of completing the CGFM process in a short period of time, having a set deadline to take the examinations and saving money (the cost of CGFM Examinations is included in the Intensive Review Course fee and this fee is less than the cost of the three examinations). Holding an Intensive Review Course and CGFM Examinations in conjunction with AGA National Leadership and Professional

Development Conferences gives the candidates one more way to reinforce the material and take the CGFM Examinations (candidates can also take the exams at Prometric testing centers anytime).

The extra reinforcement of the material is exactly what some people wanted and needed. The Intensive Review Course is not a substitute for the six days of regular instructor-led training courses. On the contrary, this course is designed as a supplement to previous preparation for the CGFM Examinations. In fact, the majority of the participants have either attended the CGFM training courses or purchased the CGFM study guides before participating in the Intensive Review Course.

AGA plans to continue offering this course and CGFM Examinations at its upcoming conferences. The next Intensive Review Course is scheduled for June 21-22, 2007 (with exams on June 23-24, 2007) in conjunction with AGA's Professional Development Conference (PDC) in Nashville, TN.

For more information or to register, visit:

[www.agacgfm.org/pdc2007/cgfm\\_exam.htm](http://www.agacgfm.org/pdc2007/cgfm_exam.htm)

Questions? Please call one of our Chapter's Education Co-Directors: Shawn McCracken, 614-693-6525 or Benjamin Novotny, 614-693-2227.

I am still determined to be cheerful and happy, in whatever situation I may be; for I have also learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions, and not upon our circumstances.

**-Martha Washington**

# Chapter Calendar

MARCH 2007						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 CGFM Module 1 Study Session: Noon - 1pm	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Communications: Newsletter Submission Deadline	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 AGA/ASMC PDO Audio Conference: Procurement Fraud	29	30	31

## But I Digress...

Just when I was getting used to the climate change, winter appeared in full force and with a vengeance. Inundated with snow and ice and the added consternation of the kids off school, I'm looking toward the sunny south for relief.

I could be a snow bird; south Florida sounds good to me. South Padre Island, Texas sounds even better! My poor bones can't handle this bone chilling sub-zero weather. My sinuses are happy, but the cost is very dear. All this house-bound activity has me restless to get out (or is it just away from

being cooped up with those Energizer Bunnies we call children?)

A warmer climate, like South Padre, would allow me a walk on the beach in a t-shirt, shorts, and sandals with my spouse after dinner, pondering life's great mysteries like why anyone would want to subject themselves to the dramatic climactic changes of mid Ohio. Don't get me wrong, I like the snow, but the ups and downs of the thermostat make me dream of a sunset beach and suntan lotion. But I digress....

# Upcoming Events

## **Audio Conference – Internal Controls 28 February 2007, 2:00pm – 3:50pm**

The Greater Columbus AGA Chapter, in conjunction with the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT), and the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA), is pleased to announce a new and significant audio conference addressing risk and internal control issues that confront auditors and management and offering practical solutions for both.

It has been over 25 years since the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations established the COSO framework for effective internal control. The recently released Risk Assessment Auditing Standards highlight two of those components: risk assessments performed by management and the establishment of effective monitoring systems by management to determine whether the controls are working as designed. In addition, the new AICPA auditing standards effectively remove the auditor's ability to maximize control risk without any consequences to the client if the controls are truly deficient.

Standard management responses to the need for client risk assessment and monitoring of controls, such as "we aren't auditors" and "we don't understand controls", are less likely to be effective in light of these new developments, coupled with a renewed demand in every sector for more accountability.

This audio conference will explore the new requirements, as well as the old expectations, and provide the participants, both auditors and audit clients, with practical suggestions for addressing one of the last frontiers of the expectation gap

To discuss the evolution of risk and internal control standards and applications are two industry experts: Frank W. Crawford, CPA, President of Crawford & Associates, P.C., Certified Public Accountants, and Chair of the AICPA Government Expert Panel and the Oklahoma Society of CPAs Government Accounting and Auditing Committee; and Arthur A. Hayes, CGFM, CPA, CFE, Director of the Division of State Audit in the Tennessee Comptroller's

Office, who has chaired and served on various committees and task forces for the AGA, GFOA, Southeastern Intergovernmental Audit Forum and AICPA. Both speakers are renowned lecturers, trainers and discussion leaders for government agencies at all levels, government and private associations and firms.

Please join us for two hours of lively discussion about this important and timely topic. In addition to the speakers' presentation, there will be approximately 20 minutes for Q & A so that the participants can ask the speakers questions and share their own experiences. The audio conference will be held in the DFAS-CO Conference Center in the room C-146 (Kansas City Room).

## **Spring Professional Development Opportunity Sponsored by AGA and ASMC 28 March 2007**

The AGA Greater Columbus Chapter, in association with the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) Buckeye Chapter, would like to invite you all to the second joint Spring Professional Development Opportunity (PDO) to be held at the Riverfront Club at Confluence Park, located at 679 W. Spring St, Columbus, OH on Wednesday, March 28, 2007. The theme of the conference will be "Maintaining Excellence in a Changing Environment".

As professional organizations, the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) and the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) are committed to providing you, our members, with the tools necessary to succeed in the future; not only as individuals in the workplace, but also in your personal lives. We've put together this one day program that will provide comprehensive information to enable you to succeed in three different perspectives: personally, professionally, and organizationally. We hope that you take advantage of this tremendous opportunity.

Potential speakers include Ms. Arlena Fitch-Gordon, Vice-President National Federally Employed Women (FEW); Mr. Jason L Thomas, former U.S. Marine and 9/11 Hero; Mr. Gary Reese, Blessed Conviction Presentations.

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Potential sessions include personal sessions, such as Identity Theft or Diversity; professional sessions, such as Certifications (CGFM, CDFM) or Career Management, and organizational sessions, such as Breakthrough Performance or Federal Financial Management.

Please note that since we are still in the planning

stages, potential topics and speakers are subject to change. More details to follow in the coming month.

**Please contact Diana Kaufman (614-693-0370) or Jim Gillenwater (614-693-6907) with any questions.**

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## TECH TALK

### DOD clarifies RFID requirements

By Bob Brewin

[www.fcw.com](http://www.fcw.com)

The Defense Department has issued its final rule for use of radio frequency identification tags by its suppliers, extending how long they can use older tags and mandating the use of tags even on low-value shipments from low-volume suppliers. DOD cited efficiencies gained in the supply chain through RFID use.

DOD said in a Federal Register notice on Feb. 12 that it will allow the use of older RFID Generation 1 tags under all new contracts through March 1. The older tags can also be used on all shipments contracts awarded before May 19, 2006, the date of the RFID interim rule.

RFID Generation 1 tags are unalterable Write-Once tags. The Generation 2 tags, which DOD will move to after March 1, are Write-Once, Read-Many tags that can be written to only once, but read any number of times. Suppliers told DOD that a fast phase out of the Generation 1 tags would leave them with a large inventory of tags purchased at the department's encouragement.

Industry asked DOD if the requirement to add tags to inexpensive items made sense when considering the cost of adding RFID systems to a vendor's supply chain, which one company estimated at \$100,000 per location. DOD said the benefits of applying RFID outweigh the costs.

DOD said the dollar value of an item is not an accurate measure of how mission-critical the item is. For example, an inexpensive part that could keep a plane from flying its mission would be considered mission-critical. DOD said its suppliers can meet its RFID mandate with the purchase of equipment that can read and write tags at a cost of about \$2,000.

RFID technology is simply a faster, better way to acquire data for logistics and financial systems and will be a benefit for all items the department manages, DOD added. DOD issued its initial RFID rule in April 2005. It required suppliers of packaged field rations such as Meals Ready to Eat, clothing and individual

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## AGA Greater Columbus Welcomes New Member



Kelly Lindesmith graduated magna cum laude in 2005 from Tiffin University. She has rotated through Contract Pay-

Entitlement and Site Support and is now on rotation in DLA-Accounting. She is taking classes at the Keller Graduate School of Management towards her MBA with a concentration in Accounting

# The Bottom Line

## TSP officials see 'huge growth' in plan

By Brittany R. Ballenstedt  
[www.govexec.com](http://www.govexec.com)

Officials of the Thrift Savings Plan on Wednesday said the plan's already low cost to participants could drop even more in the future.

Board officials also predicted that investments in the plan, which currently stand at \$206 billion, could grow to \$300 billion in three years.

"Going forward, we must be cognizant of the huge growth this plan is going to undergo in the next three or four years and in the future," said board Chairman Andrew Saul at a special biannual meeting of the Employee Thrift Advisory Council.

The 401(k)-style retirement savings plan allows federal employees to choose from five funds that invest in government securities, stocks and bonds. On top of those funds are the plan's life-cycle funds, which mix the five existing TSP options so investments shift from a mix of aggressive to more secure investments as federal employees near retirement.

The cost of running the TSP compares favorably to private plans. Last year, the administrative costs amounted to three "basis points." For every basis point, 10 cents is spent for every \$1,000 invested. So, for the three basis points, 30 cents were spent for \$1,000 invested.

TSP Executive Director Gary Amelio said the costs of the plan could eventually drop to one basis point. Private plans often cost 50 to 80 basis points to run.

TSP officials also announced that they had hired a search firm to assist in selecting a candidate to replace Amelio, who announced his resignation last month. Amelio, who has served in his position since 2003, will become president of retirement services for ULLICO Inc., which provides insurance and investments for union members.

Board members said several internal and external candidates would be presented at the next board meeting, scheduled for Feb. 20. The board hopes to

fill the position by April 1. TSP General Counsel Thomas Emswiler will serve as acting executive director during the transition.

Board members also discussed legislative priorities for the new Congress, saying they plan to examine the benefits of automatic enrollment for employees, a change in the default fund from the G Fund to the life-cycle funds, and the potential addition of new funds and a Roth 401(k) option in the plan.

The meeting was conducted by the Employee Thrift Advisory Council, composed of representatives of federal labor unions including the American Federation of Government Employees, the National Treasury Employees Union and the American Postal Workers Union, and nonbargaining employee groups such as the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, Federally Employed Women, the Federal Managers Association and the Senior Executives Association.

Most of the five basic funds in the Thrift Savings Plan posted gains in January. The S Fund, which invests in small- and mid-sized domestic companies by tracking the Dow Jones Wilshire 4500 Index, led the group with 3.14 percent for a 12-month total return of 11.46 percent.

The C Fund, which tracks the Standard & Poor's 500 Index of stocks in the largest domestic companies, grew 1.53 percent last month for a 12-month total return of 14.52 percent. Following were international investments represented in the I Fund, which grew 1.31 percent for a 12-month gain of 20.57 percent. The G Fund, which consists of short-term Treasury securities without any serious risk from market fluctuations, grew 0.43 percent for a 12-month gain of 5 percent. Finally, the F Fund, invested in fixed-income bonds, made no gains last month, but had a 12-month gain of 4.31 percent.

This document is located at <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0207/020707b1.htm>

# Technically Speaking

## FASAB Establishes Fiscal Sustainability Task Force

*AGA Today*

Mr. Tom L. Allen, chairman of the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB), announced the formation of a new task to develop recommendations for reporting on the fiscal sustainability of the federal governments policies. One of FASAB's federal financial reporting objectives-the stewardship objective-includes enabling readers to determine whether future budgetary resources will likely be sufficient to sustain public services and to meet obligations as they come due.

Mr. Allen noted that meeting the stewardship objective will require non-traditional approaches that complement and enrich information from balance sheets and operating statements. I expect that reporting on fiscal sustainability will include information about the national economy, the size of the federal budget, and fiscal trends of current policy. The task force members have been selected carefully to ensure we have input from those experienced with economic projections, development of key indicators, and federal budgeting. The task force will provide essential input to the Board and I am grateful that so many talented individuals are volunteering their time.

### Task Force Members

The task force members are:

- Joseph Antos, Wilson H. Taylor Scholar in Health Care and Retirement Policy, American Enterprise Institute
- James Duggan, Senior Economic Advisor for Social Security, Office of Economic Policy, U.S. Department of the Treasury
- Richard Foster, Chief Actuary, Center for Medicare and Medicaid
- Jagadeesh Gokhale, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute
- Stephen Goss, Chief Actuary, Social Security

Administration

- Patrick Locke, Chief, Budget Analysis Branch, Office of Management and Budget
- Thomas McCool, Director, Center for Economics, Government Accountability Office
- Benjamin R. Page, Principal Analyst, Macroeconomic Analysis Division, Congressional Budget Office
- Allen Schick, Visiting Fellow in Governance Studies, Brookings Institution
- Eugene Steuerle, Co-director, Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center; Senior Fellow, Urban Institute

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## Treasurer's Report

As of January 31, 2007

By Justin Sponseller, Treasurer

### Checking Account

Beginning Balance	\$4,513.66
Deposits	297.00
Disbursements	392.08
Ending Balance	<u>\$4,418.58</u>

### Savings Account

Beginning Balance	\$5,410.37
Transfer to Checking	-
Interest Earned	13.64
Deposits	-
Ending Balance	<u>\$5,424.01</u>

**Total Balance** \$9,842.59

# Government News

## Defense officials share concerns on readiness of U.S.-based forces

By Megan Scully  
*Congress Daily*

Joint Chiefs Chairman Peter Pace acknowledged Wednesday that non-deployed U.S. forces are not sufficiently equipped, echoing similar concerns aired recently by Army Chief of Staff Peter Schoomaker and Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, chief of the Pentagon's National Guard Bureau.

"No, ma'am," Pace told the House Armed Services Committee in response to a question from Rep. Nancy Boyda, D-Kansas, on whether he is satisfied with the readiness levels of military units based in the United States.

But Pace emphasized that the \$716.5 billion in new defense spending requested Monday would help boost the readiness levels of these non-deployed units, which have left vehicles and other gear behind in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For instance, the request includes \$51.5 billion, far more than has been requested in past years, for the remainder of fiscal 2007 and all of fiscal 2008 to repair and replace equipment lost or damaged during ongoing operations.

Meanwhile, the Bush administration's plan to augment the overall size of the Army and Marine Corps by 92,000 troops would help alleviate stress on the force, and give troops more time to train before redeploying to Iraq or Afghanistan, Pace said. Many active-duty units now deploy every other year, leaving them only 12 months to train before being sent back to combat.

Pace and Defense Secretary Robert Gates also assured committee members that the ongoing congressional debate over the Iraq war would not harm troop morale, diffusing arguments by White House officials and some lawmakers who support President Bush's plan to send more than 20,000 additional soldiers and Marines to Iraq.

Deployed troops are "sophisticated enough" to understand that the debate on Capitol Hill is intended to find the "best path forward" in Iraq, Gates said. Pace added there is "no doubt in my mind" that the dialogue in Washington strengthens democracy.

But the military's top officer cautioned that the current discord on Capitol Hill over the war could give comfort to enemies. He also warned against cutting off funding for the war, stating that troops want to know that they have adequate resources to carry out their missions.

The hearing Wednesday, the first in the House on the fiscal 2008 defense budget request, gave several freshman Democratic members of the panel the opportunity to flex their muscles on the Iraq war.

Indeed, House Armed Services Chairman Ike Skelton, D-Mo., gave the first crack at questions to the "front row" of the 62-member committee, many of whom won election in November because of public discontent with the war. Rep. Brad Ellsworth, D-Ind., questioned Gates and Pace on establishing benchmarks for the Iraqi security forces.

Meanwhile, Rep. Patrick Murphy, D-Pa., an Iraq war veteran, grilled Pentagon leaders on "how this ends." Gates responded that he hopes to begin pulling troops out of Iraq this year, but acknowledged that as a "best-case" scenario.

While much of the questioning focused on current operations, Rep. Joe Courtney, D-Conn., quizzed Gates about the Pentagon's submarine-building plans. Courtney, who last November beat former committee member Rep. Rob Simmons, R-Conn., represents a district that includes General Dynamics' Electric Boat shipyard.

Courtney warned that the Chinese navy is building more than two submarines a year, while the United States will not begin to produce two subs annually until 2012. The lagging production is "almost emblematic" of how increasing war costs are "eating into our seed corn" for future military technologies, Courtney added.

# AGA's 2006-07 Member-Get-A-Member Campaign

Reach for the Rising Stars and You Could Be a Star in Nashville!

That's right, recruit new members into AGA this program year and you could win a free trip (roundtrip airfare and registration) to AGA's 2007 Professional Development Conference & Exposition in Nashville, Tennessee – June 24-27!

This year we are focusing on recruiting the rising stars – we call them early career and tomorrow's professionals - individuals just starting out in their careers, with less than 3 years of experience. Now is the time to reach out to these 'up and comers' – maybe even think about becoming a mentor!

We invite each AGA member to recruit at least one new member in this year's MGAM. Our goal is to continue the positive net growth in membership that we experienced this past year. And, EVERY member who sponsors new members is eligible for prizes and recognition in the Reach for the Stars campaign.

Be sure to have handy an AGA membership application or know the AGA website address ([www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)). And don't forget to include your name in the 'sponsor' line on the membership application to receive credit!

## Prizes!!

Recruit 1 or more members, receive a Sponsors Only lapel pin and get recognized in Topics and on the AGA website.

Recruit 2 members and start earning AGA Dollars. You'll earn 5 AGA Dollars for each new member that joins. Recruit 2 members, earn 10 AGA Dollars, recruit 4 members, earn 20 AGA Dollars and so on. AGA Dollars are like cash and can be redeemed towards publications, membership dues renewals and national conference registrations.

Recruit 10 or more members by March 31, 2007 and get placed into a fishbowl drawing for a

**FREE trip** (roundtrip airfare and registration to AGA's 2007 Professional Development Conference in Nashville, Tennessee). Recruit 10 members, get one chance at the drawing, recruit 16 members, get seven chances and so on. The more members recruited, the more chances to win.

## Spotlight on Early Career/Tomorrow's Professionals New Members

A \$500 American Express Gift Cheque will be awarded to the AGA member who recruits the most new Early Career members during the MGAM.

## Sponsor Achievement Awards and Recognition

Recruiter of the Year (1 winner) – The member who recruits the most new members from May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007 will receive a complimentary AGA national meeting registration.

Top Sponsor (2 winners) – The next two members who recruit the highest amount of new members from May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007 will each receive a complimentary AGA national meeting registration.

Chapter Overall Growth (6 winning chapters) – Those six chapters achieving the highest overall growth percentage in their chapter size grouping for the membership year will each win a complimentary AGA national meeting registration. Each chapter president and membership chair will also be presented with an achievement plaque.

## How to Participate

Have your recruit join online at the following website: [www.agacgfm.org/membership/join/registration.aspx](http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/join/registration.aspx)

Have your recruit enter *your name and membership number* on the "Sponsor's Name" line when applying online.

Follow up with those individuals that you asked to join.

## Rules/Eligibility

All AGA members in good standing are eligible to participate in the MGAM. The campaign period includes all new members joining AGA from May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007 – AGA's membership year.

National meeting registration can include the National Leadership Conference, the Professional Development Conference & Exposition, the Internal Control & Fraud Conference and the Performance Management Conference. All federal, state and local laws apply. Void where prohibited.

equipment, tools, tents, and weapons systems repair parts and components to use the tags. Last May, DOD said all suppliers of lubricants, oils, preservatives, chemicals, additives, construction and barrier materials, and medical materials would have to use RFID tags at the case and pallet level. The Pentagon plans to have all its suppliers use RFID tags by the end of this year.

The Defense Logistics Agency has equipped its nationwide network of 19 distribution centers with RFID tag readers at more than 200 portals to scan and read tag information that identifies incoming shipments.

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Technically Speaking Continued from Page 8

**Next**

**Steps**

The task force will meet in early April and recommendations are anticipated before the end of 2007. In addition to the technical experts currently serving on the task force, the Board plans to expand the task force later this year to include advisors on communications. The additional task force members, representing Congress, academia, and the media, will be asked to advise the Board on how to make financial statement reporting on fiscal sustainability understandable and meaningful to readers. Ideally, the final recommendation will include both recommended content and options for ensuring that the information is communicated effectively.

**Social Insurance: Call for Public Comment and Public Hearing**

The fiscal sustainability effort follows closely behind a current FASAB project to address Accounting for

Social Insurance. In October 2006, the Board released a Preliminary Views document presenting two perspectives! ties regarding appropriate liability recognition for obligations arising in social insurance programs, which are key programs such as Social Security and Medicare. In addition, the Preliminary Views document includes an alternative view proposing to require a Statement of Fiscal Sustainability for the governments consolidated financial report that would provide projections for the entire Government, including information necessary to assess the sustainability of social insurance programs and information on intergenerational equity. The Preliminary Views document in PDF format and the specific questions raised in Word format are available at the FASAB website (<http://www.fasab.gov/exposure.html>). In addition, the Board plans to hold a public hearing on the Preliminary Views document at the May 23, 2007 FASAB meeting. Comments are welcome on all aspects of the Preliminary Views document.

# AGA Greater Columbus Chapter

## January 2007 Luncheon

Thursday, January 11, 2007

The following is a brief synopsis of the events that took place during the Luncheon held on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January 2007:

Our guest speaker for the January Luncheon was Mr. Jim Fograscher, Facilitator and Meeting Consultant, who spoke on the topic of “Effective Meetings”. The main topics of discussion included: Challenges of Meetings, Samples of Waste, Tips for Effective/Efficient Meetings and When to Get Help.

### MEETINGS IN AMERICA

The following research was obtained from an MCI study on the average time Americans spend in meetings:

- Monthly average # of meetings attended:
  - Americans = 11
  - Professionals = 62
- Weekly Average # of hours spent in meetings:
  - CEO's = 17 hrs
  - Senior Executives = 23 hrs
  - Mid-Managers = 11 hrs
  - Non-Managers = 9 hrs
- Due to ineffective meetings:
  - 50%-65% of meeting time is wasted
  - An estimated 4 days per month is lost

### SOME COMMON FACTORS OF WASTE

- Meeting starts late
- Meeting doesn't end on time
- No agenda
- Meeting lacks purpose
- Side conversations
- Meeting has no outcome/results
- Wrong mix of people in attendance
- Off-topic discussions
- Disagreements
- Dominating personalities
- Interruptions
- Person in charge of meeting leaves
- Lacks direction

## **EFFECTIVE VS. EFFICIENT MEETINGS**

- Effective = Achieving the desired results/outcomes; prevents poor decisions
- Efficient = Eliminating wasted time/resources; prevents opportunity cost
- Tips for effective and efficient meetings:
  - Planning – Prior to the meeting, all parties should take initiative in “reading ahead” any material that has potential importance, as well as rehearsing topics of discussion, anticipating problems/questions, and defining outcomes. The meeting planner should assign responsibilities before the meeting, develop a clear purpose and a fall back plan, define outcomes, and ensure that the right mix of people are invited.
  - Preparing – Includes establishing role clarity, ensuring space and technology compatibility and having all supplies ready.
  - Management – The meeting facilitator should ensure that the meeting starts and ends on time, keep everyone focused on task, prevent interruptions, instill rules of engagement, provide periodic summaries, and document decisions.
  - Intangibles –A meeting is both effective and efficient when the attendees engage in active participation, the tone is positive, and ends with a sense of empowerment and accomplishment.
  - Results – Were the goals accomplished? An effective/efficient meeting should end with action items, action owners, action target dates, meeting records (parking lot), a communication plan and a summary recap.

## **GETTING HELP**

Depending on the nature of the meeting, the following options are recommended for conducting effective and efficient meetings:

- Designate/hire an in-house facilitator: Responsible for preparing/managing meetings, keeping track of time, taking notes, resolving problems, making decisions, etc.

Hire a professional: Recommended for companies that pay high salaries and/or expenses, decisions are at stake, there are high risks involved in addition to competitive pressures, and the outcomes are very visible.