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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It seems you can't escape the hype associated with basketball during the Month of March, especially since the Buckeyes won the Big Ten tournament and they are the number one seed in their bracket of the NCAA Tournament. Don't get me wrong, I thoroughly enjoy the sport and consider this to be one of the best times of year to watch TV. Thinking about March Madness got me to wondering how it all started.

On the website www.marchmadness.org I learned that March Madness was born in Illinois. The annual tournament of high school boys' basketball teams grew from a small invitational affair in 1908 to a statewide institution with over 900 schools competing by the late 1930's. A field of teams known as the "Sweet Sixteen" routinely drew sellout crowds to the University of Illinois' Huff Gymnasium. In a time before television, before the college game became popular with the average fan, before professional leagues had established a foothold in the nation's large cities, basketball fever had already reached epidemic proportions in the Land of Lincoln.

The name was first coined by Henry V. Porter, assistant executive secretary of the Illinois High School Association. He was so impressed by the phenomenon that he wrote an essay to commemorate it entitled "March Madness." It first appeared in the Illinois Interscholastic, the IHSA's magazine, in 1939. The term struck a chord with newspapermen, who used it throughout their pages.

I would have never imagined it started in Illinois or with boys' high school basketball. I hope each of you enjoy March Madness this year and cheer your favorite team to victory. I would like to see our members just as excited about AGA as basketball fans get about March Madness.

I hope to see all of you at the Spring PDO. It promises to be an exceptional educational event. The executive programs and education committees have dedicated a great deal of time and energy to ensure you receive a quality program. Please be sure and thank them when you see them on the 28th.

Have a great month,

-Lori Mikesell

AGA'S 56TH ANNUAL
**PROFESSIONAL
 DEVELOPMENT
 CONFERENCE
 & EXPOSITION**

June 24–27, 2007
 Nashville, Tennessee



Seeking Committee Members

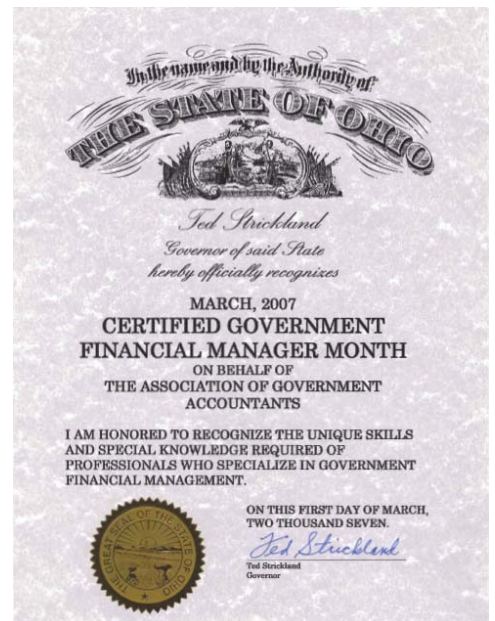
The newly formed Certification Committee is looking for committee members. The Education Committee is in need of a Committee Director. Contact Shawn McCracken, 693-6525 or Ben Novotny, 693-2227 if you are interested.

March 2007 is CGFM Month in Ohio!

The Greater Columbus Chapter of AGA would like to announce that Ohio Governor Ted Strickland has declared March 2007 as Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Month on behalf of the AGA. This proclamation was issued to recognize the unique skills and special knowledge required of professionals who specialize in government financial management and in achieving the CGFM designation. A copy of the proclamation is located on page XX of the newsletter. It will be displayed in room B-317, the AGA conference room, in order to proudly recognize our chapter members who have obtained their CGFM designation.

The CGFM Program has a lot of reasons to celebrate. Last year brought a record 50 percent increase in applications, 73 percent increase in new CGFM's and 96 percent retention rate of current CGFM's! The CGFM Program is growing, the credential is becoming more valuable

and recognized, and we want to thank all of you for being part of this success. Good luck to all members that are currently on their path towards certification. If you would like additional information about the program, please contact Education Committee co-directors Shawn McCracken at 614-693-6525 or Benjamin Novotny at 614-693-2227.



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New AGA Fundraiser

There's a new kind of fundraiser in town that's so easy! You have to eat, right? Well, you can feed your family and support AGA at the Easton Max & Erma's on April 17, 2007.

We will be handing out flyers with coupons at the next luncheon. All you have to do is come in to eat at this location, with your flyer on this date! The more you eat, the more money we raise, as 20% of each check is donated back to AGA.

The fundraiser is all day long. If you have friends, family, or co-workers that want to have lunch or dinner, or carryout, send them in with a photocopy of the flyer.

If you have questions, please contact:

Tara Bruns
tara.bruns@dfas.mil

or

Kevin Bruns
kevin.bruns@dfas.mil

Many thanks in advance for your support and for dining at Max & Erma's on April 17th!

Five Ways to Stay Positive in Negativity

By Julie Fuimano
julie@NurturingYourSuccess.com

It's easy to be positive in a positive environment. It's when things are emotionally draining and negative that you're challenged to behave differently. But you have the opportunity to be the beacon of light for others around you. By your actions and responses, you can demonstrate and teach others how to behave in an appropriate, positive and professional manner.

Positive energy catches on just as quickly as negative energy. Sometimes people are simply stuck in a habit or pattern of behavior and are accustomed to acting a certain way. If the environment is really caustic, then it's what people are used to and may be all they know.

It takes some time and effort as well as a commitment to do something differently to create sustainable change. You must be willing to identify and stop tolerating what's not working, do the right thing even if it's initially unpopular and then teach others to do the same.

Here are five ways you can be a positive force in your workplace:

The First Step Is Awareness

Recognize the negativity around you. Sometimes you can even feel your energy being drained by the words being spoken. If it feels bad or uncomfortable, then it's negative. These feelings are a form of intelligence similar to a tap on the shoulder letting you know something is not right. If you can identify what

is happening, you can make good choices about handling it.

It All Starts with You

In what ways are you contributing to the negativity around you? Are you listening to [gossip](#) or participating in conversations where the only focus is to denigrate, diminish or criticize? Language matters. Everything you say has an impact; saying something negative not only dishonors the person you're speaking about and the person you're speaking with, but it also makes you feel bad even if you don't realize it. Learn to respect people's humanity and their right to be themselves. Complaining without end does not focus on creating solutions; rather, it perpetuates and magnifies the problem, wasting everyone's precious time and energy.

Speak Up

Tell the other person how you feel by saying, "This doesn't work for me." It's nonjudgmental, since you're making it about you, not them. Also, people often don't realize they are being negative. Point it out in a gentle, caring way: "Do you realize you are complaining?" Just bringing it to their attention can be enough to shift the conversation. Over time, people will learn what they can and cannot discuss with you, and it will stop being an issue. If you say nothing, your silence conveys permission to continue.

Continued on Page 12

Chapter Calendar

APRIL 2007						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Election Ballots Open Luncheon: Intro. of candidates running for Election	13 Election Ballots Open	14
15	16 Election Ballots Open	17 Election Ballots Open	18 Election Ballots Open	19 Election Ballots Open Communications: Newsletter Submission Deadline	20 Election Ballots Open	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 2007-2008 Election Ballot Deadline					

But I Digress...

It occurred to me the other day just how hectic my life has become. I get up bright and early, kiss the spouse good bye, put the dog out, then head to work. I put in a very full 8 to 9 hours then I fight the crush of traffic to pick the children up from school.

Once we get home there's dinner, homework, baths, storytime, and bed. After that there's dishes, laundry, all those other little five-minute chores that

keep a household operational, a little time with my spouse, and it's back to bed to get enough rest to be fully functional for the next day. The weekends aren't much better-filled with the kids' activities, yard work, house work, and all of the other "to do's".

I remember with fondness the days of my youth when leisure time consisted of a British gentleman and a lovely chat over a proper cup of tea. Don't get me wrong I enjoy my life. I just wish that that bloke would call every once and again. But I digress . . .

Commitment to a Better Value, With a Catch!

Separating the Education and Certification Committees

By Shawn McCracken, Education Co-Director

As a recent start-up AGA Chapter, the Greater Columbus Chapter is constantly looking to increase the services we provide you - our members - and to improve your satisfaction with the benefits of membership. We're happy to announce our latest improvement. We are currently in the process of separating the Education and Certification Committee into two separate Committees; one the "Education Committee" and one the "Certification / CGFM Committee".

Those of you who are cynical Federal Government employees may be thinking that will only serve to add more "overhead" and complicate communication and coordination efforts. Nothing could be further from the truth. Not only will this split bring us more in line with AGA National and almost all other Chapter structures, but it will also allow each committee to independently "raise the bar" with respect to the offerings and benefits we provide you. It will allow each committee to specifically dedicate their efforts to enhancing

activities and accomplishments within the general Education arena and more specific Certification / CGFM arena.

We are confident this split will allow us to further improve on the tremendous accomplishments we have had to date. However, it is not without a "catch". In order to do this, we will need additional volunteers to help us sufficiently staff each separate Committee. Additionally, we will need volunteers to serve as Education Committee Chairperson as previous Co-Chair Shawn McCracken will be moving over to the Certification / CGFM Committee, and Co-Chair Ben Novotny is looking to other opportunities within the Chapter.

Please consider volunteering to serve on one of the newly formed Committees as either a Committee member or as Education Committee Chair. Contact Shawn McCracken (3-6525) or Ben Novotny (3-2227) for any questions or to express interest. Thanks!

CGFM Update

CGFM CPE requirements

By Katya Silver, *Director of Professional Certification Administration, AGA*

In order to maintain their CGFM designation in an active status, CGFMs must adhere to the AGA's Code of Ethics, pay the annual renewal fee by March 31 and meet the following continuing professional education (CPE) requirements:

- complete at least 80 hours of CPE every two years in government financial management topics or related technical subjects.
- maintain and, if requested by AGA, provide detailed information on CPE hours completed.

The two-year CPE cycle is based on the year the CGFM was awarded. For a list of cycles, please visit http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/cgfm_calendar.aspx.

Determining if CPEs are applicable: continuing

professional education hours that would satisfy the CGFM Program's requirement must be in government financial management topics or related technical subjects applicable to government financial management areas.

The CGFM is initially responsible for determining whether a topic or subject qualifies as acceptable CPE. To help one make that determination, the CGFM should consult the CPE Requirements booklet (available online at http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/cpe_requirements.aspx), including a listing of more than 50 topics and subject areas that could qualify for government financial management CPE hours. Additional questions should be referred to the

Upcoming Events

Euchre Tournament

20 April 2007, 6:30 pm - whenever

The Greater Columbus and Central Ohio Chapters of AGA are having a Euchre Tournament at Iacono's Pizza located at 5068 Cemetery Road in Hilliard. A salad, soup and pizza buffet will be provided.

Members and their guests are welcome to attend but **MUST** register by Wednesday, April 11. Please keep in mind that the number of participants will be **LIMITED** so please register early.

For registration purposes, please contact Caren Murdock, 614-466-2999, cmurdock@ag.state.oh.us.

April Luncheon

12 April 2007, 11:30am – 1:00pm

It is our pleasure to welcome Dr. Garry McDaniel to be our guest speaker at the Greater Columbus AGA Chapter's April luncheon. The topic will be "Conflict to Cooperation."

Unproductive conflict is a significant barrier to organizational improvement and an impediment to positive relationships between individuals on and off the job. **Conflict to Cooperation: A Process for Mediating Group Differences** provides executives, managers, employees, and family members with practical, easily applied skills for

turning everyday conflicts into opportunities for cooperation. Written by Dr. Garry McDaniel, the book is based 25 years of experience in Fortune 500 companies, government, nonprofits, and public school systems. Practical examples, exercises, and templates are provided that help readers learn:

- Hidden costs of unproductive conflict on personal and organizational productivity
- How to identify principles for guiding positive behavior
- A process for mediating conflict on the job
- Practical methods for analyzing and resolving real conflicts
- How to apply this system in families, community groups, and other settings

The luncheon will be held in the DFAS-CO Conference Center in room C-147 (Buckeye room). Lunch will include Chicken Picata, Angel Hair Pasta, Steamed Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Rolls & Butter, Carrot Cake, and Assorted Beverages.

Please note that copies of Dr. McDaniel's book, "Conflict to Cooperation: A Process for Mediating Group Differences" will be available to purchase for \$15.

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

Luncheon Speaker Bio

Dr. Garry McDaniel

Dr. McDaniel serves as Program Chair for Organizational Development at Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio with responsibility for the design, staffing and scheduling of undergraduate and graduate courses relating to management, leadership and organizational development. He is the author of two books, **Conflict to Cooperation: A process for mediating group differences**, and **Managing the business: How successful managers align management systems with business strategy**, as well as numerous articles.

His career has included serving as President of a successful consulting practice and directing the global leadership and management development efforts for Advanced Micro Devices. He brings over 25 years experience as an author and speaker and has served on the board for the American Creativity Association (Austin) and The Texas Association for Nonprofit Organizations.

New AGA Members!

AGA Greater Columbus Welcomes 5 New Members

The Greater Columbus Chapter of AGA welcomes 6 new members this month: Derrick Flowers, Renee Moretto, Pam Boyd, Mary Kay Michel, James Parker, and Vicki Conner.

We interviewed Renee and James. Here is what they had to say:

Renee Moretto

Spring is right around the corner, which is my favorite time of the year. I enjoy many outside activities, my favorites are; golfing, nature hikes, and taking my son to the park. I believe having fun outside of work is necessary to keep you refreshed.

Prior to working for DFAS, I worked in banking for 7 years in many high paced positions. Currently, I work in Strategic Business Management (SBM), and have completed rotations in Vendor Pay and Contract Pay. I enjoy my job here and think everyday can be a challenge as long as you make it one!

James Parker



I am a recent grad of Wilberforce University, with a B.S. degree in Finance. My rotations thus far include TBO Control, and DLA-A/R. While away from work, I continue to stay in school, matriculating at Franklin University for a subsequent degree in Forensic Accounting. I enjoy singing, sports, educational programs, and church and community involvement.

I am an active member of the Special Emphasis Program here at DFAS, and the ASMC as well. My short-term goals include obtaining my MBA, and CPA certification. As a member of AGA I plan to gain a wealth of knowledge as it relates to governmental affairs, network with others, and get involved as an active member. This will be a great start to my career with the government.

TECHTALK

DOD to set information-sharing strategy

By Jason Miller
www.fcw.com

The Defense Department has been focusing on making data accessible from anywhere at any time, but now it is figuring out the best ways to share that information.

DOD Chief Information Officer John Grimes is close to issuing an information-sharing strategy, and his office is developing an information-sharing implementation plan to help change the culture of how data is analyzed and shared.

Dave Wennergren, DOD deputy CIO, said today the strategy is awaiting Grimes' signature and the implementation plan is three to four months away from being ready.

"The plan will help the services design their mission around anticipated users first, but also plan for unanticipated users of the data," Wennergren said at a lunch sponsored by the Industry Advisory Council in Arlington, Va. "We have to be successful with both security and information sharing and raise the bar of both."

The plan will try to help the services answer a few important questions: Who needs the information? What information do they need and when do they need it?

Government News

Senate backs screener bargaining rights despite veto threat

By Chris Strohm
www.govexec.com

Senate Democrats and a handful of Republicans joined forces late Tuesday to pass a massive homeland security bill, moving one step closer toward a showdown with the Bush administration over a controversial provision that would give federal airport screeners collective bargaining rights.

By a 60-38 vote, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., and ranking member Susan Collins, R-Maine, were handed a victory in their effort to pass the bill, which would implement unfulfilled recommendations of the 9/11 Commission.

Final passage followed a 73-25 vote to table an amendment from Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Joseph Biden, D-Del., that would have required the Homeland Security Department to divert rail cars carrying hazardous materials away from population centers and other high threat areas.

The 9/11 Commission and family members of victims to the attacks have waited for more than two years for the security recommendations to be put in place.

"This bill is a direct response to the appeals of the 9/11 commissioners and 9/11 families to take constructive action," Lieberman said.

But Republicans argued the bill will be dead on arrival at the White House, where a veto threat has been issued if a provision giving Transportation Security Administration screeners collective bargaining rights survives in the bill.

Enough Republicans in the House and Senate have pledged to sustain the veto, if necessary.

Lieberman said the dispute over collective bargaining rights was overshadowing discussion of other major provisions in the bill. But he added he will continue to champion the rights of screeners

to have collective bargaining power.

"I sure hope we can continue to discuss this section, why we think it's fair and why we are totally convinced it will have no [adverse] impact on public safety," he said.

The most immediate hurdle is a potentially contentious conference with the House, given several stark differences between the Senate bill and companion legislation in the House, the first bill passed by the new Democratic majority in January.

The Senate bill, for example, would guarantee that each state receives 0.45 percent of total funding available under the state homeland security grant program. The House bill would give states only 0.25 percent of that funding, leaving more money to be distributed based on risk and threat assessments.

The bills also have different formulas for other grant programs.

Twenty-five lawmakers sent President Bush a letter last Friday urging him "to weigh in and encourage the Senate to adopt" the House formula for grants. Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., and Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., were the only two senators to sign the letter.

"While we commend Senators Lieberman and Collins for their diligent work in drafting the Senate bill, we believe the House-passed version of this legislation, which makes our homeland security funding more risk-based, is far more representative of the needs of our country -- especially those locations facing the greatest risk, such as New York," the letter states.

"Specifically, we are concerned about language in the Senate measure that provides state minimum funding levels that are far too high and ignore the more pressing needs of those states, cities, and localities at greatest threat of attack."

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Technically Speaking

Doan: Details of controversial lunch meeting unclear

By Matthew Weigelt
www.fcw.com

The day the White House made a presentation listing 20 Democrats to target in 2008 at a brown-bag lunch at the General Services Administration was a busy one for GSA Administrator Lurita Doan, she said, explaining to a hearing of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee why she cannot recall the details of the meeting.

The Jan. 26 luncheon at which White House Deputy Director of Political Affairs Scott Jennings gave a PowerPoint presentation led to allegations that Doan and others violated the Hatch Act, which prohibits political activities using government equipment or on government time. The Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is reviewing the issue.

Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, said GSA's top political appointees gathered at the meeting to find ways to help Republican candidates in next year's election. And this was done in a federal building during working hours at taxpayers' expense, he added.

"This appears to be a textbook example of what should never happen at a federal agency," Waxman said. "You can't engage in partisan political activity on government time."

Doan told Waxman she had been busy the day of the luncheon and could not remember many of the meeting's details.

"I really, truly don't remember the presentation," Doan said.

Doan said in her testimony that meetings were held with GSA's political appointees once a month for team-building purposes. She said she did not set the Jan. 26 meeting's agenda or review it beforehand. Committee Democrats did not believe it. "Your own testimony has been very damning," said Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-Mass.).

GSA Inspector General Brian Miller said his office did its duty in sending the possible violation to OSC.

The committee called Doan to answer other allegations, too. It wants to know more about a \$20,000 contract Doan reportedly tried to award to a longtime friend. GSA terminated the contract before it was awarded. The committee also wants to investigate Doan's alleged improper interaction with a contract award to Sun Microsystems and problems with the GSA IG.

After the hearing, Doan called it a fishing expedition.

Rep. Tom Davis (R-Va.), committee ranking member, said the allegations are baseless.

"Sadly, this hearing represents the fullest expression yet of the modus operandi adopted by the committee's new majority," he said.

Doan said her struggles with the agency's IG boil down to money and proper oversight, which are the two issues that brought her before the committee.

Treasurer's Report

As of February 28, 2007

By Justin Sponseller, Treasurer

Checking Account

Beginning Balance	\$ 4,418.58
Deposits	\$ 287.00
Disbursements	\$ 345.35
Ending Balance	<u>\$ 4,360.23</u>

Savings Account

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

<u>Total Balance</u>	<u>\$ 9,784.24</u>
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The Bottom Line

IRS chief says 2006 tax season taxing the agency

By Jenny Mandel
www.govexec.com

The 2006 tax filing season has been unusually difficult for the Internal Revenue Service, thanks to late-breaking changes in the law, a one-time refund and a new deposit service, according to the top IRS official.

IRS Commissioner Mark Everson said Tuesday during a televised address at the National Press Club that a package of tax break extensions not finalized until the end of December made the agency scramble to implement the changes in time for filing deadlines. The IRS successfully implemented those provisions and incorporated them into software packages in which it had a hand, Everson said, rating the overall success, "So far, so good."

In addition to those changes, Everson said, the IRS struggled with a one-time telephone excise tax refund for many taxpayers related to long-distance bills over the past several years.

So far, the agency has had a surprisingly low claim rate of between 65 and 70 percent for the refund, he said. Early in the return season the agency received some apparently fraudulent claims for around \$10,000, which Everson described as far in excess even of what his teenage children could incur for their phone calls. The agency took an aggressive approach to the high claims, trumpeting its intention to vigorously pursue fraud, which Everson said seems to have been effective.

The IRS chief also cited as a management challenge a new service that allows those taxpayers owed a refund to have funds directly deposited in up to

three accounts. He said to date, only about 55,000 people have used the new feature, but that he expects it to grow over time as taxpayers pick up on the opportunity to set aside part of their refund as savings, or in accounts dedicated to special budgeting purposes such as bill payment.

Everson highlighted the popularity of the Free File program, which allows some taxpayers to electronically submit their forms free of charge through tax preparation firms that partner with IRS. The program was revised this year so that firms could no longer integrate marketing for additional paid services like refund anticipation loans into their Free File interface.

Everson said those loans, which often involve high fees and interest, continue to be a problem to the extent that they take advantage of vulnerable taxpayers.

The tax chief said he has discussed with lawmakers a slate of 16 legislative proposals for the agency, and that he hopes to see progress on three key priorities: a move to make the failure to file federal taxes a felony; direct reporting to the IRS of businesses' gross credit card receipts; and mandatory basis reporting for stock sales, a proposal that he said could clarify tax preparation for filers as well as for the agency.

Everson said shifting toward more direct reporting would help to bring collected receipts closer to the amount owed. "We're not going to audit our way out of the tax gap," he said.

If I am to speak ten minutes, I need a week for preparation; if fifteen minutes, three days; if half an hour, two days; if an hour, I am ready now.

~Woodrow Wilson

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). 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

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.

Be Constructive, Positive, Meaningful and Beneficial

What is the point or purpose of what you're saying? Is it to hurt or help? And at the end of the conversation, is there an action step to take? Constructive conversations are empowering and leave people a little better off from having participated in them. Become the kind of person who takes your time and words seriously.

Praise and Acknowledge

It's amazing what a few words of praise and acknowledgement can do. You want to be the kind of person people gravitate to because they know they will be uplifted by you, not put down or drained of life-sustaining energy. In short, you want people

to feel good after being in your presence.

No matter what is going on around you, you control your inner environment and how you choose to respond to external events and situations. It's your responsibility to become the kind of person you enjoy being and with whom others enjoy being around.

It takes a true leader to walk a path different from the crowd. So when others are negative, stretch your boldness muscles and be positive in spite of what others do or think. It's the only way to create a ripple of change. And if we all do our part, then slowly but surely, we will make a difference in our work environment and the larger community.

CGFM Update Continued from Page 5

Office of Professional Certification - 703.684.6931, ext. 305.

Maintaining proper documentation: CGFMs need to maintain documentation to substantiate their statements of completed CPE for a minimum of three years. This documentation may be requested by AGA as part of a CPE audit or a reactivation process.

The proper backup documentation must clearly state the individual's attendance or completion of the CPE activity. Examples of such documentation include: a certificate of attendance or completion, a certificate of CPE hours earned, a grade report or an

official letter from the event sponsor or employer stating that the CGFM has attended the event.

The documentation must include the following information:

- sponsoring organization,
- location of the activity,
- title of the program,
- individual's name,
- completion date (or dates attended), and
- number of CPE hours earned.

For more information on the requirements to maintain a CGFM in an active status, please visit <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/>

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The bills also differ on requiring the Homeland Security Department to ensure within five years that all cargo at foreign ports is scanned before being shipped to the United States; whether to include more countries in a program that would let their citizens come to the United States for up to 90 days without visas, and whether to declassify the nation's overall intelligence budget.

"This is a wonderful step toward finally fulfilling the 9/11 recommendations," House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., said of the Senate bill. "I look forward to continuing negotiations with the Senate to resolve outstanding issues, including the risk-based grant funding formula."

These questions are important because there are three typical problems with data that needs to be addressed, Wennergren said:

- Users can't find the data.
- If they can find it, they can't access it.
- If they access it, they can't understand it.

Wennergren added that DOD is addressing these problems in different ways, including two documents it released on Net-Centric Data Strategy and Global Information Grid architecture.

Paul Wolfowitz, former deputy secretary of Defense, issued a directive Dec. 2, 2004, establishing policies and responsibilities for DOD to implement data sharing to enable network-centric warfare. Grimes issued the implementation plan for data sharing in a net-centric environment in April 2006.

But these new guidance will help with interagency policies and procedures, Wennergren said.

Wennergren added that DOD's success in information sharing depends on a number of areas such as:

- Strong identity management with the Common Access Card.
- Determining roles and responsibility attributes that let users see only the data they are permitted to see.
- Tagging of data using Extensible Markup Language, so that it is available to anyone who needs it and has access to it.

"Data management is hard work," Wennergren said. "It works only if everyone is in the game. It will let you move with speed to make dramatic changes."

Wennergren pointed to the ongoing development of communities of interest within DOD and throughout agencies on issues such as maritime domain awareness; Blue Force Tracking systems, which lets users see troop locations on monitors; and improvised explosive devices as ways data sharing is progressing.

February CEC Meeting Minutes

Meeting purpose

To provide the Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) with the latest updates regarding AGA.

Date, time, and place

Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2007
Time: 11:00am – 12:00pm
Location: B317

Attendees

The following members were in attendance:

CEC Status	Name	Title
Chapter Officer	Lori Mikesell	President
	Ken George	President-Elect
	Justin Sponseller	Treasurer
	Heather Drake	Secretary
Committee Member	Shawn McCracken	Education Director
	Ben Novotony	Education Co-Director
	Jim Gillenwater	Programs Director
	Diana Kaufman	Programs Co-Director
	Kevin Bruns	Ways & Means Co-Director
	Amy Mobley	Communications Director
	Aubrey Martin	Early Careers Director
	HenriAnn Franklin	Chapter Historian
Kortney Whiteman	Community Service Director	

Topics discussed

The table below identifies the topics discussed in the meeting and the person who led each discussion.

Topic	Discussion Leader
Nominations for Elections	Lori Mikesell
PDC Planning Criteria	Lori Mikesell
AGA Leadership Training	Ken George
National Recruiting Fund	Lori Mikesell
Committee Updates	Committee Directors

Next CEC meeting

Date: Monday, March 19, 2007
Time: 11:00am- 12:00pm
Location: B-317

End of Meeting Minutes

March CEC Meeting Minutes

Meeting purpose

To provide the Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) with the latest updates regarding AGA.

Date, time, and place

Date: Monday, March 19, 2007
Time: 11:00am – 12:00pm
Location: B317

Attendees

The following members were in attendance:

CEC Status	Name	Title
Chapter Officer	Lori Mikesell	President
	Ken George	President-Elect
	Justin Sponseller	Treasurer
Committee Member	Shawn McCracken	Education Director
	Ben Novotony	Education Co-Director
	Jim Gillenwater	Programs Director
	Diana Kaufman	Programs Co-Director
	Tara Bruns	Ways & Means Co-Director
	Kevin Bruns	Ways & Means Co-Director
	Aubrey Martin	Early Careers Director
	HenriAnn Franklin	Chapter Historian

Topics discussed

The table below identifies the topics discussed in the meeting and the person who led each discussion.

Topic	Discussion Leader
AGA/ASMC Professional Development Opportunity (PDO)	Lori Mikesell
Sectional Leadership Meeting (SLM)	Lori Mikesell
Chapter Website	Ken George
Committee Updates	Committee Directors

Next CEC meeting

Date: Monday, April 16, 2007
Time: 11:00am- 12:00pm
Location: B-317

End of Meeting Minutes

AGA Officer Candidates

The Nominations Committee is pleased to announce the Officer Candidates for the 2007-2008 Program Year. Elections for the new Officers will open at the April Luncheon (12 April 2007) and close on 20 April 2007. All members at the luncheon will be issued a Ballot. Those who do not attend the luncheon will be delivered a Ballot. Further balloting information will be issued later.

Benjamin Novotny, MBA, CDFM

Running for Secretary

Benjamin is a native of Columbus, Ohio, where he graduated from St. Francis DeSales High School. Ben holds a B.S. in Accounting and a Masters in Business Administration degree from Franklin University. Before starting at DFAS, he worked for The Kroger Company for 6 and 1/2 years in the Drug/GM department, ending as the head of the department.

Benjamin came to DFAS Columbus in May 2004 upon entering the Student Internship Program. During his student internship, Ben was assigned to the Defense Agencies Accounting Business Office, where he stayed on fulltime until January 2005, when he entered the Leaders in Motion program. He has completed rotations in DCAA Accounting, Agency Reporting, Functional Systems, and Fuels Vendor Pay. Ben is now permanently placed in the Defense Agencies Accounts Payable Division.

Ben is a member of the Greater Columbus AGA chapter, where he currently serves as the Co-Director of Education. Ben is also an active member of ASMC, where he holds the position of Treasurer.

HenriAnn V. Franklin

Running for Treasurer

HenriAnn works a Financial Management Analyst with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), supporting the Desktop Management Initiative (DMI) for all DFAS sites. The support consisted of a wide range of financial and analytical duties that included the budget formulation, review, analysis, presentation, training, and program execution. Communicated orally and in writing with Senior Executive Service (SES), Directors, Branch Supervisors, and Resource Integrators providing answers to system problems, budget projections, and monthly reports. Performed financial analysis to ensure the execution of funding is meeting management requirements. Analyzed data for significant trends, out of tolerance situations, productivity or excessive backlogs. Served as a team member or project officer on special projects.

Served 15 years with the federal government with experience in Financial Analysis, Contract Administration, and Budget Analyst. Prior experiences before working with the federal government was as a financial consultant, auditor, and accountant.

Education:

BA Economics, The Ohio State University
MSA General Administration, Central Michigan University

Certification:

Certified Government Financial Manager

Professional Organizations:

Association of Government Accountants

- Chapter Historian

- Greater Columbus Chapter

American Society of Military Comptrollers

Jason Haskins

Running for Treasurer

Jason Haskins is an accountant working in the newly formed reports and reconciliation branch of the accounts maintenance and control division. He came to be a member of the DFAS Columbus team through the University of North Dakota (UND) where he received his bachelors and masters degrees in accounting and financial management. During his educational term spent in North Dakota he held the position of Treasurer for a not-for-profit honor society's chapter of Mortar Board. The UND chapter was responsible for over \$12,500 of fundraising and donation funds, and disbursed over \$10,000 through the 'Turkey Drive' (a charity program that provided Thanksgiving dinner to families that would otherwise be unable to enjoy a holiday meal) and other expenditures. Due to the level of income that the chapter saw he was also responsible for tax reporting to the National Office.

Charles Miller, Sr.

Running for Treasurer

Charles started working at DFAS July 15, 1991 in payroll, went to dispersing in March of 1998, moved to MOCAS North Cash management June 1998, August 1998 MOCAS West recon Raiding contracts, March 1999 MOCAS West Invoice Control, June 1999 DECA MEO, October 2000 MOCAS Financial Reporting, April 2004 Accounting Accounts Receivable, April 2005 to current MOCAS Contract Administrative Report. Member of ASMC since 1996 served ASMC as Membership Co-Chair and Chair, Web Page Co-Chair, now Community Service Chair, worked on the following committees: Membership PDI, PDO, Ways & Means, Chapter Fair, Meetings, National PDI, and Nominations. Member of AGA since 2002.

Jim Gillenwater

Running for President-Elect