



The Federal FOCUS

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OF THE GREATER COLUMBUS CHAPTER

April 2005

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"A person without a sense of humor is like a wagon without springs. It's jolted by every pebble on the road."

Henry Ward Beecher

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Ms. Nancy Zmyslinski, CGFM
Chapter President*

AGA National President Bobby Derrick has been quoted as stating that AGA members are the single best source of recruitment that AGA has available. I fully support President Derrick in his thoughts. Who better than our members to share and elaborate on the benefits of being an AGA member.

April is the beginning of Spring, and even though we had snow on Saturday, Spring is definitely in the air. Spring is also the time of year when trees are blooming and plants are rising from the ground to declare its time to start another season of growth. I would like to challenge the members of the Greater Columbus AGA chapter to declare it's time to start a season of growth within our chapter. We currently have 81 registered members, which is wonderful as a young chapter and the fact we started with approximately 22 members in September.

I would like to challenge each member to sponsor one new member to the chapter during the month of April. We are gearing up for a membership drive at our sister Federal agencies in the general area and I think it would be great if the current membership could match or exceed the number we recruit from outside agencies.

As an incentive I am offering a fully paid trip to the National Professional Development Conference (PDC) in Orlando in July, 2005 to the member who sponsors the most new members during the month of April. In the case of a tie, the sponsor with the oldest membership date will be the winner.

Good luck and I hope to see you in Orlando!

Nancy

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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SOURCES SAY SENATOR IS BLOCKING BASE CLOSURE NOMINATIONS

By Amy Klamper
CongressDaily

In a last-ditch effort to stymie the Pentagon's 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission process, congressional sources say Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., has placed a hold on the president's nomination of former Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi to head the panel.

Lott's spokesman could not be reached for comment, but congressional aides said that in addition to holding up Principi's nomination, Lott also intends to place holds on each of the remaining eight BRAC Commission nominees, who have yet to appear before the Armed Services Committee for their confirmation hearings.

According to Senate aides, the committee moved Principi's nomination to the Senate floor March 17 following his March 15 confirmation hearing.

Bush this month tapped Principi to lead the nine-member commission that will evaluate the Pentagon's base closure recommendations this summer. Although the Armed Services Committee was quick to act on Principi's nomination, time is running short for the committee to approve the remaining nominees.

More than two weeks have passed since the White House released its list of candidates to serve on the commission, though sources close to Capitol Hill say the Senate is waiting to act on the remaining nominees until the White House completes its list. Specifically, nominee Claude Kicklighter of Georgia was reportedly a last-minute addition to the list after questions arose over Senate Majority Leader Frist's pick, retired Army Gen. John Coburn of Virginia. Sources say Coburn's nomination might pose a conflict of interest, and it is unclear whether Kicklighter will remain on the list or be replaced.

Congressional sources say Lott's potential to hold up the commission nominees poses a serious risk to the BRAC process. A staunch opponent of BRAC, Lott joined other lawmakers last year in a failed bid to delay the 2005 base closure round by two years with an amendment to the fiscal 2005 defense authorization bill. This year, if he does hold up the remaining nominations, Lott could rob the commission of the little time it will have to review the Pentagon's base closure recommendations. Once the Pentagon's list is submitted to commission members May 16, they will have until Sept. 8 to review the list and propose changes.

See Update: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0405/040405g1.htm>

TREASURER'S REPORT

AS OF 29 MARCH 2005

Checking Account

Beginning Balance	\$5,112.94
Deposits	\$1,030.00
Disbursements	\$916.33
Ending Balance	<u>\$5,226.61</u>

Savings Account

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

Total Balance \$5,231.61

Note: \$250 of the ending checking account balance is designating for membership recruiting purposes.

CHAPTER CALENDAR

- 14 April 2005 - April Luncheon & Annual Recognition and Awards Ceremony
Speaker: Mr. Eric Engelbrektsson
Topic: Experiences with Financial Management in Iraq
Location: DFAS Room A-117
Time: 11:30-1:00pm
- 11 May 2005 - AGA Audio Conf.
Topic: Yellow Book Update - What You Need to Know
Location: DFAS Conference Center Buckeye Room (C147)
Time: 2:00-3:50pm
- 12 May 2005 - May Luncheon
- 13 June 2005 - AGA Golf Outing
Location: Dornoch Country Club
- 10-13 July 2005 - AGA National PDC
Orlando, Florida

TECHTALK

HOW EMERGING TECHNOLOGY WILL CHANGE OUR WORK-PLACE

By Merle Robinson, CTM

In our last column, we reviewed how the ability to be continuously connected to voice, email and internet are converging toward one portable tool. In this edition, we will look at the potential of how far this trend can go in the next few years and what it might lead to.

THE COMING OF CONTINUOUS CONNECTIONS CHAPTER 2 - THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

It's amazing to me how life imitates art. How the seed of an idea germinates in art and literature then motivates us to change the world around us is absolutely miraculous. In 1866, Jules Verne published one of the first popular science fiction stories - "From the Earth to the Moon" a captivating story about manned space flight.¹ One hundred and three years later (1969) mankind actually landed on the moon (Apollo 8).² This transfer of ideas from the realm of imagination to that of reality has been accelerating. In 1966, the TV show Star Trek gave most Americans their first dose of Science Fiction and where computing might go.³ That program showed us handheld tablet PCs that could accept handwriting, handheld speaker phones (communicators), voice recognition of commands, portable data chips and lightweight computers (tricorders). From a computing standpoint, in less than forty years, we have almost all of what was a dream in 1966.⁴ We use many of these computing tools to keep our professional and personal lives running. Most Americans have a desktop PC both at home and at work, a cell phone, and a digital camera. A large minority also have a personal digital assistant (PDA). As discussed in our last installment, the convergence between personal digital assistants (like PalmPilots or Blackberries) and cell phones now permit you to be continuously connected to voice, email, and internet with a device you can fit in pocket or purse. Those devices today recognize limited voice commands, take photos, and store significant but limited amounts of data. As reality overtakes dreams, we are close to passing that vision on every front. So set your imagination on the year 2015 and let's see what might be in store .

Developers are planning for a future where we can have full personal computing power anywhere by 2015.

To get there they have to overcome two challenges. First, they have ergonomic issues to overcome.⁵ Second, your data traffic has to follow you. All these things have solutions today that should be in the marketplace by 2015.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

11 April 2005

Central Ohio Chapter
Four Hour Educational Event

Topic: "The Next State Budget and
its Possible Affects on Local
Governments"

9 May 2005

Central Ohio Chapter
Monthly Luncheon

Topic: Annual Officer Installation
Ceremony and Awards
Ceremony

For more see

www.centralohioaga.org



NATIONAL ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Full-Time, Part-Time, and
Community Service
Scholarships are Available

All AGA Members and
Family Members are
Eligible

Applications are available
on line:

High School Students

Undergrad and Graduate
Students

For More See: www.agacgfm.org

GOVERNMENT NEWS

CYBERSECURITY STANDARDIZATION MOVES FORWARD

By Daniel Pulliam

The Office of Management and Budget launched a task force on cybersecurity consolidation last week with the goal of increasing computer security and cutting costs.

Tim Young, OMB's associate administrator for e-government and information technology, said at a conference in Falls Church, Va., Tuesday that the consolidation effort has strong support among agencies. He said that the question of whether agencies can share common processes associated with information technology security is meant to spark a dialogue in the IT security community.

"We want to improve our security, but we want to spend fewer dollars," Young said at a conference sponsored by Reston, Va.-based IT consulting firm INPUT. "It's a good story if you're a taxpayer, but maybe not a good story if you're supporting these back-office functions."

The task force consists of two representatives from each Cabinet-level agency. An information and budget data request is due in April. Specific goals include identifying problems and solutions for cybersecurity risks, improving cybersecurity processes and reducing costs by eliminating duplication.

The task force will analyze various elements, including training activities, threat awareness, program management and the implementation of security products.

In September 2005, the task force will send agencies' business cases to OMB as part of the fiscal 2007 budget process. By December, OMB will have reviewed the business cases and will make resource decisions.

Agencies have struggled to improve the security of their information technology systems while surveys have shown cybersecurity to be a top priority for agencies' chief information officers. A score card from the House Government Reform Committee showed that across government, cybersecurity improved slightly, but agencies such as the Energy and Homeland Security departments failed dismally. Cybersecurity experts have said that compliance with the 2002 Federal Information Security Management Act is an expensive and frustrating process for agencies, but the results are intended to provide significant benefits to computer security. Young said a reason for exploring cybersecurity standardization is the vastly different sums of money that agencies of similar size are spending on FISMA compliance.

CYBERSECURITY CONTINUED ON PG. 7

COMMUNITY SERVICE CORNER

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I have always believed that serving others is an important part of our lives. As the Community Service Director for our chapter, I have some ideas about how we can do that, but I'd also like to hear about any ideas our membership has. If you have ideas about how we can serve people in our community, please either email them to me at roger.neefe@dfas.mil, or call me at 614-693-7357. If you are interested in helping on the Community Service Committee, I'd really like to hear from you via email or phone!

Roger

360 DEGREES OF FINANCIAL LITERACY

Volunteers Needed

In spring 2004, the AICPA launched a very aggressive and much needed campaign to improve the nation's financial literacy — 360 Degrees of Financial Literacy. The Ohio Society has made a commitment to be a part of this campaign and has already begun the outreach in Ohio.

Accounting for Kids Day ®

This program may become The Ohio Society of CPAs' signature program for financial literacy. This year, Accounting for Kids Day brought together 800 volunteers with 7,000 students in fourth, fifth and sixth grade classrooms across Ohio.

The volunteers lead the students through a stock market simulation game. The game is fun for both the volunteers and the students, and it provides a great learning experience for the students.

"Accounting for Kids emphasizes the need for financial literacy at all stages of life," J. Clarke Price, CAE, president and CEO for The Ohio Society, said. "And because of their knowledge and expertise, CPAs are very capable sources to open the door to financial literacy to a wide audience."

If you are interested in any of these programs, please contact Deborah Deboard, communications assistant, at The Ohio Society at ddeboard@ohio-cpa.com or 800.686.2727, ext. 325.

CEC MINUTES

22 MARCH 2005

- Discussions were held regarding the nomination and appointment of members for the Chapter Executive Committee. Nominations include:
 - Membership Director – Brenda Locke
 - Early Career Director – Justin Ahmann
 - Professional Certifications Director – Larita Killian, CGFM
 - Community Service Director – Roger Neefe
 - Chapter Historian – HenriAnn Franklin
 - Communications Director – Ken George
 - Programs Directors – Jim Gillenwater and Melissa Ludovissie
 - Ways & Means Director – Tom O'Brien
- Recommendations were made for the creation of a Chapter Advisory Board. A number of potential Board members were discussed.
 - Heather, as Secretary, should draft a letter of invitation to these individuals
- \$250 was received from Nationals to be used for recruiting by the end of April.
 - Discussed idea of visiting five Federal Agencies (IRS, FBI, etc) for recruiting purposes.
 - Possibility of buying Girl Scout cookies to use during these gatherings.
 - Recruiting could also be done at the DFAS Orientation
 - The Membership Drive would be run by our newly installed Membership Director
- The Chapter has met the minimum requirements to be awarded the Bronze Recognition.
- Discussion was held regarding holding an Awards Banquet in the month of April.
 - Potential Awards recipients were discussed.

CERTIFICATION CONNECTION



INFORMATION

CGFM CPE REQUIREMENTS

By Katya Silver

Have you renewed your CGFM and/or AGA membership this year? The annual invoices went out in February and are due by March 31, 2005. If you have not submitted your payment, please be sure to mail a check, fax your credit card information or pay online (www.agacgfm.org) as soon as possible.

If you are a CGFM holder, paying the renewal fee is not the only requirement of keeping your designation active. In fact, you cannot renew the CGFM unless you are compliant with the CGFM Continuing Professional Education (CPE) requirement of earning at least 80 CPE hours in your last two-year CPE cycle, with at least 20 hours in each year.

Your two-year CGFM CPE cycle depends on the year your CGFM was awarded: if you have earned your CGFM in 1996, 1998, 2000 or 2002, your last two-year CPE cycle just ended on December 31, 2004. If you do not have 80 CPEs in 2003-2004, you can catch up during the grace period of January 1-March 31, 2005. Any hours completed towards a deficiency in one CPE cycle

may not be counted towards the next cycle.

If you have earned your CGFM in 1994, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001 or 2003, your current CPE cycle is 2004-2005 and you should have earned a minimum of 20 CPE hours in 2004 and will need to complete 80 CPE hours by the end of this year.

Individuals who have not met the CPE requirement need to contact AGA's CGFM office at 1.800.AGA.7211 ext. 313.

Not all CPEs can count towards the CGFM designation. The hours earned must be in government financial management topics or related technical subjects applicable to government financial management areas. CPEs must contribute to the CGFM's professional proficiency in government financial management, and you need to maintain documentation of the CPE completed (for at least three years). This documentation may be requested by AGA if you are selected to be audited; however, CGFM holders should not automatically send information on their CPE hours to AGA at the time of renewal.

For more information on CGFM CPE requirements, please visit AGA website at http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/cpe_requirements.aspx.

For more see www.agacgfm.org

But I Digress

Well, Spring is finally here! It's time to put away that heavy winter coat in exchange for a rain slicker. Time to put off the old for something new. Every year the earth goes through its cycle for rebirth and growth. Seeds sprout, eggs hatch, and orange barrels appear everywhere.

We should do the same in our own lives. We should shirk off the old and put on the new. Put away the snow pants, salt, and shovel and break out the frisby, shorts, and t-shirts. Additionally, we should take the time to generate some new growth within ourselves; through education, or associations, or activities. Any efforts we undertake will sprout up within our lives and before you know it others will notice your efforts as well.

Spring is a beautiful period of time, let us all make the most of it. Now who's up for breaking out the convertible and heading to the beach? Now, where's the beach again? But I digress.

From the ergonomic standpoint, to have computing power anywhere means you have to be able to operate without a desk or an office. In fact you really shouldn't have to sit down or take something heavy along.

To accomplish this - developers need to deal with portability, our interface with the machine, and power. The primary approaches to dealing with portability involve making things smaller so they can be worn not carried.^{6a} Wearable fashionable full function PCs are on the way either with or without a paper thin monitor! The wearable piece of the puzzle has been developed by MIT (among others).^{6b} A complete PC miniaturized and built into a wearable vest complete with a personal eyepiece to replace a monitor. If you think wearing the vest will distract your friends or co-workers, there are already designer outfits to hide your "incidentals".^{6c} Missing a keyboard isn't a problem either. A small step of imagination and we can let you write, type, or move images like a mouse using enhanced gloves that recognize what you point to.⁸ If your hands are busy you can dictate text.⁹ If you like something more solid you can get a wafer thin sheet to share images with your friends.¹⁰ Power is no worry because you can run everything for sixteen hours on the go.¹¹ So in 2015, it looks like you'll have an affordable totally fashionable portable computer you can wear anywhere that will outperform what you are using now for every standalone function.

So if you will have all the standalone functionality, how will you connect to other people and the internet?

This sounds easy to many folks since we now have national and international wireless telephone traffic.¹² But this is a lot harder than it sounds and will take time. Today, almost all computer data flows to/from a desktop location to a physical land connection then via land lines to a server. These land connections carry much more information much faster than any current method that doesn't use wires or cable. Reaching you anywhere will need the ability to move LOTS more information into a fixed bandwidth. Without significantly better data compression tools, a grid that can broadcast data for millions of people can't handle the traffic. So the functions with high volumes (large business applications) will probably stay "land" connected.

However, as we shift through the fog from here to the future, some folks have found ways to side-step from the idea of a global system (like cell phones) to one that uses local hubs. This is what WiFi "hotspots" are all about.¹³ WiFi technology uses short range transmissions to push information to local transmitters where a connection to the internet is made. Internet cafes are a good example of this type access. Many businesses are also moving to this within individual facilities. Despite issues relating to who "owns" the limited airspace available, who can use it, and how each spot is funded - many companies and communities are building electronic enclaves where people can link to a greater world.

Yesterday's ideas are becoming tomorrow's reality. Real tools based on yesterday's dreams are becoming tomorrow's products. It seems likely that within the next ten years we will have options to dramatically change how we work and live. In the office of the future, typing may virtually disappear in favor of dictation and handwriting. Workspaces may no longer have metal boxes and bulky screens. For some workers, having a desk or an office may become entirely optional.

Having examined in our first two columns how some of our tools are evolving, we'll start on how our tools have been changing our approach to work.

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

- 1) From the Earth to the Moon
<http://www.literature.org/authors/verne-jules/earth-to-the-moon/>
- 2) Apollo 8
<http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/lunar/apollo8info.html>
- 3) Star Trek <http://www.tvtome.com/StarTrek/>
- 4) Trek Tech <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2004/03/15/BUGO35EGIT83.DTL>
- 5) Ergonomics
<http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&lr=&rls=GGLD,GGLD:2004-38,GGLD:en&oi=defmore&q=define:Ergonomics>
- 6) Wearable Computers
 - a) Description of Wearables
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wearable_computer
 - b) MITHril (Carry a complete computer)
<http://www.media.mit.edu/wearables/mithril/>
 - c) From Geek to Chic
<http://www.microsoft.com/presspass/features/2000/Dec00/12-11fashion.asp>
 - d) Esleeve
<http://www.cs.bris.ac.uk/Publications/Papers/1000582.pdf>
- 7) Handwriting Recognition
 - a) Advances in handwriting Recognition

Despite OMB's optimism that consolidating back-office functions such as payroll and human resources will improve services and reduce costs, Young said he does not know whether cybersecurity ever will be fully consolidated.

"We'll see what the task force says," he said, suggesting that a hybrid approach might be the end result.

Young said the administration's fiscal 2006 budget request--in which the percentage of funds requested for back office functions fell slightly from 32 percent to 31 percent and spending for mission areas increased slightly from 55 percent to 56 percent--shows a shift in priorities.

Young said the consolidations that started last year are seeing results, and that total spending on OMB's consolidation projects is projected to increase from \$11 billion to \$12.1 billion.

"Agencies are adopting the concept of shared services," Young said. "Are we outsourcing all of this? No, but in the long term? Not really, but there will be more opportunities for the private sector to offer solutions."

For More See www.GovExec.com

TECH TALK CONTINUED FROM PG. 3

- <http://www.worldscibooks.com/compsci/3981.html>
- 8) Computer Gloves & Headgear
 a) Wear a Mouse or Your Whole PC
<http://www.pcworld.com/news/article/0,aid,78884,00.asp>
 b) Future Gear will you be Assimilated?
<http://pcworld.about.com/news/Mar272002id90903.htm>
- 9) Voice recognition
 a) IBM VIA voice <http://www-306.ibm.com/software/voice/viavoice/>
 b) Dragon naturally speaking
<http://www.scansoft.com/naturallyspeaking/>
- 10) Wafer thin monitor
 a) Sharp's sub-1mm e-book reader
<http://www.engadget.com/entry/410333388821866/>
- 11) Long Life batteries -
 a) The future of notebooks
<http://www.computerworld.com/hardwaretopics/hardware/story/0,10801,75889,00.html>
- 12) History of the Cell phone
<http://inventors.about.com/library/weekly/aa070899.htm>
- 13) WiFi
 a) Philadelphia Free-for-all
http://www.gcn.com/24_6/news/35315-1.html
 b) No Trespassing
<http://www.americasnetwork.com/americasnetwork/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=152898>
 c) WiFinder <http://www.wifinder.com/>
 d) Internet Cafes http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_cafe

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MARK FENNELL

Mark O. Fennell is originally from St. Cloud, MN and began working for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) in January 2005 in the Entry Level Professional Program (ELPA). Mark earned his Bachelor of Accountancy degree at the University of North Dakota (UND) in May 2004 and immediately started working to obtain a Masters of Business Administration. He has been accepted as a transfer student at Franklin University in the MBA program.

Early in Mark's career, he spent eleven years serving in the US Air Force and earned two commendation medals for outstanding performance in records keeping and for outstanding performance and leadership. After serving in the Air Force he decided to start his own construction business in Grand Forks, ND. During the 15 years in business, Mark went back to school and attended UND full-time while continuing to manage his business full time.

Mark is currently working in accounting operations with the DLA Accounts Receivable section at DFAS. He is also studying for the CPA exam and is excited about the opportunities at DFAS and also looks forward to all the opportunities of being an AGA member along with meeting people and hearing the special speakers.

Are You Ready for a Challenge?

Are you wanting to take on Nancy Z's challenge to recruit the most members for our chapter in the month of April?

If so, you should contact our Chapter's Membership Director, Brenda Locke or our Chapter's Communications Director, Ken George to get some membership applications and other information that might be helpful in your endeavor.

Remember, to qualify all applications need to be completed and turned into a current chapter officer by the end of the month.

Please address any questions to either Brenda Locke, Membership Director or Ken George, Communications Director.

CHAPTER NEWS

EVENT RECAP AGA MARCH LUNCHEON

Our March Luncheon was held at the DSCC Officers' Club on 10 March 2005. During the absence of Chapter President Nancy Zmyslinski, Beth Winsor had the honor of welcoming two of our guest speakers from Deloitte & Touche LLP, Dennis J. Duquette and Paul LaCroix. Dennis Duquette, CGFM, a member of AGA's Northern Virginia Chapter, presented the chapter with information regarding the application of Sarbanes-Oxley.

Mr. Duquette's primary focus for discussion was on the general state of financial management controls and reporting within federal agencies, as well as proper guidance on management's role of accountability and integrity. In an effort to minimize some of the deficiencies that exist among various financial managers, the Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA) requires that all federal managers provide an ongoing evaluation and report for administrative controls, including all material weaknesses, to ensure that objectives are clearly communicated.

Mr. Duquette also spoke on recent changes made to OMB Circular A-123, the implementing guidance for FMFIA. The purpose of A-123 is to assess internal control over financial reporting by identifying major transactions, determining significant accounts, and understanding financial reporting process. Given that A-123 applies solely to management, senior executives should focus on three main objectives: 1) to maintain an effective and efficient organization, 2) to instill reliable financial reporting, and 3) to comply with applicable laws and regulations. In an effort to identify some of the internal control components, the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations (COSO) has established a new framework to support the effectiveness of internal control standards. In the minds of many, implementing such a process within the federal sector would be quite a task. However, when considering today's competitive standards, a proposal such as the OMB Circular A-123 is worth regarding.

UPCOMING EVENT

Yellow Book Update - What You Need to Know *May 11, 2005*

AGA, in conjunction with the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT), and the National Association of Local Government Auditors (NALGA), is pleased to announce a new audio conference addressing the implementation of Government Auditing Standards, including how to address unique risks in the government environment. Topics will include abuse, improper payments, internal control, independence and continuing education requirements for government auditors.

To discuss the latest in changes and interpretation of the Government Auditing Standards is Jeanette Franzel, CGFM, and Marcia B. Buchanan, CGFM, of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), considered the "gurus" of the *Yellow Book*, and Sam McCall, CGFM, Tallahassee City Auditor and AGA's National President-Elect, who is also an expert on such standards.

Please join us for two hours of lively discussion about this important and timely topic. In addition to the speakers' presentations, there will be approximately 20 minutes for Q & A so that the participants can ask the speakers questions and share their own experiences. Other than a basic understanding of Government Auditing Standards, there is no required prerequisite or advanced preparation to participate in this audio conference.

GREATER COLUMBUS CHAPTER SELECTS NEW DIRECTORS

During the Chapter Executive Committee held on 22 March 2005, the Chapter Nominations Committee made recommendations for individuals to fill openings in the CEC. In accordance with the Chapter Bylaws the following individuals were approved by the CEC to fill the following positions.

- Ways and Means Director – Mr. Tom O'Brien
- Membership Director – Ms. Brenda Locke
- Professional Certifications Director – Ms. Larita Killian, CGFM
- Chapter Historian – Ms. HenriAnn Franklin
- Communications Director – Mr. Kenneth George, CPA
- Early Careers Director – Mr. Justin Ahmann
- Community Service Director – Mr. Roger Neefe
- Programs Directors – Mr. Jim Gillenwater and Ms. Melissa Ludovissie

If you are interested in joining a chapter committee please contact the Director of the committee which you are interested in serving as a member of.

TAKE THE CGFM EXAMINATIONS AT THE PDC

New this year - AGA is offering a unique opportunity to take the CGFM Examinations and earn your CGFM right at the PDC in July. To help you reach that goal, we are offering a special two-day Intensive Review Course on Thursday, July 7 and Friday, July 8 and an opportunity to take CGFM Examinations on July 9 - 10. More good news: the Intensive Review Course is only \$175 for qualified participants and the CGFM Examinations are offered at no cost. You cannot afford to miss this opportunity!

Pre-registration is required. This is a special limited enrollment offer for those individuals who have already been studying for the CGFM Exams and need extra reinforcement of the material. Participants must attend the Intensive Review Course to take the CGFM Exams at no cost. Participants must have satisfied the education and experience requirements for the CGFM prior to registering for this event. For more information please contact Katya Silver at 800.AGA.7211, ext. 313, or ksilver@agacgfm.org

REGISTER TODAY FOR AGA'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE—THE GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT EDUCATION EVENT OF THE YEAR

Join us in sunny Orlando for the 54th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition, to be held July 10 - 13, 2005, at the Orlando World Center Marriott Resort & Convention Center. PDC 2005 promises to be an excellent learning and networking opportunity for government financial managers and accountability professionals. Education sessions will provide technical training, emerging trend snapshots and lessons from the best in the business.

With the theme **“Leadership > Preparing Tomorrow’s Accountability Professionals”** the PDC will bring together more than 1,800 professionals from federal, state and local government, as well as private sector leaders, to discuss critical government financial management issues. The conference offers unparalleled opportunities to make valuable professional contacts, discuss challenges, discover creative solutions and access the latest tools you need to become more effective. For a complete list of speakers and session titles, [click here](#).

[Click here to download a copy of the PDC Registration Brochure.](#)

THE BOTTOM LINE

Accounting Rocks! (Auditing Too)

By Ms. Larita Killian, CGFM

"We'll take anyone with an Accounting degree and a pulse - and we're willing to waive the second requirement."

In other words, accounting is big. It was a Grant-Thornton partner who cracked this line at a government finance conference, but he was speaking for the field. Career-minded students are getting the message. The latest report from the AICPA (for 2004) shows an 11% increase in accounting graduates at the bachelors and masters levels combined. If you isolate masters level degrees, the increase is 30% over 2003.

This trend will continue for at least a few years since the accounting pipeline is full. At Penn State, for instance, the number of undergraduates who declare an accounting major has doubled over the past five years.

My little corner of Building 21 at the Defense Supply Center, Columbus, manifests this trend. Here we are, three mid-life female employees all in a row, clicking away in adjacent cubicles, and we're all studying accounting.

In the first half of fiscal 2005, DFAS employees enrolled in 605 college courses in accounting and auditing; for DFAS Columbus; it's 103 courses so far. (This does not include related courses such as "Business Law.") Of course, a large contingent

of DFAS employees already have the college courses they need in accounting and auditing, though no self-respecting professional ever stops learning.

So what fuels this trend? At the macro level, Sarbanes-Oxley is having a huge effect. Closer to home, DFAS Director Zack Gaddy has made it clear that "Employer of choice is a two-way street." Like many agencies, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service is shrinking; it will take more qualifications to simply remain in place. The best reason to learn accounting - or other professional skills - is to remain employable whatever happens to your current organization.

All this learning should pay off somewhere. The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE -- there really is such a thing) expects continuing growth in jobs for accountants and auditors, a 13% growth in 2005 alone.¹ The U.S. Department of Labor is less exuberant but still positive; it expects demand for accountants and auditors to grow "about as fast as the average for all occupations" through 2012. That average increase is 10 to 20%.

The Department of Labor notes the value of achieving professional certification over and above a degree. It specifies the value of the CPA, of course, but also identifies the Certified Government Financial Manager designation, sponsored by AGA, as providing career benefits to accountants and auditors.

Spring is a great time to start preparing for the CGFM exam.