



FEATURES

Member Spotlight.....	2
CGFM Spotlight.....	3
Fundraiser.....	3
New Members	3

COLUMNS

President's Message	1
Comm Svc Corner	6
Treasurer's Report.....	6
Technically Speaking.....	7
The Bottom Line.....	8
Government News.....	9
CEC Minutes	10
Tech Talk.....	11
Certification Connection..	12
National AGA News	13
But I Digress	13
Auditor's Perspective.....	14

OTHER

Chapter Officers.....	2
Upcoming Events	4
Quote of the Month	5
Chapter Calendar.....	12
Officer Elections Info	16

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow! April is here already. Chapter elections are this month. We have some wonderful candidates to help us insure the legacy that has been set in our short history is continued. Please take the time to review the bios for the candidates; they're included at the end of the newsletter for your review. Also, you should receive your voting information from me. The elections are going to be done online again this year and are anonymous. Please go to the chapter web site and cast your vote.

Last Month's Professional Development Opportunity (PDO) with the ASMC was a great success. It is always good to have the opportunity to stay abreast of the latest happenings affecting our lives. Each of the break out sessions were very informative. It was also interesting to hear from Ms. Ohio. I must say I learned a few things about the Ms. America System and really enjoyed the song she sang. The Hero Flight presentation was also interesting. As I was watching the program I couldn't help but think of my own grandfather, how his name is on the WWII monument and how much I would love for him to be able to go to Washington, DC to see the monument himself.

Did you take the opportunity to join the Chapter for our March Mayhem social? If not you missed out. These social events are great opportunities to get to know other members of the chapter and to build your circle of friends. While I'm not suggesting that you put them in your "fav 5", I do believe that the more people you get to know the better you will be able to make important connections at critical times. I cannot tell you how many times I have been benefited by relationships I have developed through similar social events; relationships I would not have developed otherwise.

Next month's luncheon is the Officer Installation and Membership Awards. This is going to be a wonderful luncheon. Please plan to join us as we induct the new panel of officers and recognize the members who help to make our chapter the success that it is. Were it not for the participation of our membership all we do would be for naught.

Ken

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

KENNETH GEORGE, CPA
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PRESIDENT-ELECT

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MEMBERSHIP

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NANCY ZMYSLINSKI, CGFM

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Deadra R. McIntosh

Length of AGA Membership: 1 year, 6 months

Certifications: Currently working on a Green Belt project to obtain Green Belt certification.

Agency/Company: DFAS

Position/ Rotation: Financial Management Analyst within the Business Management Office

Length of Service: 19 years

Alma Mater: Park University

What are some of your responsibilities and highlights from your current position?

I'm responsible for preparing detailed financial and work measurement reports, i.e. the Commercial Pay Interest Penalty Payments Status report, MOCAS Overage, Customer Service Indicators, and Accounts Payable Benchmark reports; and I assist the functional directorates by providing detailed MOCAS invoice information.

How has AGA positively impacted you and your job?

I've received some very resourceful information from the speakers at the luncheons and conferences that I've been able to attend.

What are some personal accomplishments or highlights you would like to share with other AGA members?

After obtaining my Associate's degree in 2006, I decided to continue on the education path. I was accepted into the DFAS Competitive Civilian Academic Degree Program, and will receive a Bachelor's of Science degree in November, 2008. I was also elected to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

I currently participate in the Columbus Reads program by volunteering as a tutor at Broadleigh Elementary School. This is my second year, and I can truly say that it has been a very fulfilling experience because I know I'm making a positive impact when I see the upward changes in the students test scores.

I am also a member of the Alpha Phi Omega Interest Group at Park University. Last year, two of our service projects were helping with the Channel 6 – Jerry Lewis Labor Day MDA Telethon, and the Adopt-a-Family Program at the Salvation Army.

What are some of your future plans/goals (personal and professional)?

After graduation, my plans include obtaining my CGFM Certification and to begin working on my Masters.

CHAPTER OFFICERS (CONT)

CERTIFICATION

BOB OSBORNE, CGFM
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AUBREY MARTIN, CGFM
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EDUCATION

KATIE ALFERA
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BARB BAIL, CGFM, CDFM-A
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COMMUNITY SERVICE

KORTNEY WHITEMAN
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WAYS AND MEANS

KEVIN BRUNS, CPA
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JOYCE MALESKI
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NEW MEMBERS

Ms. Amie I. Dove – DFAS

Sponsor: Justin Sponseller

Shawnte Griffin – DFAS

Sponsor: C. Dale Hamilton

Vernell Howard – DFAS

Sponsor: Charles E. Miller, Sr.

JoAnn Marcinko – DFAS

Sponsor: Justin Sponseller

Abigail Parsons – DFAS

Sponsor: Justin Sponseller

Joyce Tritt – DFAS

Sponsor: Justin Sponseller

Gennadiy Petropavlovskiy – DFAS

Sponsor: Yong Nam Babb

Dennis Saunders – DFAS

Sponsor: Justin Sponseller

Chad E. Staffan – DFAS

Sponsor: Justin Sponseller

CGFM SPOTLIGHT

Name: Barb Bail

Length of AGA membership: 3 years, since 2/01/05

Certification(s) received: Certified Government Financial Manager,
Certified Defense Financial Manager with Acquisition Specialty

Agency/ Company: DFAS – Client Executive Office

Position/ Rotation: Client Executive Representative – Mission Support
Accountant

Length of Service: 22 years

Alma Mater: Ohio Dominican University

How has AGA positively impacted you and your job?

Being a member of the AGA has enhanced my overall knowledge and understanding of governmental accounting and finance. The insight gained preparing for the CGFM examinations has enabled me to perform a better job and provide improved customer service on behalf of my organization. I have had the opportunity to meet and interact with great people.

What are some personal accomplishments or highlights you would like to share with other AGA members?

Going back to finish my college education was one of my most important personal accomplishments. Prior to my husband's retirement from the Army, we had lived in 5 different states and completed 2 tours in Germany, which made taking courses a challenge. I have a great husband and 3 great children. I love to travel overseas, my favorite place is Paris and I have been fortunate to travel there on 10 different occasions.

What advice can you give to other AGA members that may help them receive their certification?

I would strongly encourage anyone thinking about becoming CGFM certified to "go for it"! Use whatever study method works best (notes on index cards, highlighted study notes, paced self-study, study groups, etc.) to prepare for the examinations. You don't have to take all three exams at once, space them to suite your schedule and studying. I attended the Management Concept 5-day course which covered Sections 2 and 3. I also attended local AGA Professional Development Conferences, where I participated in 1-day intensive reviews for Section 1 and 2. Most of all, I self-studied approximately 30 minutes a night for 3-4 weeks prior to taking each examination. The AGA also offers an intensive review course to attendees prior to the annual Professional Development Conference and the annual National Leadership Conference.

What are your future plans/goals (personal and professional)?

I plan to complete the MBA program at Ohio Dominican University in August of 2009. After that I would like to pursue either a CPA or CMA certification. I would like to travel and explore new places.



UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL LUNCHEON

10 APRIL 2008, 11:30AM – 1:00PM

It is our pleasure to welcome Mr. Stephen A. Stovall as our guest speaker at the Greater Columbus AGA Chapter's April luncheon. Mr. Stovall, Assistant Professor of Management at Wilmington College, will be giving a presentation on "Entrepreneurship." The luncheon will be held in the DFAS-CO Conference Center in room C-137 (Indianapolis Room). The menu will include Chicken Picata, Rice Pilaf, Steamed Vegetables, Tossed Salad and Brownies. Assorted beverages will also be provided. The price for AGA members will be \$11 and \$14 for non-members. Please contact Diana Sponseller (3-0370) or Rachel Swartz (3-0592) if you should have any questions or dietary needs.

MAY LUNCHEON - INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBER'S AWARD CEREMONY

13 May 2008, 11:30am – 1:00pm

The Greater Columbus Chapter will be holding their Installation of Officers and Member's Award Ceremony at the May luncheon. The luncheon will be held at TAT Ristorante di Famiglia, located at 1210 South James Road, Columbus, OH, 43227. The luncheon menu and price are still to be determined. Please contact Diana Sponseller (3-0370) or Rachel Swartz (3-0592) if you should have any questions or dietary needs.

AUDIO CONFERENCE – THE ANATOMY OF ETHICAL SLIPS IN GOVERNMENT

14 MAY 2008, 2:00PM – 3:50PM

AGA, 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 increasingly important topic to our audio conference schedule – cases of ethical lapses.

During this audio conference, the presenter will recount some recent ethical lapses in government and examine the causes and effects. By examining a series of ethical lapses, we find that a pattern emerges. That pattern allows us to think about this question: What is it in the culture of an agency that allows obvious ethical breaches to occur and continue? Once we understand the culture, we can think about putting the detection methods, as well as antidotes, in place.

In our outrage over misconduct, we often fail to look deeply enough to see the causes and fall short of taking meaningful steps that would go further than just correction. Thinking more deeply about nurturing a culture of ethics is the key to prevention of ethical lapses, at all levels.

To share her expertise in ethical behavior and its ramifications is Marianne M. Jennings, JD, Professor in the Department of Management in the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University (ASU). At ASU, Marianne teaches graduate courses in the MBA program in business ethics and the legal environment of business. Professor Jennings has authored hundreds of articles and has six textbooks and monographs in circulation. She has conducted more than 300 workshops and seminars in the areas of business, personal, government, legal, academic and professional ethics. Among her many awards and honors, Marianne was inducted into the AGA Speakers' Hall of Fame and also received a writers' award for best article in AGA's Journal of Government Financial Management.

Please join us for two hours of lively discussion about this important and timely topic. In addition to the speaker's commentary, there will be approximately 20 minutes for Q & A so that the participants can ask the speaker 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). Cost: FREE to members, \$25 for non-members. Two (2) CPE credits will be offered in the Behavioral Ethics field of study. Please contact Diana Sponseller (3-0370) or Rachel Swartz (3-0592) if you should have any questions.

JUNE LUNCHEON

12 JUNE 2008

The Greater Columbus Chapter will be holding a Member Appreciation Luncheon at the DSCC Red Pavilion on Thursday, June 12th. Menu is still to be determined. Additional information will be provided in the coming months. Please contact Diana Sponseller (3-0370) or Rachel Swartz (3-6907) if you should have any questions.

AGA NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (PDC)

Atlanta Marriott Marquis – Atlanta, GA
27-30 July 2008

Join us for AGA's Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC)—the premier education and networking event for government financial management and accountability professionals.

AGA has been a leader in providing the best training for more than 57 years, and this is the place where it all comes together: the profession's top leaders, the latest technological advancements, more than 1,700 practitioners and daily networking events.

Offering 24 CPE hours, timely topics and an impressive lineup of speakers, PDC 2008 promises to be one of the Association's best. With the theme, Building on the Dream: Creating a Culture of Accountability, this event will convene government financial managers and accountability professionals from around the country for three and a half days of knowledge building and networking.

The PDC is the authoritative source for the

knowledge and contacts you need to succeed in today's constantly changing environment. Learn about the newest research in the field. Find out about tools and techniques that have advanced the profession. Hear dynamic speakers. Discuss hot topics and trends. Meet the top leaders from federal agencies, state and local governments, the private sector and academia. Take part in small-group discussions, explore current issues and find answers.

From the practical to the theoretical, sessions will help attendees hone their skills to bring greater efficiency and effectiveness to government operations. Exhibitors are available to demonstrate the newest products to help your agency achieve its mission, and the networking events should not be missed.

General sessions feature speakers of national prominence and encompass the overarching tracks of the conference; concurrent sessions address current issues and best practices in the field. Create your own curriculum from more than 90 educational sessions organized around the following tracks:

- Auditing Tips, Tools & Techniques
- Accountability and Ethics
- Financial Management Strategies
- Management Challenges

The PDC is also about networking. Take advantage of the many receptions and social events that are planned, and enjoy the historical landmarks, good food and fun that Atlanta has to offer. Bring your family and explore the Georgia Aquarium, Centennial Olympic Park, the new World of Coca-Cola®, The King Center, Atlanta Botanical Garden and other area attractions.

Add sizzle to your summer... Join AGA for PDC 2008 in Hotlanta! Please contact Diana Sponseller (3-0370) or Rachel Swartz (3-6907) if you should have any questions.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

How can a woman be expected to be happy with a man who insists on treating her as if she were a perfectly normal human being.

OSCAR WILDE

COMMUNITY SERVICE CORNER

HUGE THANKS: AGA COMMUNITY SERVICE DRIVES!

The Greater Columbus AGA Chapter would like to thank everyone that participated in our Community Service Drives over the past year!

FOOD DRIVE CHALLENGE!

The Greater Columbus Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) accepted a Food Drive Challenge with the San Antonio Chapter to determine which chapter could donate the most pounds of food to local food pantries.

During the month of September, AGA members, along with DFAS employees, collected 812 pounds of food for the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. The Mid-Ohio Food Bank is comprised of a network of more than 550 local food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, senior dining centers, day care and after-school enrichment programs.

Although the Greater Columbus AGA Chapter did not win the challenge, all efforts were greatly appreciated and went to a worthy cause. Our AGA Chapter would like to thank all individuals who donated food items to our Food Drive Challenge.

PROFESSIONAL CLOTHING DRIVE!

During the last week of January and throughout the month of February, the Greater Columbus AGA Chapter sponsored a Professional Women's Clothing Drive.

The purpose of this service project was to obtain gently used women's clothing and accessories for Central Ohio women seeking to re-enter the professional workforce. Items accepted included: business suits; slacks and pants; skirts and dresses; blazers, sweaters and blouses; shoes; handbags; scarves and belts. Donations of hangers were also accepted.

The overwhelming response totaled over 300 items of professional clothing and accessories for Goodwill of Central Ohio. The AGA Greater Columbus Chapter would like to thank all of those individuals that donated the gently used items to a worthy cause.

We sincerely thank everyone who supported us in these service drives. You all were a big help with your contributions, and we couldn't have done it without you!

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Jason Haskins, Treasurer
As of 9 April 2008

Checking Account

Beginning Balance	\$ 2,046.94
Deposits	\$ 1,288.18
Expenditures	\$ 113.50
Ending Balance	\$ 3,221.62

Savings Account

Beginning Balance	\$ 8,438.46
Transfer from Checking	\$ -
Interest Earned	\$ -
Ending Balance	\$ 8,438.46

Total Balance \$ 11,660.08

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

GASB ISSUES AN EXPOSURE DRAFT SEEKING INPUT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO CONCEPTS STATEMENT NO. 2, SERVICE EFFORTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING

<http://www.gasb.org/>

Norwalk, CT, April 4, 2008—The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) today issued an Exposure Draft (ED) of proposed changes to Concepts Statement No. 2, Service Efforts and Accomplishments Reporting. The purpose of this ED is to update Concepts Statement 2 to reflect the knowledge gathered by the GASB through research and monitoring conducted during the 14 years since the Concepts Statement was issued. The proposed amendments also would clarify the role of the GASB in service efforts and accomplishments (SEA) reporting. Constituents are encouraged to review and provide written comments on the ED by July 3, 2008. The ED can be downloaded free from the GASB website, www.gasb.org.

"SEA performance information has a long history of being recognized as an important component of public sector financial reporting, providing insight into how effectively and efficiently state and local governments utilize resources to achieve their missions on behalf of their citizens," stated GASB Chairman Robert H. Attmore.

"The proposed changes in the Exposure Draft will bring the GASB's conceptual framework up to date on the advances made by governments in reporting SEA information," Attmore said. "It also will clarify the nature of the GASB's involvement in SEA performance reporting. Our goal is to eliminate any confusion or misunderstanding that has developed on this topic."

Specifically, the ED proposes to modify four sections of Concepts Statement 2 (Purpose and Scope, The Elements of SEA Reporting, Limitations of SEA Information, and Enhancing the Usefulness of SEA Information), and to eliminate one section (Developing Reporting Standards for SEA Information). It is the GASB's belief that these proposed changes will enhance a common understanding of the elements,

characteristics, limitations, and methods of communicating SEA performance information.

The proposed changes to the Purpose and Scope section would clarify that it is beyond the scope of the GASB to establish the goals and objectives of state and local government services, develop specific nonfinancial measures or indicators of service performance; or set standards for service performance. Some provisions of the section of the Concepts Statement entitled "Developing Reporting Standards for SEA Information" have been interpreted in ways that cause confusion. The GASB believes that the best way to avoid future confusion is to eliminate that section from the Concepts Statement entirely.

The GASB also has scheduled a public hearing to take place on July 29, 2008, beginning at 9:00 a.m. EDT at the Hilton Hotel, 255 Courtland Street, NE, Atlanta, GA, in conjunction with the Association of Government Accountants' Professional Development Conference. Individuals or organizations that want to make an oral presentation in person or by telephone are required to provide, by the deadline of July 3, 2008, a written notification of that intent and a copy of written comments addressing the changes proposed in the Exposure Draft. The notification and written submission should be addressed to the Director of Research and Technical Activities, Project No. 20-1, and e-mailed to director@gasb.org or mailed to the address below. Written comments should be addressed to the Director of Research and Technical Activities, Project No. 20-1, and e-mailed to director@gasb.org or mailed to the following address: Governmental Accounting Standards Board, 401 Merritt 7, PO Box 5116, Norwalk, CT 06856-5116. Additional details about participating in the hearing and responding in writing can be found in the ED.

THE BOTTOM LINE

DIVERSITY LACKING AMONG AGENCIES' SENIOR RANKS, SAY LAWMAKERS

By Alyssa Rosenberg

www.govexec.com

Lawmakers sharply criticized the Office of Personnel Management and agencies for failing to advance diversity in the Senior Executive Service at a joint hearing of the House and Senate's federal workforce subcommittees on Thursday.

"Despite the outreach and federal requirements, agencies just haven't been up to the task of promoting diversity in the senior ranks in a way that is convincing," said Rep. Charles Gonzalez, D-Texas. "Members of our communities can no longer wait for agencies to wake up and discover that they need to include diversity in their succession planning. Agencies by themselves cannot and will not do it."

The lawmakers expressed dismay at a Government Accountability Office report that found the number of African-American men in SES positions fell from 5.5 percent in October 2000 to 5 percent in September 2007. The same report found that the representation of women and minorities in the SES, and in General Schedule levels 14 and 15 -- employees most likely to become senior executives -- had increased since 2000.

Thursday's hearing focused on legislation in the House and Senate that would change the way appointments to the Senior Executive Service are made and tracked.

The bill would require agencies to appoint three-person panels comprised of a woman, a racial or ethnic minority, and another SES member to review executive appointments, and then require agency heads to sign off on individual appointments. It also would create an office within OPM to oversee the Senior Executive Service, including tracking demographics and creating mentoring and training programs to help minorities move into the executive ranks. OPM eliminated a similar office during the agency's 2003 reorganization.

Nancy Kichak, OPM's associate director for strategic human resources policy, rankled some lawmakers when she said that her agency did not have a position on the legislation, and suggested the bill could face constitutional hurdles.

"We have serious concerns about the potential impact on the merit system principles of injecting race and gender into the examination process in this manner," she said. "The Justice Department has advised that these race- and gender-based requirements for the composition of the SES panels are very likely unconstitutional under governing equal protection precedents."

"Does OPM have a position on why it is so difficult to reach some semblance of parity within the ranks of the SES?" Davis asked Kichak.

Rep. William Lacy Clay, D-Mo., also was critical of OPM.

"My suggestion to OPM is that you figure out how to work this out, that you work with both these chairmen to come up with a product to achieve the results," Clay told Kichak. "Don't come here being adversarial, because you are."

Kichak responded that she took a different view, arguing that the SES was better served by the attention of a range of part-time panelists rather than a small, full-time office. She also noted that OPM has issued more rigorous guidelines for SES appointments that include attention to diversity as a qualification.

But Kichak acknowledged that change was a slow process, and OPM does not have a set solution in place. The agency's candidate development program, designed to help minority candidates prepare to apply for SES appointments, is on hold while OPM retools it.

GOVERNMENT NEWS

CENSUS TO SCRAP HANDHELD COMPUTERS FOR 2010 COUNT

By Gautham Nagesh

www.nextgov.com

The Census Bureau will tell a House panel today that it will drop plans to use handheld computers to help count Americans for the 2010 census, contributing to the increase in cost for the decennial census by as much as \$3 billion, according to testimony the Commerce Department secretary plans to give this afternoon.

Comment on this article in The Forum. "Today I am reporting to this committee that we will move forward with the recommendation to use a paper-based [nonresponse follow-up] in the 2010 decennial census," according to Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez's testimony he plans to give to the House Appropriations Committee on Commerce, Justice and Science, and which Nextgov has obtained.

The recommendation to revert to paper came from an independent panel of experts Gutierrez formed last month. The task force included former House speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., and former Census Bureau directors Kenneth Prewitt and Vincent Barabba. Gutierrez said a majority of panel members recommended moving forward with a paper-based census.

In 2006, the Census Bureau awarded a \$595 million contract to Harris Corp. to develop more than 525,000 handheld computers that enumerators would use to collect data from Americans who did not send in their census forms. The handhelds would replace the millions of costly paper forms and maps that enumerators must carry when going door to door to visit Americans who did not mail in their census forms. Since awarding the contract, the project has experienced constant setbacks, including changing system requirements that led to increased costs and missed deadlines. Reports by the Government Accountability Office, the department's inspector general and Mitre Corp. all issued warnings that the handhelds were at risk of not being ready by 2010 and may not work as planned.

"I am here today because the Field Data Collection

Automation project has experienced significant schedule, performance and cost issues," according to Gutierrez's testimony. "A lack of effective communication with one of our key contractors has significantly contributed to the challenges."

In his statement, Gutierrez calls the situation with the handhelds "unacceptable."

He points to a dress rehearsal held in May 2007 as when "development and scoping problems emerged." The bureau then identified "more than 400 new or clarified technical requirements," he said, which were delivered to Harris on Jan. 16.

At a March 5 hearing of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Gutierrez said, "significant miscommunication concerning technical requirements between the Census Bureau and Harris" were a main reason for the failings.

In a statement sent to Nextgov, Harris officials said, "The handheld devices are one part of a larger, multifaceted process to move from a 'paper culture' to an 'automation' culture appropriate for the 21st century. We understand that such a significant cultural shift presents organizational challenges to any organization, and Harris is encouraged that automation is moving forward, even if in a more narrowly focused fashion. The company and its industry partners are committed to helping the Census Bureau make the 2010 census the most complete, secure and accurate in history."

The Census Bureau still plans to use the handhelds to conduct address canvassing, a process to validate and update the location of every household.

Gutierrez said reverting to a paper-based census, in addition to other costs not associated with the handhelds, is expected to increase the cost of the 2010 census to between \$2.2 billion and \$3 billion through fiscal year 2013. That would bring the total

Continued on Page 16

AGA CEC MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 17, 2008

Attendees: Ken George, Justin Sponseller, Lindsay Foell, Aubrey Martin, Kevin Bruns, Katie Alfera, Barb Bail, Ben Novotny, Merle Robinson, LaVaris Poole, Bob Osborne, Jim Gillenwater, and Jason Haskins

DISCUSSION TOPIC

- Chapter By-Laws – A committee will be formed after the officer elections to review the by-laws and present a formal recommendation to the membership for approval. Merle and Bob have already reviewed the bylaws and have made a few observations.
 - No provision for co-directions
 - Different titles for CEC members
 - Process of voting not reflected correctly
- Installation of Officers / Member Awards Ceremony – Will occur in May. No location or date set yet, but please get awards to Jim by the April CEC, which will be held April 21, 2008.
- Officer Nominations / Elections – Nominations ended last Friday. A nominations committee will meet to decide the candidates for treasurer. Bios for all nominated parties are due to the newsletter by March 26, 2008.
- National Awards (deadline 4/04/08) – Due from Education, Comm. Service, and the chapter service award.
- CRP Input (4th quarter input due 4/22/08) – Jim will pull the group together to provide input for the CRP. Details to come.
- AGA 2008 Survey – Please take the time to answer the survey. Assists AGA national in serving the members as well as possible.
 - to send updates to Merle
 - Suggestions on New Co-Director – send to Merle if you have nominees.
- Community Service – no updates
- Education – PDO planned. April luncheon and Audio conferences are set.
- Certification – CGFM Month is March 2008. Preparing a survey to find out how best to assist the membership in obtaining a certification.
- Membership/Early Careers (EC) – Please renew your dues as soon as possible to keep all information up to date. Volunteers are needed for the upcoming new employee orientations. EC is returning to Franklin University in April for presentations concerning DFAS and AGA.
- Programs
 - Audio Conferences - 3/26
 - Professional Development Opportunity – 3/20
 - March Madness Event – 3/21 – Gameworks, signed Thad Matta basketball up for bids.
 - April Luncheon – 4/10
 - Cornhole Tournament – 4/26
- Ways and Means
 - Flower Bulb Sales – Money and forms due to Joyce by March 28th.
 - Spring Football Game – April 19th, Lacrosse game is at 11am, and the spring game will begin around 1-1:30pm. We are looking for 8-10 people to assist, and no shifts are available.
 - Potential Summer Fundraiser – Send ideas to Joyce and Kevin. Ideas are volleyball tournament or soft ball tournament.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- Communications
 - Newsletter Deadline – 3/26/2008 to Ken for publication
 - Website Update – events are being added, please utilize and remember

TECHTALK

MAKING TELEWORK WORK

By Kathleen Hickey, Special to GCN

www.gcn.com

The greatest barriers to telework in the federal government today are ignorance and middle managers, according to panelists who discussed the subject at the FOSE Conference and Exposition in Washington this week.

The No. 1 obstacle is middle managers, said Joseph Hungate, the Treasury Department's principal deputy inspector general for tax administration. Yet if middle managers are allowed to telework and are given the tools to manage their employees remotely, including metrics on employee productivity, resistance to the idea is dramatically lowered, he said.

"Managers need to get away from managing conduct and start managing product," he said.

Additionally, 42 percent of federal employees don't know if they are eligible to telework, and one-third are not aware if their agency has a policy on telework, said Joel Brunson, president of Tandberg Federal, a New York-based provider of videoconferencing equipment and mobile video devices to the federal government.

"We've done a good job of expounding upon what are the benefits of teleworking... If we spent as much time [educating federal employees on eligibility], we would see an even greater adoption rate," Brunson said.

To attract the next generation of workers, agencies must offer telework as an option, said Stephen O'Keeffe, executive director of the public/private Telework Exchange, based in Alexandria, Va.

The organization hosted a series of focus groups to

better understand Generation Y employees in the federal technology field. In a report released in November, the organization found that such employees have chosen to work in the federal government because of benefits that include telework.

"There are 17 million people born between 1977 and 2002," O'Keeffe said. "They are entering the workforce today, and they want to be flexible. They are mobile. They know information security is critical, but they want the system to be user-friendly. They recognize privacy, but if it compromises functionality, that is not going to cut it."

According to CDW Government, a subsidiary of CDW Corp. and an IT solutions provider to the federal government, the federal sector is ahead of the private sector when it comes to telework: 17 percent of federal employees telework compared to 14 percent in the private sector.

However, the number of eligible federal employees has dipped to 40 percent from a high of 55 percent in 2006, most likely due to security concerns, the company said in its fourth annual telework survey released March 31.

Although security remains a pressing issue for the federal government, telework has the benefit of enabling an agency to continue functioning during a disaster or even smaller incidents such as snowstorms.

It also improves employee morale and saves money, Hungate said. Treasury's telework program saves the agency \$1 million annually on rent, he added.

CERTIFICATION CONNECTION

CHAPTER CGFM SURVEY

You are invited to take a brief 7 question survey about the CGFM Certification Program. Your input is needed to help make this program beneficial for the Greater Columbus Chapter members. This survey will take you less than 5 minutes to complete. Please click on the link below, this survey will close COB April 15. We thank you for your participation in advance.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=SOIQnNHDKS2_2b4fnbGMWOQQ_3d_3d

TAKE THE CGFM EXAMINATIONS BEFORE THE PDC

AGA is once again offering a great opportunity to take the CGFM Examinations and earn your CGFM before the 57th Annual Professional Development Conference (PDC) in Atlanta, GA. We are offering a two-day Intensive Review Course on Thursday, July

24, and Friday, July 25, 2008, and an opportunity to take the CGFM Examinations on July 26-27, 2008.

The cost of the course is only \$249 for qualified participants, and it offers 18 CPE hours. Special Bonus: The CGFM Examinations are offered at no cost to course attendees.

This Intensive Review Course will cover the updates to the CGFM Examinations, and this event will be the first opportunity to take the updated examinations. While the core of the examination content remained the same, the three examination content outlines were updated, refreshed and streamlined. This is your opportunity to get the most up-to-date information and earn your CGFM right at the PDC!

More information and a registration form for this event are available on the AGA website - http://www.agacgfm.org/pdc2008/cgfm_exams.htm. If you have any questions, please contact Crystal Vanison at cvanison@agacgfm.org or 800.AGA.7211, ext. 316.

April 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes:		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Programs: Monthly Luncheon	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Communications: Submit Newsletter Items	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	Notes:		

NATIONAL AGA NEWS

NOW ACCEPTING 2008 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Are you or a family member pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in disciplines such as accounting, auditing, budgeting, economics, finance, information technology, public administration?

If so, consider applying for an AGA National Academic Scholarship today! Each year, AGA National awards:

- Up to four \$3,000 full-time merit scholarships to AGA members and their family members,
- One \$1,000 part-time merit scholarships to AGA members and their family members, and
- One \$3,000 community service scholarship

The deadline for receipt of applications is March 31, 2008. Learn more:

(<http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/awards/default.aspx>)

AGA RESEARCH PROGRAM — 2008 SURVEY

AGA's Corporate Partner Research Advisory Group is conducting an online survey to ascertain member thoughts about current and future government

financial management issues. AGA Corporate Partner Grant Thornton LLP is administering the survey. All responses are anonymous, and the results will be presented at the 2008 PDC in Atlanta.

To encourage responses to the survey, AGA will give the chapter with the highest response rate a cash award of \$300; second highest will receive \$200 and third will receive \$100. The award will be based on the number of responses received per chapter divided by the total registered membership of a chapter. Please be sure to enter your chapter's name when you fill out the survey:

(<http://inquisite.gt.com/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.cgi?idx=9TNK34>).

THE AGA BLOG NOW OPEN!

Join the fun as we welcome a wide variety of government financial management experts who will share their wisdom and insight with readers. Each of our "celebrity" bloggers will check back during their day with us to answer questions and comments posted by readers. It's a fun way to interact with some of the top names in the profession.

Bookmark <http://aga.typepad.com/aga>—the place for government finance professionals to share ideas and dialogue with some of the top names in the business.

BUT I DIGRESS

Blah, Blah, Blah. Rant. Rant. Rant. Do you ever just come here just out of morbid curiosity as to what the editor will let me get away with?

When I first started writing this column almost four and a half years ago I was given two requirements by Ken: One – No Overt Pessimism; Two – Nothing Offensive. Do you know how hard it is to write a column without breaking one of those two rules? I can't cover a number of topics I'd really love to get into. Like politics for example. I mean wouldn't it be interesting if Senator Barak Obama was running against Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice? I'm not saying I'd vote for either one of them, but I'd love

to see that fight.

With all of the things going on in our lives it's not always easy to meet the 'no overt pessimism' requirement. I swear some months I must go through three or four different ideas for the little bit of space I'm allotted before I settle on one that won't be overtly pessimistic.

Still it is a lot of fun rambling on for a few paragraphs once a month. Hopefully you have as much fun reading as I do composing. Though I think more people just read to see if they can figure out who I really am. Best of luck; most people guess wrong. But I Digress. . .

THE AUDITOR'S PERSPECTIVE

IBM SUSPENDED FROM NEW FEDERAL CONTRACTS

By Jill R. Aitoro

www.nextgov.com

International Business Machines Corp. and its subsidiaries are suspended from receiving new federal contracts, certain subcontracts and some types of federal assistance and benefits, due to an action taken by the Environmental Protection Agency that extends governmentwide, according to federal documents.

According to the Excluded Parties List System, maintained by the General Services Administration, the EPA took action against IBM on March 27, pursuant to Executive Order 12549, created in 1986 to curb fraud, waste and abuse in federal programs.

The list is an online database for agencies that identifies parties excluded from receiving federal contracts, some subcontracts and certain types of federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits. The government can take such action for violations of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, specific agency regulations, the Governmentwide Nonprocurement Suspension and Debarment Common Rule, and other federal standards.

The specifics of IBM's suspension have not been released. IBM did not respond to requests for comment.

"The [EPA] temporarily suspended IBM from receiving new federal contracts or assistance," said Jonathan Shradar EPA press secretary. "The action was taken by the EPA suspending official as a temporary measure while the agency reviews

concerns raised about potential activities involving an EPA procurement. As the matter is currently pending before the suspending official, the agency will have no further comment at this time." Shradar confirmed that the suspension is governmentwide, as dictated by the associated executive order.

The Homeland Security Department sent a notice to its acquisition community directing its Office of Procurement Operation not to award any of the following new procurement actions to IBM or its subsidiaries:

- Contracts
- Delivery/task orders
- Purchase orders
- Purchase card transactions
- Modifications to existing contracts
- Interagency agreements with servicing agencies that will use IBM or its subsidiaries as the vendor

IBM earned \$1.5 billion in revenue from federal prime contracts in fiscal 2007, according to McLean, Va., consulting firm FedSources.

"You don't see this very often, particularly for large companies," said Ray Bjorklund, senior vice president and chief knowledge officer for FedSources. He notes MCI among the exceptions. After filing for bankruptcy, MCI received a suspension from U.S. government contracts that lasted from August 2003 to January 2004. "This happens with small companies more frequently," Bjorkland said. "But IBM -- wow."



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THE BOTTOM LINE

Continued from Page 9

"We only had about 300 new hires -- new people moving into the SES in 2007," Kichak said. "Out of a 7,000 person service, when you only bring in 5 percent a year, it does take time for the numbers to change."

Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., told Kichak that she expected OPM to submit within 30 days the Justice Department's legal basis for its suggestion that the legislation is unconstitutional.

Panelists and lawmakers also debated whether the bill would create more bureaucracy.

Rep. Kenny Marchant, R-Texas, the ranking member on the House subcommittee, said he wanted to ensure that tools to advance diversity don't unnecessarily burden the federal employment and advancement process.

"Implementing policy changes without full consideration of the consequences could end up adding additional bureaucracy to a system already burdened by low application numbers and relatively uncompetitive compensation packages," he cautioned.

The main objection, which was raised by the Senior Executives Association, is to the section of the bill mandating the three-person review panels. SEA wants to allow agencies to choose between using the three-person panels or creating diversity subcommittees of the Executive Resources Boards, which include more SES members. The SEA supports giving those subcommittees veto power over SES appointments that they believe did not consider qualified female and minority candidates. William Bransford, SEA's general counsel, said that involving more people in the selection process would create more diverse leaders.

GOVERNMENT NEWS

Continued from Page 10

cost of the 2010 census to between \$13.7 billion and \$14.5 billion. He said the bureau would need an increase of \$160 million to \$230 million for fiscal 2008 to cover costs associated with returning to paper, with an additional \$600 million to \$700 million for fiscal 2009. Gutierrez added that the majority of the cost increases would occur in 2010.

Gutierrez plans to tell the subcommittee that the bureau could transfer funds "from existing departmental resources that will fully cover the resources required for the 2010 census. Our transfer proposal would require legislative authority to remove certain limits on the department's ability to make intradepartmental funds transfers, and we are submitting to you proposed legislative language that would provide this authority."

The additional funding is needed primarily to add more personnel to help carry out the paper-based census. Additional enumerators and personnel would be needed to service the help desks, data centers and control system for the paper-based census. Gutierrez plans to tell the subcommittee that additional costs could result from increases in gas prices, postage and printing.

CORRECTION: Nextgov incorrectly reported that the increased cost in the 2010 census was due solely to reverting to a paper-based census. The \$2.2 billion to \$3 billion cost increase for the decennial census is due to reverting to a paper-based census as well as other costs that are not associated with the handheld computers. The bureau still plans to use the handhelds to conduct address canvassing, a process to validate and update the location of every household. This story has been modified to correct these errors.

CHAPTER OFFICER ELECTIONS

CANDIDATE ADDENDUM

PRESIDENT-ELECT

NANCY ZMYSLINSKI - Nancy Zmyslinski is the director of DFAS Columbus, having taken command in October of 2004. She is responsible for the day-to-day operation of a modern, \$80 million complex and more than 2,300 federal employees involved in the accounts payable, accounts receivable, contract pay, travel pay and disbursing mission areas that support the Department of Defense. DFAS Columbus is also the Center of Excellence for Acquisition Accounting, the Agency's largest customer mission area.

Ms. Zmyslinski has been with the federal government since 1980 and previously served as Director and Deputy Director of Accounting Services for DFAS Columbus. Prior to that, she was the first project officer of the Chief Financial Officer's Act Compliance Project Office, Director of Executive Support and Director of Accounting at DFAS Columbus.

Other federal service includes positions as a management analyst and accountant from 1980 to 1983 at the Defense Depot, Memphis, Tennessee, and from 1983 to 1988 at the Defense Construction Supply Center, Columbus, Ohio.

Ms. Zmyslinski is a Certified Government Financial Manager and a member of the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) and the Association of Government Accountants (AGA). She is a past president of both the ASMC's Buckeye Chapter and the AGA's Greater Columbus Chapter, and past Regional Vice-President of the Ohio-Michigan region of the AGA. She is currently serving as the membership co-chair of AGA's Greater Columbus chapter.

She majored in accounting at the University of North Dakota and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.

Ms. Zmyslinski was selected for induction into the Senior Executive Service on November 12, 2002.

SECRETARY

JOHN YERKEY - John Yerkey is a graduate of the ELPA program (currently the LIM program) and has been with DFAS four and half years. John is currently a staff accountant in the Internal Control Oversight Office Audit Liaison Office Branch. John has been in this position since October 2007 where he coordinates the work of auditors and DFAS Columbus operations.

Prior to moving to this position John worked as a team lead for the Defense Logistics Agency General Ledger Section of the Accounts Maintenance and Control Division.

John has been a member of the Greater Columbus Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants since its inception and served as the initial Treasurer of the organization.

John graduated from Ohio State University with his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in 2003 and completed his MBA at Franklin University in 2006.

TREASURER

HEATHER DRAKE - Since the start of my career with DFAS as a student intern in 2003, I have consistently aspired to take on new challenges that have helped me to become a more effective leader. I have contributed to the AGA profession by serving on both local and regional boards and continue to take part in the on-going educational initiatives as it relates to governmental affairs and networking with other accounting/finance professionals from other government agencies.

I've been an active member of AGA Greater Columbus Chapter since inception in 2005. Past AGA leadership positions include serving as the Greater Columbus AGA Chapter Secretary from 2005-2007. My current AGA position includes serving as the Ohio-Michigan Regional Coordinator for Chapter Development and Assistance. My most recent accomplishments include working with people from Detroit and Dayton to help re-energize their local AGA Chapters.

My current position in DFAS involves preparing monthly budget clearing account reports for the Defense Agency and Army Columbus Field Site as well as the Air Force Departmental Reconciliation to the U.S. Department of Treasury. I manage suspense records and provide support to civilian personnel at the various DFAS Field Sites; I coordinate and facilitate monthly suspense account briefings to senior managers, provide QA/QC oversight to Accounting Operations for aged transactions and oversee internal controls vital to the routing of IPAC payments. I also serve as the Departmental Liaison for Prompt Pay Interest Payments. Previous assignments include developing over 13 Standard Operating Procedures applicable to the Treasury Reporting Division, taking part in the reduction of Commercial Pay erroneous, participating in the 2005-2006 DFAS-Wide Strategic Plan and managing the DFAS Columbus Creative Ideas Program.

My short-term goals are to obtain my MBA and CGFM. As an active member of AGA I plan to stay committed to the local AGA Greater Columbus Chapter and continue to strive as a leader.

CHARLES MILLER - Started here 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.

ROBERT PALMIERI - Prior to coming to DFAS I was a digital design engineer for Bell Telephone Laboratories. I designed circuits for telephone switching systems. After 14 years I became a Quality Control Engineer for 2 years for the manufacturing entity of AT&T. I then went into manufacturing production for the remaining 12 years of my career. My last 5 years were spent with Lucent Technologies. This was a spin-off from AT&T and included manufacturing and Bell Telephone Laboratories. During my 28 years I was promoted 5 times. I started as a designer and finished as a mid-level manager. During that time I spent 2.5 years at a manufacturing facility in France as a materials management and procurement manager. In 2001 I retired and took up a number of positions until my acceptance of a position at DFAS. I was in sales, retail management, warehouse management, mortgage lending, and construction.

My education is as follows:

AAS Electrical Engineering Technology	2 year degree
BSBA Production Operations Management	4 year degree
MBA International Business	2 year program

Just completed course requirements for 510 qualifications
Beginning studies for CGFM certificate

I have been with the Greater Columbus Chapter since last July. Since then I have participated in multiple lunches and conferences. I have volunteered for several community projects sponsored by AGA and I am a member of the certification committee headed by Dr. Robert Osborne and Aubrey Martin.

I have enjoyed the camaraderie and knowledge I have gained as a member of AGA. I have met people that I know will be life-long friends. I constantly strive to recruit members by stressing the benefits of membership and friendship.

I have nominated myself for a position of Treasurer for the Greater Columbus Chapter. I believe I can bring to bear my enthusiasm, experience, and dedication to the position. As with many things in life I have much to learn, but where I can I have much to share. Thank you and please consider me for this position.