



FEATURES

Member Spotlight.....2
New Members4

COLUMNS

President's Message 1
Treasurer's Report..... 5
The Bottom Line..... 6
Technically Speaking..... 7
Government News..... 8
Auditor's Perspective..... 9
But I Digress 10
Tech Talk..... 11
National AGA News 12

OTHER

Chapter Officers..... 2
Upcoming Events 3
Comm Service Corner 5
Quote of the Month 11
CEC Minutes 13

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the start of November comes the beginning of the holiday season. Many of us will be taking time off from work to spend time with family and friends as well as giving thanks for the many blessings that we have. For some less fortunate families though, the holiday season may be more difficult.

In keeping with the spirit of giving, the Greater Columbus AGA Chapter will be participating in a food drive during the month of November. To assist those in need, the AGA Ohio/Michigan Regional Vice-President, Lori Mikesell, has challenged the AGA chapters in Ohio and Michigan to a food challenge. The chapters from the two states are competing to see which state can raise the most pounds of food to support their local food pantries. This challenge coincides with The Ohio State VS. Michigan football game being held Saturday, November 22. The challenge will run Saturday, November 1 through Friday, November 21. The winner will be declared Monday, November 24, after the big game; though the real winner would be the families who benefited from receiving the food collected during this challenge. The DFAS Building # 21 POCs/drop-off locations are as follows: Beth Winsor (cube 2B-225), Kortney Whiteman (cube 3C-108), and Fon Holloway (2A-013). If dropping off items to Fon, please call (614) 693-6607 before doing so.

Our chapter will also be participating in "Accounting For Kids Day," which is a statewide event taking place on Wednesday, November 12, 2008. Accounting for Kids Day is an initiative that offers CPAs and other business professionals a chance to give back to their communities by helping students understand the fundamental concepts of accounting, economics and finance. Through an interactive game based on the stock market, students learn the principles of economics and investing by purchasing, trading and cashing in their stocks. Accounting for Kids Day targets fourth, fifth and sixth grade students and teaches them the importance of financial literacy. I hope that you all have considered volunteering for this worthwhile event; we need your help to make Accounting For Kids Day 2008 a success.

Hope you have a great Thanksgiving Day!

Jim

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

JIM GILLENWATER
jim.gillenwater@dfas.mil

PRESIDENT-ELECT

NANCY ZMYSLINSKI, CGFM
nancy.zmyslinski@dfas.mil

REGIONAL V.P.

LORI MIKESELL
lori.mikesell@dfas.mil

TREASURER

HEATHER DRAKE
heather.drake@dfas.mil

SECRETARY

JOHN YERKEY
john.yerkey@dfas.mil

EARLY CAREER

LYNDSEY FOELL
lyndsey.foell@dfas.mil

LA'VARIS POOLE

Lavaris.poole@dfas.mil

COMMUNICATIONS

MERLE ROBINSON
merle.robinson@dfas.mil

KENNETH GEORGE, CPA
kenneth.george@dfas.mil

CHAPTER HISTORIAN

HENRIANN FRANKLIN, CGFM
henriann.franklin@dfas.mil

PROGRAMS

RACHEL SWARTZ, CPA
rachel.swartz@dfas.mil

DIANA SPONSELLER

diana.sponseller@dfas.mil

MEMBERSHIP

JUSTIN SPONSELLER
justin.sponseller@dfas.mil

JUSTIN MORRISON

justin.morrison@dfas.mil

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Melissa Ludovissie

Length of AGA Membership: 3.5 years

Agency: DFAS

Position: DLA General Ledger Branch Chief

Length of Service: 6 yrs

Alma Mater: University of North Dakota



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

In my current position I oversee the validity of the general ledger for DLA, which includes performing reconciliations, preparing and posting journal vouchers and trial balances, posting inventory, property, etc. I have a staff of 21 that perform these duties for five different systems.

How has AGA positively impacted you and your job?

AGA has helped me develop my project management, communication and team skills by serving as a past Director of the Programs Committee. It has also allowed me to expand my knowledge on accounting and DFAS related materials and has given me the opportunity to increase my network of contacts.

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

As noted earlier, I served as a Director of the Programs Committee. This entailed coordinating all of the monthly luncheons, audio conferences, PDCs, and any other activities. I also was a member of the Columbus BRAC Team, which coordinated the closure and workload shifts from 12 closing sites to Columbus. One of my primary duties as part of this team was recruiting employees at the closing locations. I helped to increase the number of interested mobile employees by more than 10%. I also maintained the DFAS-CO staffing plan for approximately 2800 employees.

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

Someday I would like to pass the CPA exam and start a family.

2ND ANNUAL CHAPTER HOLIDAY DINNER

Date: Friday, December 12th, 2008

Time: 6:30pm

Location: The Spaghetti Warehouse
(397 W Broad St Columbus, OH 43215)

Look for more details to come!

CHAPTER OFFICERS (CONT)

CERTIFICATION

AUBREY MARTIN, CGFM
aubrey.martin@dfas.mil

MIKE BERNSTEIN
mike.berstein@dfas.mil

EDUCATION

KATIE ALFERA
kathryn.alfera@dfas.mil

BARB BAIL, CGFM, CDFM-A
barbara.bail@dfas.mil

COMMUNITY SERVICE

KORTNEY WHITEMAN
kortney.whiteman@dfas.mil

BETH WINSOR, CDFM
beth.winsor@dfas.mil

WAYS AND MEANS

KEVIN BRUNS, CPA
kevin.bruns@dfas.mil

JOYCE MALESKI
joyce.maleski@dfas.mil

BY LAWS

BENJAMIN NOVOTNY, CGFM
benjamin.novotny@dfas.mil

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON

13 NOVEMBER 2008

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

DFAS CONFERENCE CENTER C141

Speaker: Edna Knight, Deputy Director Standards and Compliance

Topic: “The Art of Completed Staff Work”

Menu: Opened Face Turkey Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Corn Bread Stuffing, Tossed Salad, Cranberry Relish with Orange Sauce, Pumpkin Pie with Whipped Cream, and Assorted Beverages.

Member Price: \$11.00

Non-Member Price: \$14.00

PLEASE NOTE THAT PROPOSED CHAPTER BYLAW CHANGES WILL BE DISCUSSED AND VOTED ON PRIOR TO THE SPEAKER'S PRESENTATION.

Note: Please contact Diana Sponseller (3-0730) or Rachel Swartz (3-0592) if you should have any questions or special dietary needs. Also, luncheon tickets are non-refundable.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

EDNA KNIGHT
DIRECTOR, DFAS INDIANAPOLIS

Ms. Edna Knight is the Site Director for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) in Indianapolis. Ms. Knight is responsible for managing more than 2,000 federal employees providing finance and accounting support to the Army and several Defense Agencies.



Prior to being appointed the Indianapolis Site Director, Ms Knight was Deputy Director, Standards, Standards and Compliance, DFAS, where she was responsible for developing new accounting and reporting requirements for the Global War on Terror Cost of War; providing analysis of DFAS operations and DoD financial information; ensuring standard processes and best practices in recording financial events and paying people and vendors; and reporting DoD's financial condition in its audited financial statements.

Ms. Knight also held the position as the Deputy Director, Accounting Services – Army at Indianapolis where she supported the delivery of all DFAS services. This included disbursing over \$54 billion annually to Army and Defense Agencies and oversight of eight DFAS field site organizations. She joined the ranks of the Senior Executive Service (SES) in July 2003 with her

USAJOBS
"WORKING FOR AMERICA"

NEW MEMBERS

Marion Brown - DFAS

Sponsor: Lyndsey Foell

David Bush - DFAS

Sponsor: Ben Novotny, CGFM

Carla Derespiris - DFAS

Sponsor: Lyndsey Foell

Terri Hilton - DFAS

Sponsor: Keeley Hankinson

Jenna Joyce - DFAS

Sponsor: Lyndsey Foell

Steven Kraus - DFAS

Sponsor: James Cox

Iris Quezada - DFAS

Sponsor: Yoely Perez

Lindsay Schifano - DFAS

Sponsor: Lyndsey Foell

Kim Spain - DFAS

Sponsor: Robert Bentz

Marcus Vance - DFAS

Sponsor: Lyndsey Foell

Victor Wallace - DFAS

Sponsor: Jennifer Hurles

ABOUT THE FEDERAL FOCUS

The Federal Focus is provided free of charge to members of the AGA Greater Columbus Chapter. It is intended for educational and chapter news sharing purposes only.

Submissions for publication should be submitted by the 22nd of the month for inclusion in the following month's newsletter. Submissions can be sent to either Communications Director listed above. Consideration for inclusion is based solely on the Editor's judgment.

appointment to DFAS Indianapolis.

Prior to her SES appointment, Ms. Knight served as the Director of Financial Management Systems and Director for Financial Reports and Reconciliation for the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Various other positions in her Federal career have been with the U.S. Customs Service and the Internal Revenue Service where she began her career as an intern.

Ms. Knight holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and an associate's degree in data processing from the University of Indianapolis. She is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM).

AUDIO CONFERENCE

Topic: Understanding the Importance of Soft Controls in Improving Operations

Date: Wednesday, November 12th, 2008

Time: 2:00 pm to 3:50 pm

Location: DFAS Conference Center, C138

Cost: Members – Free; Nonmembers - \$25

Description: 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—the role that Soft Internal Controls plays in an organization.

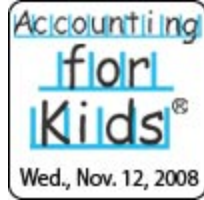
View “soft controls” in a way that goes beyond current accepted models. Hear why soft controls are a required component of effective management and what has made them so difficult to implement. Learn how certain research on employee motivation suggests using soft controls to recognize opportunities to improve organization performance. Discover why “soft controls” may be a misnomer and explore the concept of “behavioral controls” as a better way to detect and prevent the opportunity for fraud to occur.

To share their practical experiences in auditing and teaching about the role of soft internal controls is Mark B. Mitchell, MBA, CGFM, CIA, Audit Director, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, and Michael L. Piazza, MBA, Director of Program Development and Training for the Institute of Internal Controls.

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.

COMMUNITY SERVICE CORNER

ACCOUNTING FOR KIDS DAY: NOVEMBER 12TH!!



On Nov. 12, Accounting for Kids Day volunteer teams will visit fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade classrooms to play an interactive investment game with each class. The game introduces students to the stock market and concepts such as how to budget and invest their money.

“The kids get so excited by the stocks and working with their friends that we all forget that we are learning about saving, managing risk, and careers in business.”
Mark R. Macke, CPA of Dinsmore and Shohl, LLP in Cincinnati

During the game, students buy stocks and watch their investments grow over a 10-year period. Each year, represented by a roll of the dice, results in a gain, loss or no change in their investments.

“Seeing the kids’ excitement and involvement during Accounting for Kids Day is wonderful. However, it is even more rewarding to realize they are taking away such a solid understanding of the stock market and investing. I love listening to the kids’ questions about our lives and hearing about their aspirations.”
Karen L. DeLaubenfels, CPA of Karen L. DeLaubenfels CPA LLC in Columbus

Interested in participating? Please contact one of our Community Service Directors for more information.

OHIO/MICHIGAN CHALLENGE

The AGA Ohio/Michigan Regional Vice president, Lori Mikesell, has challenged the AGA chapters in Ohio and Michigan to a food collection challenge. The chapters from the two states are competing to see which state can raise the most pounds of food to support their local food pantries.

This challenge coincides with the OHIO STATE VS. MICHIGAN football rivalry game being held Saturday, November 22.

The food challenge will run Saturday, November 1 through Friday, November 21. The winner will be declared Monday, November 24.

DSCC Drop Off Locations:

Beth Winsor Bldg 21, 2B-225
Kortney Whiteman Bldg 21, 2C-239
Fon Holloway Bldg 21, 2A-013 (please call 693-6607 before dropping off)

Please let Kortney Whiteman know if you have any questions!

POC: Kortney Whiteman
Kortney.whiteman@dfas.mil
614-693-0553

LET'S BEAT THOSE WOLVERINES!!!!

TREASURER’S REPORT

By Heather Drake, Treasurer
As of 27 October 2008

Checking Account

Beginning Balance	\$ 4,159.17
Deposits	\$ 240.00
Expenditures	\$ 774.07
Transfer from Savings	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 3,625.10

Savings Account

Beginning Balance	\$ 6,533.42
Transfer to Checking	\$ 0.00
Interest Earned	\$ 8.22
Ending Balance	\$ 6,541.64
Total Balance	\$ 10,166.74

THE BOTTOM LINE

FINANCIAL CRISIS HAS SOME FEDS DELAYING RETIREMENT

By Rebecca Neal and Stephen Losey

FederalTimes.com

Gwendolyn Bryant finally planned to take early retirement in 2009 after 27 years with the U.S. Postal Service. But recent stock market losses and plummeting Thrift Savings Plan returns changed her mind.

“With the economy like it is, I feel like if I have a job, I’d better keep it until we find out where this country is going,” said Bryant, 54, the postmaster in Jackson, N.C. “I am disappointed because I swore that I would not turn down another early out.”

Many employees planning to retire in the next few years are now fretting over their retirement funds, wondering whether the market can revive itself enough to keep their plans on track. Of 950 people responding to Federal Times’ online poll two weeks ago, 41 percent — 387 — said dramatic downturns in the stock market in recent weeks have caused them to delay retirement.

And many financial advisers say that could be the right move for some.

“I can’t say that in every case it’s wise,” said Mike Miles, a financial planner and Money Matters columnist for Federal Times. “But it’s prudent and cautious, and for someone who’s cautious, I’d say [delaying retirement is] a reasonable response.”

The biggest advantage to delaying retirement, Miles said, is that it puts off when one starts drawing down savings. By not cashing out and locking in losses, he said, TSP participants stand a better chance of recovering at least some money.

Dave Ponder, a private financial adviser who advises the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, said that markets usually take about 16 months to recover after hitting bottom during a global recession. But Ponder cautioned that the market may not have reached its low point yet, and he’s not sure when it will.

“People should reassess [whether to change retirement or investment plans] later, in a few

months, rather than make those types of drastic decisions today,” Ponder said.

Dennis Kissel, a Labor Department employee in Columbus, Ohio, still plans to retire Jan. 3, after 39 years with the federal government. He said a frugal lifestyle has prepared his family to weather recent market shake-ups, and delaying retirement is unnecessary for him.

“I do not know if people are overreacting to the market today, although I do know that with stocks, you have to be in it for the long haul. Yes, the stock market is down today, but I believe that it will come back in the next several years, maybe six to eight years,” said Kissel, 61. “If you sell your stocks today, you will definitely lose a lot of money. If you hold your shares for several more years, they likely will come back in value, and that is when you sell them and maybe even make a profit.”

Going ahead with retirement, as Kissel is doing, is the right move for some, said Frank Boucher, a Reston, Va., financial adviser who works with federal employees. Boucher is not optimistic that waiting to retire will yield many benefits.

“The market may not come back for 10 years,” Boucher said. “That’s happened before. So working another three or four more years may not solve your problem.”

Boucher said that instead of putting off retirement, the best option for those who have taken serious hits could be to scale back their dreams.

“You may have to be more frugal — go after goals that are meaningful, and forgo those that may be on the extravagant side,” Boucher said. “You may want to retire and travel to Europe or take a world cruise. But maybe it will be better to take a Southwest flight to see your grandkids.”

A safer portfolio also may give people more peace of

Continued on Page 9

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

OVERSIGHT OF NATURAL GAS ROYALTY COLLECTION FALLS SHORT, GAO FINDS

By Katherine McIntire Peters

www.gasb.org

The Interior Department's Minerals Management Service could be missing out on royalties because it relies too heavily on companies' self-reported data to track offshore natural gas production, the Government Accountability Office told lawmakers recently.

When energy companies drill for oil on federal land offshore, they tell MMS exactly how much they are producing so the agency can collect royalties on behalf of taxpayers. But agency officials don't simply take the oil companies' word for it, GAO noted in a memorandum released on Wednesday. They compare reported production with data collected by Interior's office of Offshore Energy and Minerals Management through the liquid verification system, which records oil volumes flowing through pipeline metering points.

But when it comes to natural gas production offshore, MMS relies exclusively on data reported by companies, even though OEMM operates a similar gas verification system.

"As a result, MMS's royalty-in-kind program does not have the same level of assurance that it is collecting the gas royalties it is owed," GAO auditors wrote in the memo.

The watchdog agency's criticism applies to in-kind royalty payments, which accounted for about 42 percent of nearly \$9.7 billion in oil and gas royalty revenue in 2006; 58 percent of royalties were collected in cash that year.

GAO's analysis of the gas pipeline data collected by OEMM showed that in January 2004, May 2005, July 2005 and June 2006, 25 percent of the pipeline metering points had an outstanding discrepancy between companies' self-reported data and the pipeline data. The discrepancies included both under-reporting and over-reporting.

Auditors also noted that MMS' annual reports to Congress documenting the performance of the in-kind royalty collection program might overstate the program's benefits.

"MMS' calculation that from fiscal 2004 to 2006 MMS sold royalty oil and gas for \$74 million more than it would have received in cash was based on assumptions, not actual sales data, about the prices at which royalty payors would have sold their oil or gas had they sold it on the open market," the auditors wrote.

Even a small change in MMS' assumptions could result in very different estimates. For example, GAO noted that a 1 percent error in the estimate of cash payments could change MMS' savings calculation by about \$80 million in either direction.

In addition, MMS failed to include administrative costs of the program in its savings calculation. Had the agency applied the same third-party data verification to gas production that it applied to oil, those costs would have been even higher because a bigger staff would have been necessary. The Subcommittee on Royalty Management, a panel appointed by the Interior secretary to assess the royalty program, reported in December 2007 that the agency lacked employees to review data from the gas verification system.

GAO recommended that Interior improve its oversight of natural gas volumes owed to the government by using third-party production data such as that collected by OEMM's gas verification system. Auditors also recommended several ways MMS could improve the calculations of the in-kind royalty program's costs and benefits in an annual report to Congress.

MMS generally concurred with GAO's findings.

GOVERNMENT NEWS

OFFICIALS LAY GROUNDWORK TO BUY NEW ARMY HELICOPTERS

By Megan Scully
Congress Daily

The Army hopes to complete the first step toward launching an armed reconnaissance helicopter program by Dec. 1, according to a military officer overseeing the effort. In the next four weeks, the Army's Training and Doctrine Command is expected to wrap up work on a requirements document that will guide how the service will proceed with the new chopper, Brig. Gen. Walter Davis, director of Army aviation, said Thursday.

After a review by Army leaders, that document will go to the four-star officers comprising the Joint Requirements Oversight Council, which would likely approve it early next year.

Two weeks ago, John Young, the Pentagon's top acquisition official, canceled Bell Helicopter Textron's contract to build an armed reconnaissance helicopter, citing steep cost overruns and schedule delays.

After final approval of the requirements package, the Army would release a request for proposals to the defense industry. Davis said no decisions had been made on the timing for the much-anticipated request for proposals, but made it clear the Army wants to move as quickly as possible to begin a competition to build the new helicopters.

"The goal is to do this rapidly," Davis said. Davis also acknowledged the Army will be cautious because officials "don't want to rush" and risk sending the wrong capability to the field.

In 2005, the Army awarded a \$2.2 billion contract to the Fort Worth, Texas-based Bell Helicopter to build 368 ARHs, a program that was born out of the

demise of the Comanche reconnaissance and attack helicopter the year before. Defense Department officials have estimated that the price of each helicopter jumped from \$8.6 million to \$14.5 million, while the delivery schedule for the first aircraft went from 2009 to 2013. Davis said he expects several firms to submit proposals for the program and stressed that it would be an open competition in which any firm -- including Bell Helicopter -- could compete.

The delay to fielding the ARH will put additional strains on the aging fleet of OH-58 Kiowa Warriors. The Army hoped to begin retiring the observation helicopters in 2007, but delays to the ARH program forced them to alter their plans for retiring the fleet. Much of the \$377 million approved for the ARH in fiscal 2009 will go to modernizing and upgrading the Kiowas, which have been in high demand in Iraq. But the Army, which has not submitted a reprogramming proposal to Capitol Hill, will use some of that funding to outfit two National Guard battalions with AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopters, Davis said. Meanwhile, Davis and other officials appear confident the Army can keep the Kiowas flying well into the future. Col. Frank Muth, who commanded a Kiowa squadron in Iraq in 2004 and 2005 and now works for Davis, said the service has been diligent about maintaining the OH-58s, which have logged more than 2.6 million flight hours during operations overseas since 2003. The long-term modernization program, dubbed Life Support 2020, is expected to add years to the life of the airframes. "I'm very comfortable with what they're doing to address some of those issues based on that it's an older aircraft," Muth said.



February 19-20, 2009
Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
Washington, D.C.
14 CPE Hours

THE AUDITOR'S PERSPECTIVE

SURVEY SAYS INTERNAL AUDITORS NEED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT XBRL

By Scott McCallum
Theia.org

As mandates of filing financial reports in interactive data format - specifically in XBRL - become a reality for companies throughout the world, internal auditors are seeking out their role in the conversion. A recent Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) survey of more than 200 chief audit executives worldwide found that more than half are not yet familiar with XBRL, and an over whelming number - 90 percent - would be interested in guidance on internal auditing's involvement in the new process of filing financial statements with interactive data. In response, The IIA Research Foundation will release guidance on this topic in January, 2009.

"It's the responsibility of the company's management to ensure that accurate and complete financial statements are filed in XBRL format. But internal auditors can help implement XBRL and provide objective assurance on the implementation process," said IIA Director of Technology Practices Lily Bi. "To do so, internal auditors need to first understand the new interactive reporting format, the mandate requirements, and pros and cons of various implementation approaches."

Conducted in early September, 2008, the survey found:

Familiarity: 51 percent of internal auditors responding to the survey don't have any XBRL knowledge at all; 42 percent only know the very basics.

Adoption: Only 8 percent of respondents said their companies are currently filing financial reports in XBRL format, but more than 37 percent said this will happen in the next three years.

Internal auditing's involvement: Among the 29 respondents who indicated their companies file financial statements in XBRL, only four said they played some role.

Adoption approaches: 52 percent of respondents' companies chose an in-house approach, and 48 percent chose a co-sourcing or outsourcing approach when implementing and creating financial reports in XBRL format. None of the respondents said XBRL is used in the company's internal processes other than financial reporting.

Financial reporting standards: The majority of the respondents stated that they use their country-specific accounting standards, such as US-GAAP; only 17 percent currently use IFRS.

Need for guidance: Approximately 90 percent of respondents said a guidance paper on XBRL would be of interest to them.

From a technology perspective, says Bi, it's very telling how the survey results indicated that the majority of internal auditors have not yet been engaged in the process of converting financial reporting into an interactive data format. Although XBRL computer language for business reporting has been around for more than a decade, it's likely that companies have recently paid attention to it because of the new mandates. As internal auditing is designed to help organizations achieve objectives and improve operations by evaluating and improving the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance, the conversion of financial reporting to XBRL will have an inevitable impact on the internal audit profession, says The IIA. Mandates have already been established in countries such as the U.S., Canada, Australia, Belgium, China, Denmark, Japan, France, Netherlands, Singapore, and United Kingdom, with possibly more to come.

"The business report supply chain starts from initial transactions, moving to internal consolidation and reporting, and then to external financial reporting. Due to the urgency of compliance with regulators' mandates, many organizations use XBRL at the end point of this supply chain. But XBRL as an

THE BOTTOM LINE

Continued from Page 6

mind if they are close to retirement, Boucher said. Though they may be able to financially weather dips in the riskier stock markets over time, they could move to TSP's safer, lower-reward G and F funds about five years before retirement if it will help them sleep better at night, he said.

"If you can make your goals with a more conservative mix [of investments], there's no reason to do anything other than that," Boucher said. "This is about peace of mind as much as financial security."

Many federal employees are turning to the security of the G Fund, which is tied to U.S. Treasury securities. After her account lost 10 percent of its value, Bryant said she transferred the remainder of her money into the G Fund. Once the market stabilizes, she said she will put it back into another fund, such as the L 2010 Fund, which allocates 50 percent of the investor's balance to TSP's three stock funds.

Border Patrol senior agent Rudy Gutierrez, 56, just transferred the remainder of his money into the G Fund after enduring losses this fall. Now he's planning to delay retirement to give his funds time to recover, although he's not optimistic they will.

"Like many other federal employees, I was looking forward to retirement in 2009. My TSP investments were on the right track," said Gutierrez, of Laredo, Texas.

The advisers agree that hysteria has worsened the market and helped cause the erratic swings of recent weeks, but they caution that federal employees should not make extreme decisions in the heat of the moment.

People worried about their portfolios should sit down with a financial adviser to help them map out how much money they'll need in retirement, how much risk they should tolerate for the time they have left to retirement, and how to invest and proceed, they say.

"I can appreciate why people are concerned," Boucher said. "But what they may find when the dust settles and they take a more rational look, is that they may not have to postpone, or may only

postpone for a year or so. Right this minute, I don't think anyone should do anything. [That would be] reacting, and that will probably cause you more distress down the road."

Gutierrez isn't hopeful about the retirement prospects for himself and his wife, an elementary school teacher.

"As far as I'm concerned, I don't see the light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

THE AUDITOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Continued from Page 9

interactive business reporting language can be used throughout various stages of an organization's business report supply chain," said Bi. "This will potentially give internal auditors great opportunities to access deeper business data, perform easier data analysis, improve profiling and risk assessments, and identify potential issues. And as an audit tool, interactive data will ultimately accelerate continuous auditing and monitoring."

To learn more about The IIA's survey on XBRL, visit www.theiia.org/guidance/technology/.

BUT I DIGRESS

I love November. Isn't it such a wonderful month? There's football, lots of football. Whether professional, college, or even ad hoc games on Thanksgiving Day.

Speaking of Thanksgiving I really enjoy that wonderful holiday. What a wonderful concept, gather the family together; spend all day cooking; consume the meal in a fraction of the time it took to make it; and spend the day creating memories to last a lifetime.

That and consume pie. Yum, pie. Did I mention I love pie? Apple, Cherry, Pecan, Pumpkin, Lemon Meringue, mincemeat, etc. Yup, in my book they're all absolutely wonderful. Top them with a little whipped cream or ice cream and I can't think of anything better.

And after eating all that food and consuming all that pie; I guess there's nothing better to do than head out to the backyard for a little football. But I digress . . .

TECHTALK

CONTRACTORS PREP INTEROPERABLE IDENTITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

By Alice Lipowicz

www.fcw.com

Defense contractors are preparing to deploy more secure identity management systems that are interoperable — or at least compatible — with one another and other systems that federal agencies use.

The contractors are adopting standards for federal personal identity verification and participating in federated trust networks, in which various groups share identity information, said Roger Roehr, chairman of the Smart Card Alliance's Physical Access Council and government vertical marketing manager at Tyco Fire and Security. Network participants agree to verify identities based on various standards.

Roehr said contractors are wise to collaborate on identity management standards when seeking Defense Department work. "They need to work with the Defense Department but also with each other," he said.

Although smart card technology is ready and federated networks and bridges have been created, not all the policies are in place yet, Roehr added. GSA created the Federal Bridge Certification Authority, for example.

DOD said this summer that it would begin accepting identity assurance from external authorities, such as CertiPath. However, the department has not finalized the policies that are necessary to make it happen. "The whole idea of

trust and cross-certification is still relatively new to the federal government," Roehr said.

Executives from Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Science Applications International Corp. offered details on their identity systems at the Smart Card Alliance Conference in late October.

For example, Northrop Grumman is preparing to issue its new OneBadge identification cards to thousands of employees. The OneBadge card design and policies meet federal and DOD standards, said Keith Ward, director of enterprise security and identity management at Northrop Grumman.

The company expects to be one of the first federal contractors to use a centralized public-key infrastructure as part of its identity management program, Ward said. The company participates in CertiPath, an entity created by several defense contracting firms that is part of the federal government's trust network through a bridge relationship with the Federal Bridge Certification Authority.

Federal contractors are being encouraged to secure their global supply chains, a process that typically includes instituting strong identity management systems and policies, said John Slye, a principal analyst at Input, a research firm in Reston, Va. "We see a lot of talk about trusted supply chains," Slye said. "It is the next wave."

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes.
Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence.

Erma Bombeck

NATIONAL AGA NEWS

MEMBER-GET-A-MEMBER CAMPAIGN:



THE BIG EASY

We know the best form of recruitment comes from personal referrals. AGA looks forward to advancing the Association by engaging the best and the brightest individuals in the government accountability field. No one else is better suited than YOU to help recruit those new members. It is time to focus on recruitment in AGA's The Big Easy Member-Get-A-Member Campaign.

The Big Easy campaign is Big for the association and Easy for you to participate in. All you have to do is recruit one member to benefit from The Big Easy campaign. By recruiting one member you will earn an AGA sponsor pin, be recognized on the AGA website, strengthen your chapter and the Association—making this campaign a win-win for everyone. Members who sponsor six or more new members from May 1, 2008 – January 31, 2009 will earn free membership dues. Do you want to have your 2009–2010 AGA membership dues paid for you, too? It's Big and Easy! Recruit six or more new members by January 31.

Our goal is to continue the positive net growth in membership. Be sure to reach out to those early career members—individuals just starting out in their careers, with fewer than three years of experience. Remember to steer them to AGA's Tomorrow's Professionals website—chock full of useful information.

There are so many ways to win during the 2009–2010 The Big Easy campaign. Check out the campaign details and start campaigning for recruitment today! For more information see:

http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/mem_campaign.aspx

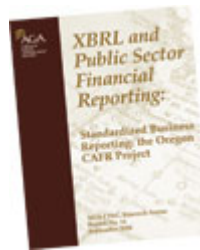


CGFM & NLC: A WIN/WIN COMBINATION

Sign up for AGA's Intensive Review Course and take the CGFM Examinations before the National Leadership Conference —

The Intensive Review Course will take place on February 16-17, 2009. The CGFM Examinations will be offered by appointment only on February 18-19, 2009. 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. See http://www.agacgfm.org/nlc_2009/cgfm_exams.htm for registration, eligibility and examination information.

AGA RESEARCH REPORT: XBRL AND PUBLIC SECTOR FINANCIAL REPORTING



AGA has long supported the use of XBRL to potentially improve the transparency and analysis in government financial reporting. Accordingly, AGA decided to implement a research project to

study the benefits of developing and using an XBRL-taxonomy to tag data in a state's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, or CAFR. It was decided that the project should focus on one state pilot, with the intent that the results would prove to be helpful to other states contemplating a similar effort.

CEC MINUTES

14 October 2008

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

▪ Early Career

- Update on the Government Case Challenge Update on early career month activities
 - The breakfast went well
 - October 23, 2008 will be the early career social at BW3's. 4:30 – 7:00

▪ Communications

- Newsletter Deadline is 10/22/08
- Chapter Website
 - We reviewed the chapter website and suggested the following changes
 - Add officer pictures
 - Look at adding home page tabs for the scrolling
 - Add chapter calendar
 - Move chapter goals
 - Each committee is to look at the sections of the website that pertain to them and the CEC will discuss this at the November meeting.

▪ Programs

- October 20 – 22, 2008 are the dates of the Regional PDC
- Next audio conference will be held November 12th. Subject is Internal Controls
- November Lunch will be on November 13th. Edna Knight will be speaking on The Art of Completing Staff Work
- Holiday social is to be held on December 12th at the Spaghetti Warehouse

▪ Membership

- We have 33 new members this year. Total membership is 198 members

▪ Certification

- CGFM
 - Module 3 study group is under way
 - The chapter has the possibility of having 5-7 new CGFM's by the national PDC

▪ Education

- Making final preparations for the Regional PDC
- Planning meetings for PDO will begin

soon. Please provide suggestions for topics and speakers.

▪ Community Service

- Ohio vs. Michigan Regional Food Drive Challenge will be November 1-21 to benefit the Mid Ohio Food Bank.
 - Will be recruiting people with trucks to help deliver food on November 21st.
- Habitat for Humanity project is being postponed until spring when we can actually work on a house. We will also have the opportunity to work in the store if we want to do that.
- Accounting for Kids Day is November 12th. Fon Holloway will be the POC while Kortney Whiteman is out of the office.

▪ Ways and Means

- OSU Games
 - The last games have been filled with volunteers
- Garden smiles
 - This is the last month to order
 - Samples will be set up at the PDC
- Liability Insurance
 - Has been changed to include working the Ohio State games
 - The renewal is \$285. This is due by October 30th

▪ By Laws

- The chapter will vote on changes at the November lunch

▪ Chapter Historian

- We did a Citizen Centric Report last year that was turned into Ken George
- Are we doing one this year?
- It should be turned in by the next meeting

*There are people registered with the Central Ohio Chapter that should actually be registered with our chapter.

*All outgoing emails to chapter members should also go to all chapter alumni.