



THE UNNAMED NEWSLETTER

Final Edition

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ms. Nancy Zmyslinski, CGFM
Interim Chapter President

By the time you read this article the Regional Professional Development Conference (PDC) will have concluded. I hope many of you took advantage of this exceptional opportunity to expand your financial management knowledge by attending at least one day of the conference. The Regional PDC is a wonderful example of the training opportunities AGA provides its members by mixing local, state and federal financial management subjects in one convenient conference.

The conference provides each attendee the chance to network and learn from their fellow AGA members on subjects that are timely and interesting for all, regardless of whether you work for a local government, the state or even the federal government.

I want to thank Larita Killian, Roger Neefe, and

Continued Pres Msg - Pg 2

SENATE APPROVES INTELLIGENCE REFORM BILL

By Greta Wodele and Mark Wegner,
CongressDaily (From GovExec.com)

The Senate Wednesday afternoon voted to clear the measure overhauling intelligence operations, culminating a dramatic turnaround for a bill that had appeared dead only to be resuscitated by compromise and lobbying from the White House and families of victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The House passed the measure Monday on a 336-75 vote, so it now heads to President Bush for his signature.

"We are rebuilding a structure that was designed for a different enemy at a different time, a structure that was designed for the Cold War and has not proved agile enough to deal with the threats of the 21st century," said Senate Governmental Affairs Committee Chairwoman Susan Collins, R-Maine.

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., promised senators who were uneasy with the legislation that his committee would "need to nurture this new intelligence structure over the years" through the intelligence reauthorization process.

Senate Armed Services Committee ranking member Carl Levin, D-Mich., who refused to sign the intelligence conference report, said today he would vote for the bill, but not before voicing his objections to language excluded from it because of White House opposition.

Levin said the rejected Senate language would have given Congress the ability to hear "unvarnished testimony" from witnesses who do not have to first clear their statements with the

Continued Senate - Pg 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	PG. 1
CHAPTER CALENDAR	PG. 2
INTERIM CHAPTER OFFICERS	PG. 3
CGFM INFORMATION	PG. 4
COMMUNITY SERVICE CORNER	PG. 5
ELECTION INFORMATION.....	PG. 6
THE BOTTOM LINE	PG. 7

Lori Mikesell for serving on the education committee of the regional PDC. This is the first year DFAS participated in the planning of the conference. Their hard work is greatly appreciated.

I want to thank Cindy Cox, Indianapolis AGA President, for serving as the November luncheon speaker. Cindy gave each attendee the unique perspective of what each office and committee chair entail since she has served in many capacities. I believe each person who self nominates will now have an accurate assessment of the duties and commitment necessary to make this chapter a success. I look forward to the January elections and seeing our chapter flourish.

Happy Holidays,

Nancy

White House. Levin also said other deleted language would have created a national intelligence director with more independence from the White House.

Levin said past administrations, including those involved in the Vietnam and Iraq, have "shaped and distorted [intelligence] to support administration policies." Levin said of those and other omissions, "It seems to me the bill is weakened as a result."

Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., also raised his concerns about the legislation, which he said he would vote against.

Collins and Governmental Affairs ranking member Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn. -- who together led a bipartisan effort to pass the legislation -- said that the bill largely would reflect the 41 recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission by creating a national intelligence director with strong budgetary authority, a national counterterrorism center, an independent civil liberties board and provisions to ensure the nation's 15 intelligence agencies better share information to prevent another terrorist attack.

But House Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner Wednesday kept up his fight against the bill, even after it was approved by the House Tuesday night. Sensenbrenner fought to the bitter end for provisions to ban states from giving drivers' licenses to illegal immigrants and to mandate stricter criteria for immigrants claiming asylum. He said he would offer the two items as stand-alone legislation on the first day of next year's session.

"We'll have this teed up for the first must-pass legislation," said Sensenbrenner, referring to a promise made by House Speaker Hastert and Majority Leader DeLay to include the items on the first legislation to be voted on by the House next year.

Sensenbrenner said the items should not be included in immigration overhaul legislation President Bush would like to craft next year because immigration change should not be "mixed up" with national security issues.

See More at GovExec.com

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall."

Larry Wilde
The Merry Book of Christmas

CHAPTER CALENDAR

15 December 2004 - Officer Elections Self-Nomination Deadline.

25 December 2004 - Merry Christmas!

1 January 2005 - HAPPY NEW YEAR!

13 January 2005 - January Luncheon

13 January 2005 - Chapter Officer Elections Begin

21 January 2005 - Chapter Officer Elections End

NOVEMBER MEETING RECAP

By Ms. Lori Mikesell

The November luncheon was packed full of information and a few surprises. Luncheon attendees were briefed by Cindy Cox, Indianapolis AGA Chapter President on what it takes to run a successful AGA chapter. The briefing was jam packed with information presented in an entertaining and mesmerizing way. Cox spoke from personal experience as she has held many different positions within AGA to include local and regional positions. She explained what it takes to obtain bronze status from the National AGA office and even though we are just beginning our chapter we have sufficient time and with the appropriate amount of energy and dedication we can obtain this chapter status. Cox's infectious enthusiasm had the entire audience energized and ready to tackle the rigors of establishing the chapter and making it thrive.

The chapter and newsletter naming contests were concluded on November 9 as well. The interim officers would like to thank everyone who submitted a nomination for either contest. The interim officers narrowed the candidate field to five for each contest to make the voting manageable. In the end, the nominations of Greater Columbus Federal Chapter and The Federal Focus were selected by a narrow margin of one vote each for Chapter and Newsletter names, respectively. The National AGA office was notified about the chapter name and we were asked to drop Federal from the title as National advised the title was too lengthy, so the modified name is now The Greater Columbus Chapter.

Any members in good standing who would like to self nominate for an officer position should contact John Yerkey, Heather Drake, Ken George or Lori Mikesell by December 15. The length of positions being voted on during January will include finishing out the remainder of this program year and continue through next year.

INTERIM CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - NANCY ZMYSLINSKI

VICE PRESIDENT - LORI MIKESSELL
Mail to: Lori.Mikesell@DFAS.mil

SECRETARY - HEATHER DRAKE
Mail to: Heather.Drake@DFAS.mil

TREASURER - JOHN YERKEY
Mail to: John.Yerkey@DFAS.mil

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS - HENRIANN FRANKLIN
Mail to: HenriAnn.Franklin@DFAS.mil

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS - KENNETH GEORGE
Mail to: Kenneth.George@DFAS.mil

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 17 NOVEMBER 2004

- Registration for December's AGA Conference must be submitted by November 19th to receive early costs savings
- Votes for the Chapter Name and Newsletter are finalized. Will announce the winners in December's issue.
- January's Meeting to take place during week of the 18th
- Chapter candidates are needed to fill the following positions:
President, President-Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary
- Election for Officers will be held during January's meeting. Winners will be announced during February's meeting
- Discussed potential of Senior Management contributing to one News Article per year
- Larita Killian will compose a questionnaire relating to ELFAs/ELPAs overall impressions about DFAS

CGFM INFORMATION

SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CGFM

Q: What are the benefits of having the certification?

A: CGFM highlights your achievements, serves as a tangible indicator of your experience and knowledge and stays with you throughout your career. In addition, the CGFM may:

- Enhance your marketability throughout all levels of government
- Provide networking opportunities with other government financial managers
- Support continued education to keep you informed of the latest developments and cutting edge technologies
- Provide increased employee value, both real and perceived
- Increase confidence on the job
- Encourage employer incentives - raises, promotions and bonuses

Q: What is the best way to study for the CGFM Examinations?

A: The best way to study depends on your knowledge, experience, time and location constraints, and individual preferences. Start by reviewing the contents of each examination in the "What Do Exams Cover?" section of AGA website (www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/exams). The "How Do I Prepare?" section of AGA website (www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/prepare) provides detailed information on different ways to prepare for the CGFM Examinations, including instructor-led courses, an online course, self-study guides and a list of resource materials. Review each choice to determine what would work best for you.

For more faqs see: www.agacgfm.org/cgfm

Don't forget the CGFM chapter promotion! See details below:

Are you trying to encourage people in your chapter to apply for the CGFM Program? Have you been talking to a colleague who is "thinking about" applying for the CGFM?

We at AGA national want to help. From September 1 until November 30, 2004 we'll give a discount of \$20 to CGFM applications received with the assistance of AGA chapters.

In order to receive a \$20 discount,

1. The complete CGFM application (application form, \$85 application fee and proof of a bachelor's degree) must be received by AGA Office of Professional Certification during the period of September 1 through November 30, 2004.
2. The CGFM application form must have the promotional phrase: "CGFM chapter promotion - [name of your chapter]" written at the bottom of the form (under the source code). If the application is submitted online, the applicant should send a same-day email to ksilver@agacgfm.org with his/her name and a promotional phrase above.

Important notes:

- A full application fee of \$85 must be paid at the time of application. The \$20 check will be sent to the applicant by mail in December.
- It is preferable that the applications are submitted by the applicants themselves and not by the chapter. The applicant does not have to be a chapter member in order to receive the discount.
- Be sure to tell the applicant to put a name of your chapter on the application form, so we know who has encouraged him or her to apply.

But that is not all...

The chapter that encouraged the most applications submitted in the three-month period of September- November 2004 will also receive \$20 X the number of applications that quoted that particular chapter! PLUS every chapter listed on the application (in the promotional phrase as described above) will receive 50 BONUS CREDITS (Chapter Recognition Program) per application!

COMMUNITY SERVICE CORNER

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING INSTITUTE

What We Do

There is a literacy crisis in America-and it is has a particularly damaging impact on the lives of women and girls. The **American Association of University Women** (AAUW), housed in Washington, D.C., is dedicated to promoting equity in education and the workforce for all women and girls, life long education and positive social change.

Since 1881, AAUW has cultivated the wealth of information, skills and resources that exists throughout its membership, institutional and organizational partners, coalition partners, sister organizations and corporate supporters and friends. With more than 100,000 members nationwide, 1,300 branches and 550 college and university institution partners, AAUW continues to be a powerful voice for women and girls.

In 2003, AAUW launched the **Leadership and Training Institute (LTI)**, a 501(c)(3) organization within the association, to increase its commitment to specific literacy issues.

The **LTI** is AAUW's center to develop new leadership growth possibilities for women and girls and further its overall mission. LTI has a broad educational focus. It offers programs to promote economic self-sufficiency, leadership development, career advancement and technical skill development. LTI serves as the leading resource for leadership training and leadership development tools for women and girls, and packages and disseminates these leadership resources through in-person, electronic and printed means.

What We Offer

The main objective of the **Financial Literacy Program** is to educate and empower women and girls to become economically self-sufficient and financially savvy, through experiential learning

and direct exposure to field experts, to take control of their finances and futures confidently. The program addresses an intergenerational audience of girls in grades kindergarten through 12, young women in colleges and universities, and adult women, to bridge the educational insufficiencies that prevent women and girls from fully participating and succeeding in the financial world throughout their life-spans. Programming will increase financial competency and understanding, encouraging women to take part in finance-related activities, fields of study and careers.

In keeping with the continuing education model for its programming, LTI will offer financial literacy programming at introductory, intermediate and advanced levels. Participants can utilize the programming at whatever level they find themselves and can progress to more advanced programming as their knowledge, skills and needs dictate. Ultimately, the Financial Literacy programs will produce a model program to be replicated nationally in various settings.

What We Need

AAUW, Leadership and Training Institute is developing structured and experiential conferences, workshops, seminars and courses, along with the creation of programmatic models, educational resources, learning tools and national partners. The organization is interested in partnerships and funding opportunities the help reach this goal.

Contact Information

Karen Schofield-Leca, Director
Association Programs and Leadership and
Training Institute
202-728-7610
schofiek@aauw.org

The Unnamed Newsletter
P.O. Box 13556
Whitehall, Ohio 43213

FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS INFORMATION

At our January Meeting our chapter will be holding elections for the following Officers:

President - 2 Year Term

President-Elect - 3 Year Term

Treasurer - 1 Year Term

Secretary - 1 Year Term

With the exception of our First Elected President all Future Presidents will be elected and serve as President-Elect for one year, Chapter President for one year, and Past President for one year.

Additionally, persons interested in serving in the AGA leadership but not in running for one of the above positions can volunteer to become chairperson or committee member for any of the following Chapter Committees:

COMMUNICATIONS - Responsible for Newsletter, Website, Event Advertising, etc.

PROGRAMS - Responsible for Organizing Quality Luncheon Meetings

COMMUNITY SERVICE - Responsible for organizing Chapter Community Service Efforts

MEMBERSHIP - Responsible for Encouraging Others to Join the AGA

WAYS AND MEANS - Responsible for Finding Methods to Fund Chapter Activities

EDUCATION - Responsible for Tracking CPEs and Encouraging Member Certification

SPECIAL EVENTS - Responsible for Organizing Extraordinary Chapter Events

HISTORIAN - Responsible for Keeping a History of Chapter Happenings

Those interested in running for an office or becoming part of a committee should contact an interim officer. Self-Nominations for an Elected Position should be received by 15 December 2004.

During the January Luncheon all Officer candidates will have the opportunity to introduce themselves to the chapter.

Ballots will be issued to all registered members as of the end of December. Members will until Friday, 21 January 2005 to cast their votes. The newly elected officers will be announced in the February Newsletter and will be sworn in at the February Luncheon.

BUT I DIGRESS

John Lennon once wrote:

So this is Christmas,
And what have you done
Another year over
And a new one just begun

This holiday season is one of great joy for some and one of great sorrow for others.

I remember fondly as a child going to visit with my extended family for Christmas at my grandmother's house. The food, as always, was delicious. The time spent with family was wonderful, yet, I remember one of my relatives being ill every Christmas. It wasn't until I was much older that I realized that my relative suffered from seasonal depression and that many people suffer this ailment annually.

In addition to seasonal depression, many people suffer additional hardships due to cold and want for food.

Many wonderful programs exist through many charitable organizations to provide for those who suffer mentally, socially, or physically this holiday season. Let us do what we are able to aid those we recognize are in need and be more diligent in providing cheer to those around us. So that when we hear that famous John Lennon line, "And what have you done?" - we are able to answer with "I have helped my fellow man and brought cheer to those around me."

May you and yours have a very Joyous Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year. But I digress.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Career Changes Coming in 2005

By Ms. Larita Killian, CGFM

Confession: It's Sunday afternoon, I have a speaking part in the AGA conference that starts tomorrow, and my newsletter article is late. What useful information can possibly be quarried in quick-time?

Precious little. But maybe less time also means less _____. So, to the point: "Keep an eye on DOD personnel reforms."

Changes are coming, possibly as soon as summer of 2005. That's when the first wave of DOD employees will go to work under the new National Security Personnel System. Currently, there are nine separate personnel systems for the DOD civilian workforce. They will be consolidated under NSPS. DFAS has volunteered to be among the first, and something tells me DFAS will get its wish.

When Zack Gaddy, the DAFS Director spoke to our new chapter in October, he said "Being an 'Employer of choice' cuts both ways." Nothing embodies the concept of "cutting both ways" more than NSPS.

Proponents say it will make employment more rewarding and satisfying. Navy Secretary Gordon England, who is heading the project, said in July, "That's what this is about: great job satisfaction." In return, Defense managers will have more flexibility to hire and fire, to promote as desired rather than promote after time-in-grade. In fact, grades will be eliminated as the general schedule pay scale is replaced with broad pay bands.

Pay for performance is the heart of the new system. This should please everyone who has faith in performance management techniques.

Mary Lacey, a senior manager charged with developing guidelines for the new program, says, "We're going to have objective performance criteria. People will know up front: Here's what's expected. Here's how I'm going to evaluate your performance." So, forget

the cynics who claim that a job for which you can create objective performance criteria is a job that's about to be automated.

The new system will change the way Defense hires, pays, promotes, disciplines and fires employees. Automatic "step increases" will go the way of buggy whips. Beyond that, the details are not yet available. In fact, the NSPS website had to shut down in April when Secretary Rumsfeld ordered a review of how the new policies were being developed and implemented.

A revised website is available at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/index.html>. It's still short on specifics but long on assurance. Secretary England has made this promise: "We are going to do it right. We won't rush it."

Training and development is one aspect of personnel reform where we have more details. The Under Secretary of Defense has chartered a working group to develop a DOD-wide career program in financial management. DFAS was tasked to "establish and host" the working group. One can imagine DFAS being tasked to implement the resulting career program for all FM employees in DOD. (Perhaps it's past the "imagine" stage and some of us just don't know it.)

The goal is for the FM career plan to identify minimum competencies and associated training for FM employees at four broad levels, corresponding with the pay bands to be established under NSPS. The career plan will also identify any certifications and licenses needed for specific positions.

Draft, required certifications have already been identified for 501, 510, 505, and 511 positions. Of course, the AGA Certified Government Financial Manager designation is included.

Recently, a member of the working group said their goal is to submit a final, proposed career plan to OSD by March 2005. Once adopted, central funding will be used to cover any FM training that is approved/required under the plan.