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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, 2007 has finally arrived and with it some exciting AGA events. Hopefully, all of you are aware that the Greater Columbus chapter has designated January as Early Career month. By definition, "Early Career" refers to those who are in the first three years of their professional career. When I think about most of our members, myself included, we are in our early careers with AGA. It was less than three years ago our chapter stood up and was officially recognized by the National AGA office.

It has been an exciting time since we started the chapter and, when I think of what amazing feats we have accomplished, I am very proud of our members and leaders. In our first year of existence, we achieved Bronze status in the Chapter Recognition Program (CRP), illustrating how active our chapter and members are in AGA and the community. Our second year we achieved Platinum status in the CRP and we are on track this year to maintain our Platinum status.

We are preparing for our second year of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Last year our volunteers completed hundreds of income tax returns. If you are interested in helping this year, contact Kortney Whiteman.

The education committee is preparing to launch it's first ever study group to prepare for the CGFM exam. The study group will be preparing for Module One. Our own chapter members prepared the study materials. Look for the kick off information in the newsletter or contact Shawn McCracken for more details.

For the second year our chapter is pursuing, through the statehouse, to have March designated as CGFM month. AGA has the goal of having each state recognize the CGFM in March. This form of recognition gives credence to the exam and designation.

As you can see, exciting things are happening and you can be a part of them.

Have a great month,

- Lori Mikesell

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

June 24-27, 2007
Nashville, Tennessee



Luncheon at a Glance

Individual Income Taxes

8 February 11:30-1:00

Meatloaf - Mashed
Potatoes - Corn - Mixed
Vegetables - Rolls &
Butter - Strawberry
Shortcake - Assorted
Beverages

Get More Involved With AGA!

Officer Nominations

Officer elections will be held in April. Self-nominations for the following positions will be accepted through February 23, 2007.

President-Elect

The primary responsibility of the President-Elect is to learn the duties of the President and to fill in when the President is not available. The President-Elect is also responsible for managing the Chapter Recognition Program. As a leader in AGA, the President-Elect is required to attend all monthly CEC meetings.

Treasurer

The main duty of the Treasurer is cash management. The treasurer is responsible for handling all cash collections and disbursements and

ensuring proper funds in the bank account. He or she is also responsible for reporting and paying all applicable taxes. As a leader in AGA, the Treasurer is required to attend all monthly CEC meetings.

Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for composing and disseminating meeting notes for monthly CEC meetings and monthly luncheons. He or she prepares and distributes meeting agendas, composes memorandums for the President and President-Elect, and is responsible for the AGA Post Office box. As a leader in AGA, the Secretary is required to attend all monthly CEC meetings.

Call for Committee Members

The Ways and Means Co-Directors are looking for a few motivated individuals to serve on their committee.

For more information, contact Tara Bruns 693-0391 or Kevin Bruns 693-1379.

Chapter Officers

PRESIDENT

LORI MIKESSELL
lori.mikesell@dfas.mil

PRESIDENT-ELECT

KENNETH GEORGE, CPA
kenneth.george@dfas.mil

TREASURER

JUSTIN SPONSELLER
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SECRETARY

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EDUCATION DIRECTOR

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shawn.mccracken@dfas.mil

CHAPTER HISTORIAN

HENRIANN FRANKLIN, CGFM
henriann.franklin@dfas.mil

BETH WINSOR, CDFM
beth.winsor@dfas.mil

CGFM Brown Bag Luncheon Study Sessions



Lunchtime study sessions for Module 1 of the CGFM examination will begin on Wednesday, January 31st from noon until 1 PM and will run weekly thereafter every Wednesday through March 7th.

The study sessions will offer additional support and assistance to those who have taken the DFAS-sponsored CGFM class that covers Modules 2 and 3 and/or people who are self-studying. During the study sessions, we will review section highlights, ask thought-provoking questions, address questions, comments and concerns and provide general CGFM test-taking advice.

If you would like more information prior to the Open House or if you are unable to attend but are interested in signing up for the study sessions or want more information on the CGFM, please contact Shawn McCracken at 614-693-6525 or Natalie Hanrahan at 614-693-7951.

We hope you'll join us and good luck as you begin the New Year pursuing a new certification!

CGFM Update

Annual CGFM renewal time

By Katya Silver, Director of Professional Certification Administration

It is time to renew your CGFM designation and/or AGA membership! Below you'll find answers to frequently asked questions about CGFM renewal:

Q: How often do I have to renew my CGFM designation?

A: CGFM certification is renewed on an annual basis. A renewal invoice is sent out in February and the payment is due by March 31st. If you do not receive an invoice by mid-March, please call AGA at 1.800.AGA.7211.

If your address has recently changed, please be sure to update your contact information with AGA and pay your dues in the "Members only" section of AGA website (www.agacgfm.org).

Q: What are the requirements for maintaining the CGFM certification in an active status?

A: To maintain the CGFM certification in an active status, CGFMs are required to:

- Pay the CGFM renewal fee by the due date every year.
- Complete at least 80 hours of continuing professional education (CPE) every two years in government financial management topics or related technical subjects.
- Maintain and, if requested by AGA, provide detailed information on CPE hours completed.

To retain the CGFM certification, all CGFMs must adhere to the AGA's Code of Ethics. By submitting their annual renewal payment, CGFMs

affirm that they have and will continue to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics and that they have fulfilled the minimum CPE Requirements.

Q: How do I determine my CPE cycle?

A: Your first two-year CPE cycle starts on January 1st of the year following the one when your CGFM was awarded (for example, if your CGFM was awarded in 2001, your first CPE cycle was 1/1/02-12/31/03). The award date is listed on your CGFM certificate. Your current CPE cycle is listed on your renewal invoice. For a table of all CPE cycles visit www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/cgfm_calendar.aspx.

Q: My two-year CPE cycle just ended on December 31, 2006, but I did not complete 80 CPEs in 2005-2006. Can I make up the deficiency?

A: Yes. CGFMs who have not completed the 80 CPE hours in 2005-2006 cycle have until March 31, 2007 to make up the deficiency. Any CPE hours completed toward a deficiency in one period must be documented in the CPE records and may not be counted toward the requirements for the next two-year period. More information on CGFM CPE requirements can be found on www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/cpe_requirements.aspx.

Q: I just retired. Do I need to do

Community Service Corner

By Kortney Whiteman, Community Service Director

Could your Family use and extra \$4,536 this year?

Earn It:

Families earning less than \$38,348 in 2006 may qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) that can pay up to \$4,536 based on family size and income.

Keep It:

Come to a **FREE** tax preparation site (even if you don't owe any taxes). Don't pay expensive fees for tax preparation or "rapid refunds". We will E-file your taxes free of charge.

Save It:

Learn how to make your money work for you. Tax volunteers at the **FREE** Sites can connect you with savings information.

Eligibility:

Earned income must be less than:
\$36,348 with two or more qualifying children
\$32,001 with one qualifying child
\$12,120 with no qualifying children

For married couples filing jointly add \$2,000 to each category.

Tax year 2006 maximum credit:
\$4,536 with two or more qualifying children
\$2,747 with one qualifying child
\$412 with no qualifying children

Members from our own Greater Columbus AGA Chapter are participating in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance/Earned Income Credit (VITA/EITC) Program. Members will be preparing tax returns at the Northland High School location (if Northland is not convenient for you, there are many other location options). The FREE tax preparation will be done the last Saturday in January (27th) and all four Saturdays in February. Call 2-1-1 for an appointment.

If you have any questions regarding the FREE tax preparation, please call 2-1-1, or contact Kortney Whiteman, AGA Community Service Chair, at kortney.whiteman@dfas.mil or 614-693-0553.

Sponsored by: Franklin County, City of Columbus, Children's Defense Fund, and the United Way of Central Ohio


But I Digress...

January is nearly over and, as usual, those resolutions I made are all but forgotten. The time I wanted to spend reading and hibernating has given way to far too many items on my "TO DO" list.

There has been no lull in the aftermath of the holidays; projects are multiplying exponentially and I find that I am losing track of things that I've built my reputation on, like sending birthday cards to my family and friends.

In the midst of this chaos, our friends have delivered a robust son. Just as the budding flowers bear the promise of spring, this little boy brings with him the hope of a bright and wonderful future. Life has a way of renewing itself.

If we have to stay in due to the weather, then let's revisit that "TO DO" list and do something on it. Or revisit one of our resolutions and keep it this time, so as to make our own future brighter. But I digress . . .



February 12-13, 2007
Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
Washington, D.C.
14 CPE Hours
FORGING NEW PATHS TO IMPROVED ACCOUNTABILITY

FIFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

AGA Early Career Committee Networking With Students at Local University

By Yulonte Merrell, Early Career Co-Director

On November 27th, 28th, and 29th, the Greater Columbus Chapter teamed up with the Central Ohio chapter to attend the Franklin University Accounting/Finance Networking Event. The purpose of this event was to expose students to the various networking opportunities within Accounting and Finance professional organizations.

Each year our chapter plays an important role in representing the Government sector at this event. This year Early Career member Emily Morton and Gretchen Shivers represented the Greater Columbus AGA chapter.

Franklin University Alumni and current Greater Columbus AGA member Yulonte Merrell stated “as a student I benefited tremendously from attending these networking events. A lot of times as a student, you aren’t aware of the “doors” of opportunities that may open as a result of being a member of a professional organization – as an organization it’s your job to spread the good news!”

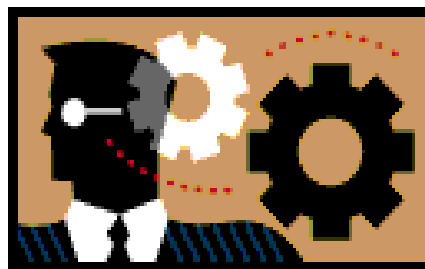
At such networking events, discussions with students may range from learning about what your professional organization is about to wanting to know more about career options in government accounting and finance.

AGA Greater Columbus Welcomes Two New Members



Mardia L. Burgos Maldonado

My name is Mardia L. Burgos Maldonado. I'm from Puerto Rico. I graduated from the University of Puerto Rico with a bachelor degree in Business Administration with major in Accounting. I also graduated from the Caribbean University with a Masters degree in Business Administration with a major in Human Resources. I have been a member of the LIM program since May 2006. I am currently in DFAS St. Louis working in Reports and Analysis with the BRAC workload transfer. I will be back in Columbus in June 2007, which is when my portion of the St. Louis work will transfer to Columbus.



John Craig

As a member of the LIM program, I am currently in a DLA Ops rotation and have also spent time in Vendor Pay. I obtained my BBA in Marketing and Management Skills from the University of Cincinnati. Prior to joining DFAS, I worked as a Financial Associate for nearly three years at U.S. Trust, a Wall Street firm in New York. I moved to Columbus to pursue my MBA at Ohio State and expect to complete the program at the end of this year.

Upcoming Events

February Luncheon (speaker TBD) 8 February 2007, 11:30am – 1:00pm DFAS-CO Buckeye Room (C-147)

It is our pleasure to offer a presentation on “Individual Income Taxes” at the Greater Columbus AGA Chapter’s February luncheon. Menu will include Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Corn, Mixed Vegetables, Rolls & Butter, and Strawberry Shortcake, and Assorted Beverages. The price for AGA members will be \$11 and \$14 for non-members. The luncheon speaker is still to be determined.

Audio Conference – Internal Controls 28 February 2007, 2:00pm – 3:50pm DFAS-CO Kansas City Room (C-146)

The Greater Columbus AGA Chapter, 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 significant audio conference addressing risk and internal control issues that confront auditors and management and offering practical solutions for both.

It has been over 25 years since the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations established the COSO framework for effective internal control. The recently released Risk Assessment Auditing Standards highlight two of those components: risk assessments performed by management and the establishment of effective monitoring systems by management to determine whether the controls are working as designed. In addition, the new AICPA auditing standards effectively remove the auditor’s ability to maximize control risk without any consequences to the client if the controls are truly deficient.

Standard management responses to the need for client risk assessment and monitoring of controls, such as “we aren’t auditors” and “we don’t understand controls”, are less likely to be effective in light of these new developments, coupled with a renewed demand in every sector for more accountability.

This audio conference will explore the new requirements, as well as the old expectations, and

provide the participants, both auditors and audit clients, with practical suggestions for addressing one of the last frontiers of the expectation gap

To discuss the evolution of risk and internal control standards and applications are two industry experts: Frank W. Crawford, CPA, President of Crawford & Associates, P.C., Certified Public Accountants, and Chair of the AICPA Government Expert Panel and the Oklahoma Society of CPAs Government Accounting and Auditing Committee; and Arthur A. Hayes, CGFM, CPA, CFE, Director of the Division of State Audit in the Tennessee Comptroller’s Office, who has chaired and served on various committees and task forces for the AGA, GFOA, Southeastern Intergovernmental Audit Forum and AICPA. Both speakers are renowned lecturers, trainers and discussion leaders for government agencies at all levels, government and private associations and firms.

Please join us for two hours of lively discussion about this important and timely topic. In addition to the speakers’ presentation, there will be approximately 20 minutes for Q & A so that the participants can ask the speakers questions and share their own experiences.

Spring Professional Development Opportunity (PDO) Sponsored by AGA and ASMC 28 March 2007

The AGA Greater Columbus Chapter, in association with the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) Buckeye Chapter, would like to invite you all to the second joint Sprint Professional Development Opportunity (PDO) to be held at the Riverfront Club at Confluence Park, located at 679 W. Spring St, Columbus, OH on Wednesday, March 28, 2007. The theme of the conference will be “Maintaining Excellence in a Changing Environment.” Since still in the planning stages, potential topics and speakers are still to be determined. More details to follow in the coming month.

Please contact Diana Kaufman (614-693-0370) or Jim Gillenwater (614-693-6907) to inquire about any of the above-mentioned events.

Technically Speaking

Bill would target wartime contracting fraud

By Bill Swindell

Congress Daily

Dusting off a page from President Truman's playbook, Senate Democrats unveiled legislation Thursday that would create criminal penalties for profiteering in Iraq and other battlefields.

Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said his bill would help safeguard against abuse, noting that the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction has found that millions of dollars have been lost or diverted from the war. At least 10 companies have paid more than \$300 million in fines to settle allegations of bid-rigging, fraud, delivery of faulty military parts and environmental damage, he noted.

"There is growing evidence of widespread contractor fraud in Iraq, yet prosecuting criminal cases against these war profiteers is difficult under current law. We must crack down on this rampant fraud and abuse that squanders American taxpayers' dollars and jeopardizes the safety of our troops abroad," Leahy said in a statement.

Leahy's measure follows the path set by Truman, who as a Missouri senator gained prominence chairing a special committee that investigated waste and fraud by World War II contractors, a role that helped lead to his selection as vice president by President Roosevelt.

The bill is similar to a 2003 measure that Leahy sponsored, which was passed by the Senate as part of an appropriations bill, but later stripped by GOP leaders at the behest of the White House.

The legislation would criminalize war profiteering, which would be defined "as materially overvaluing any good or service with the specific intent to excessively profit from the war and relief or reconstruction activities." Those convicted could face up to 20 years in prison and be fined up to \$1 million or twice the amount of any illegal profits.

The measure would contain penalties for making a false statement in any matter involving a contract


to provide services or goods in connection with a war, military action or reconstruction activities. It also would create extraterritorial jurisdiction for offenses committed in foreign countries.

Together with Sen. Mark Pryor, D-Ark., Leahy sponsored another measure to help federal investigators prosecute public corruption cases. The measure would extend the statute of limitations for the most serious public offenses, such as bribery and extortion, from five years to eight years. It also would allow federal prosecutors to request authority for wiretaps in bribery cases involving state and local officials and officials of groups that receive federal funds.

Treasurer's Report

By Justin Sponseller

As of December 31, 2006		
Checking Account		
Beginning Balance		\$ 3,776.05
Deposits		\$ 775.00
Disbursements		\$ 37.39
Ending Balance		<u>\$ 4,513.66</u>
Savings Account		
Beginning Balance		\$ 5,397.37
Transfer to Checking		\$ -
Interest Earned		\$ 13.00
Deposits		\$ -
Ending Balance		<u>\$ 5,410.37</u>
Total Balance		<u>\$ 9,924.03</u>



Government News

Bush admits errors, but orders more troops to Iraq

By Keith Koffler
Congress Daily

President Bush took responsibility Wednesday night for mistakes made in Iraq but rebuffed calls for phasing out U.S. involvement and outlined a new policy that includes sending an additional 20,000 American troops to the country.

"To step back now would force a collapse of the Iraqi government" and would require U.S. troops to stay longer, Bush said in a 21-minute address from the White House while protesters outside chanted "stop the war."

The president said previous efforts in Baghdad, where most of the new troops would be headed, failed because there were too few soldiers and too

many restrictions on their activities. "Where mistakes have been made, the responsibility rests with me," he said.

He also warned that even if this plan works, "deadly acts of violence will continue."

The speech put the president on a collision course with Democrats who now control Congress and at odds with some lawmakers from his own party, not to mention a growing number of Americans who are critical of the situation in Iraq.

In what could be a last-ditch effort to turn the tide in Iraq and rally his increasingly skeptical countrymen to his side, Bush said this latest strategy for the war

Continued on Page 12

TECH TALK

6 technologies that reshaped government

By Rutrell Yasin
www.fcw.com

In FCW's first two decades, innovations paved the way for better information sharing

Advances in technology over the past 20 years brought government computer users closer to a world in which they can share information across agencies and departments and access it from almost anywhere at any time. Would we be able to search the Internet and interact with government agencies online if there weren't advances in microprocessor chip design that boosted PC performance while reducing the cost of desktop and laptop computer systems? Probably not.

Improvements in microchips and five other technologies in 20 years have transformed the way

government agencies and employees work and conduct business.

1. x86 architecture: Making the PC a commodity

The x86 or 8086 microprocessor architecture runs like a thread through many of the other technologies on the list. Developed by Intel in the late 1970s, the x86 has dominated the desktop and portable computers and small-server markets since the 1980s. The 80386, the first processor in the family to sport a 32-bit architecture, powered many PCs from 1986 to 1994 and beyond.

The military was an early adopter of x86 processors, embedding them in special purpose systems, said Scott Overson, Intel's director of public-sector marketing. DOD and civilian agencies moved

Continued on Page 13

The Bottom Line

OPM finalizes rule tying bonuses to performance

By Amelia Gruber

www.govexec.com

The Office of Personnel Management on Thursday issued final rules aimed at ensuring agencies link cash awards directly to job performance.

The regulations remained largely unchanged from a draft version floated last summer, despite a number of comments expressing concern that bonuses could be influenced by bias or favoritism. Other concerns revolved around training, funding and implementation of the rule in agencies where employees are rated on a pass-fail basis.

In response to these concerns, OPM officials wrote that a requirement that awards programs make "meaningful distinctions" based on performance levels is an effective way to avoid potential favoritism. They emphasized that the regulations simply put in writing a practice many agencies already are using, and recommended agencies include checks and balances to ensure awards are fair.

Federal labor unions and others also questioned whether managers have been adequately trained to make the types of performance-level distinctions required by the new rules. Some argued more funding for training is needed.

OPM officials agreed training is critical, but emphasized that agencies are responsible for it. They noted that nothing in the regulation directly affected funding for award programs, which has "remained fairly constant, around 1 percent of payroll, for many

years." Stronger performance distinctions will help agencies make better use of limited resources, officials said.

The distinctions among performance levels required by the regulation could result in larger bonuses as a percentage of base pay for employees with better ratings. But that is just one way distinctions can be demonstrated, OPM emphasized. The rule leaves agencies the flexibility to show them in other ways, such as granting larger lump-sum dollar amounts to those earning better reviews.

The regulation, which takes effect Feb. 12, also bars agencies from giving cash awards to employees earning lower than a "fully successful" rating. It does not apply to bonuses for Senior Executive Service members, who operate under a separate performance rating system. It also applies only to awards that are given on the basis of yearlong achievements encompassed in performance reviews.

In response to concerns that agencies using pass-fail systems would have difficulty making the meaningful distinctions required by the rule, OPM officials noted that those agencies tend to separate awards from yearlong ratings altogether, making the bonus programs outside the scope of the regulation. OPM also stated that agencies are increasingly moving away from pass-fail systems.

This document is located at <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0107/011107a1.htm>

Quote of the Month

Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened.

Sir Winston Churchill
British politician (1874 - 1965)

JANUARY 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Luncheon: Effective Meetings	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Communications: Newsletter Submission Deadline	19	20
21	22	23	24 CGFM Open House @ Noon in Conference Rm B223	25	26	27 Community Service: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA): 8AM - 12:30PM
28	29	30	31 CGFM Module 1 Study Session: Noon - 1pm			

FEBRUARY 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Community Service: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA): 8AM - 12:30PM
4	5	6	7 CGFM Module 1 Study Session: Noon - 1pm	8 Luncheon: Individual Income Tax	9 Historian: Quarterly History Report Due	10 Community Service: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA): 8AM - 12:30PM
11	12	13	14 CGFM Module 1 Study Session: Noon - 1pm	15 Communications: Newsletter Submission Deadline	16	17 Community Service: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA): 8AM - 12:30PM
18	19	20	21 CGFM Module 1 Study Session: Noon - 1pm	22	23 2007-2008 Officer Elections: Self- Nomination Deadline	24 Community Service: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA): 8AM - 12:30PM
25	26	27	28 Audio Conference: I/C CGFM Module 1 Study Session: Noon - 1pm			

AGA's 2006-07 Member-Get-A-Member Campaign

Reach for the Rising Stars and You Could Be a Star in Nashville!

That's right, recruit new members into AGA this program year and you could win a free trip (roundtrip airfare and registration) to AGA's 2007 Professional Development Conference & Exposition in Nashville, Tennessee – June 24-27!

This year we are focusing on recruiting the rising stars – we call them early career and tomorrow's professionals - individuals just starting out in their careers, with less than 3 years of experience. Now is the time to reach out to these 'up and comers' – maybe even think about becoming a mentor!

We invite each AGA member to recruit at least one new member in this year's MGAM. Our goal is to continue the positive net growth in membership that we experienced this past year. And, EVERY member who sponsors new members is eligible for prizes and recognition in the *Reach for the Stars* campaign.

Be sure to have handy an AGA membership application or know the AGA website address (www.agacgfm.org). And don't forget to include your name in the 'sponsor' line on the membership application to receive credit!

Prizes!!

Recruit **1** or more members, receive a *Sponsors Only* lapel pin and get recognized in *Topics* and on the AGA website.

Recruit **2** members and start earning *AGA Dollars*. You'll earn 5 AGA Dollars for each new member that joins. Recruit 2 members, earn 10 AGA Dollars, recruit 4 members, earn 20 AGA Dollars and so on. AGA Dollars are like cash and can be redeemed towards publications, membership dues renewals and national conference registrations.

Recruit **10** or more members by March 31, 2007 and get placed into a fishbowl drawing for a **FREE trip** (roundtrip airfare and registration to

AGA's 2007 Professional Development Conference in Nashville, Tennessee). Recruit 10 members, get one chance at the drawing, recruit 16 members, get seven chances and so on. The more members recruited, the more chances to win.

Spotlight on Early Career/Tomorrow's Professionals New Members

A \$500 American Express Gift Cheque will be awarded to the AGA member who recruits the most new Early Career members during the MGAM.

Sponsor Achievement Awards and Recognition

Recruiter of the Year (1 winner) – The member who recruits the most new members from May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007 will receive a complimentary AGA national meeting registration.

Top Sponsor (2 winners) – The next two members who recruit the highest amount of new members from May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007 will each receive a complimentary AGA national meeting registration.

Chapter Overall Growth (6 winning chapters) – Those six chapters achieving the highest overall growth percentage in their chapter size grouping for the membership year will each win a complimentary AGA national meeting registration. Each chapter president and membership chair will also be presented with an achievement plaque.

How to Participate

Have your recruit join online at the following website: www.agacgfm.org/membership/join/registration.aspx

Have your recruit enter *your name and membership number* on the "Sponsor's Name" line when applying online.

Follow up with those individuals that you asked to join.

Rules/Eligibility

All AGA members in good standing are eligible to participate in the MGAM. The campaign period includes all new members joining AGA from May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007 – AGA's membership year.

National meeting registration can include the National Leadership Conference, the Professional Development Conference & Exposition, the Internal Control & Fraud Conference and the Performance Management Conference. All federal, state and local laws apply. Void where prohibited.

anything to adjust my CGFM status to "retired"?

A: Yes. Individuals who are retired from AND are no longer substantially working in the government financial management community can request an adjustment of their status to "retired" by contacting AGA's Office of Professional Certification (by mail or e-mail at agacgfm@agacgfm.org <<mailto:agacgfm@agacgfm.org>> - please provide the date of retirement and confirm that you are no longer substantially working in the government

financial management community). CGFMs in retired status are not required to remit the CGFM renewal fee or earn the 80 CPE hours.

If retired CGFMs return to work (substantial employment or contracting) in the government financial management community, they must contact AGA to change their status back to "active."

More information on CGFM renewal policies can be found on www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain/.

would succeed where others had failed because the United States would now have sufficient troops to not only clear but to also hold conquered territory. And the newly augmented forces will also have a "green light" to move into neighborhoods racked by sectarian violence, Bush said.

Bush outlined a series of steps to be taken by the Iraqi government and warned that the U.S. commitment was not open-ended. But he set no timetable for drawing down either the new troop deployment or the U.S. commitment in general.

Bush also promised a renewed diplomatic initiative, saying U.S. allies in the region would be enlisted to support the Iraqi government. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will leave for the region Friday.

"Failure in Iraq would be a disaster for the United States," as well as for other countries in the Middle East, he said.

The Democratic response was swift and strong.

"It's time to begin the orderly redeployment of our troops so they can begin coming home soon," said Senate Majority Whip Richard Durbin, D-Ill. He said the extra troops were "too few" to make a difference and "too many" to put at risk. In a separate statement, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said the latest Bush plan would "endanger national security."

Even some of Bush's staunchest backers had lukewarm reactions. House Minority Leader John

Boehner, R-Ohio, for example, did not take a stand on the call for additional troops, saying only that victory "is our only option" and that Bush's plan "deserves thorough consideration by the U.S. Congress."

And Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., while backing Bush, said his presidency would probably be judged by "his success or failure in Iraq."

Not all Democrats are opposed to Bush's plan. Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., said Bush "did not take the easy path, but he took the correct and courageous course."

Lieberman, whose backing of the war helped cost him his party's nomination in last year's Senate primary and forced him to run as an independent, also said Bush outlined "a comprehensive program to chart a new course in both winning the military struggle to establish order and in achieving the political and economic objectives to build a more promising future for Iraqis."

While most Democrats were critical of the plan, they took pains to say they opposed the handling of the war, not the job done by U.S. troops.

"The issue is do you support the president's policy. That will be the vote," Pelosi said after she and other lawmakers met with Bush before the speech. "Democrats will always support our troops."

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workloads off existing mainframes to client/server systems throughout the mid-1980s to late 1990s.

Twenty years ago, an 80386 processor ran at 20 MHz and contained 275,000 transistors, Overson said. An 80386-powered PC cost more than \$10,000. Today, an Intel Core 2 Duo processor runs at 2.66 GHz and contains 291 million transistors. Desktop PCs with this processor cost less than \$1,000. The technology has experienced a 1,000-fold increase in density and performance and a tenfold decrease in price, Overson added.

2. Microsoft Windows: Power to the People

Microsoft introduced its Windows operating system in 1985, but it was the revolutionary 3.0 version, which had the graphical user interface that made PCs easier to use. With Windows 3.1, the company introduced the mouse, which allowed users to navigate and manipulate data on the computer with one hand. Users could perform several tasks simultaneously because Windows ran multiple applications at once.

The powerful GUI helped move computing out of the data center to the user, said Curt Kolcun, vice president of Microsoft Federal.

The federal government was the first large Microsoft customer to move to the Windows operating system, Kolcun said. The Air Force chose the operating system for its Desktop II contract in the early 1990s, later standardizing the service on the platform. Government agencies helped influence the development of early versions of Windows, making it the de facto standard for desktop computing, Kolcun added.

Microsoft expanded its reach into the workstation and server market with the introduction of the Windows NT operating system in 1993. Four years after NT's debut, the operating system was making serious inroads into DOD against the Unix operating system.

3. Ethernet: Taking over the LAN

Ethernet might not be the most elegant networking technology. But it has emerged as the most widely used local-area network technology in the past 16

years, resisting challenges from token ring and Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM).

Government and private-sector companies started deploying Ethernet in 1987, said Dan Kent, director of systems engineering at Cisco Federal. But Ethernet finally took off in the mid-1990s when it migrated from coaxial to a 10BaseT cable infrastructure, running in the same environment as voice communications, Kent said. The move to a twisted-pair network that involved point-to-point links connected by hubs and switches helped reduce installation costs, boost network reliability and enable better management and troubleshooting.

By the new millennium, bandwidth-hungry agencies, such as the Army, were replacing ATM networks with Gigabit Ethernet over IP for ease of use and manageability and to accommodate data-intensive applications, such as videoconferencing and distance learning.

4. Internet: Access to the world

The Internet evolved from a unique network for DOD agencies and services to communicate with one another into a research network for universities and U.S. labs and a fundamental communications tool for the world. The Internet — a collection of connected computer networks linked by copper wires, fiber-optic cables and wireless connections — evolved during the 1990s from a high-cost, government-only function into a broadly accessible capability for the average citizen, said Warren Suss, president of Suss Consulting.

The evolution of core technology such as the x86 architecture, Ethernet and TCP/IP, and fiber optics gave the Internet a much higher speed backbone to transmit content, experts say. Then the development of the World Wide Web by Tim Berners-Lee in the early 1990s boosted the use of the Internet, said Mike Corrigan, a senior consultant at Suss Consulting and the first chairman of the Internet Engineering Task Force. The Web is a collection of connected documents known as Web pages linked by hyperlinks and URLs. "The first decade [of the Internet], we didn't have the World Wide Web," Corrigan said.

5. E-mail messaging: Electronic delivery

The development of the World Wide Web also spurred the mass use of e-mail as a messaging tool, said Howard Ady, director of governmentwide acquisition contracts and the General Services Administration schedules program at BearingPoint. He previously worked as a chief information officer and chief financial officer at various government agencies.

By the mid-1990s, agencies were grappling with issues such as e-mail use policies, interagency message system interoperability and better security for e-mail gateways. Agency purchases were evidence of the growing use of e-mail as a communications tool. For instance, in the mid-1990s, the Environmental Protection Agency deployed some 26,000 Lotus Notes e-mail addresses, and the Army Battle Command System added about 20,000 new users to the Defense Message System version of Lotus Notes running on Sun Microsystems' Solaris Platform.

However, because federal agencies are communicating major policy decisions by e-mail,

they must capture those messages as public records. Agency officials must figure out how long to keep those messages and what do with them, said J. Timothy Sprehe, president of Sprehe Information Management and a Federal Computer Week columnist.

6. PDF: Info at your fingertips

It's not hard to recognize the benefits of being able to view information from any application on any computer and then share it with others worldwide. That's the transformative power of the PDF.

What really sparked the use of Adobe Systems' Acrobat PDF software in the government sector was the Internal Revenue Service's decision to put tax forms in PDF files in 1993, said Pam Deziel, director of platform product marketing at Adobe. Deziel was at Adobe when it launched Acrobat Version 1.0.

The release of free Acrobat software and reader the next year enabled more people to use the files that the IRS had created, said Paul Showalter, a senior analyst at the IRS' publishing division. Another milestone was the introduction of fillable forms, which allowed users to complete forms on screen, he said.